

May-June 2015 barnerttemple.org

# BARNERT

The Magazine

A PUBLICATION FOR, BY, AND ABOUT THE BARNERT TEMPLE COMMUNITY



## Barnert Community Evolves



# BARNERT

The Magazine

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**Our Mission:** The mission of Barnert Temple is to be a sacred community, a *k'hillah k'doshah*, committed to offering Reform Jewish experiences that are relevant, accessible and meaningful, wherein people of all ages and backgrounds are appreciated and valued, engaged and inspired.

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# A Message from Rabbi Frishman

## Why Are You Part of a Synagogue?



Dear Friends,

One evening recently, I sat cutting white tulle and multi-colored ribbons at the kitchen table. I placed two pink marshmallows in the center of each tulle square, and tied them up in the pretty ribbon. Our son Adam and Julie are getting

married in May, and I was preparing the candies to toss at their *aufruf*.<sup>1</sup>

I trimmed and placed and tied for two hours. And I thought about my son growing up. All those firsts. All *my* firsts! Adam is the eldest, as are Danny and I. Our friend calls the oldest child “the first pancake.” Probably true — we *learn* to be parents!

I thought about all the weddings I’ve performed, the words I’ve offered to couples in love, and how it would feel to be *just* mom under the *chuppah* (glorious!). I thought about Adam’s *Bar Mitzvah*, and reflected on Barnert families whose *B’nai* and *B’not Mitzvah* I’ve supported and shared in. I love watching parents gently drape the *tallis* over their child; standing privately with that child before the ark and whispering a powerful Jewish charge; and sharing in that moment of absolute relief when the *Bar/t Mitzvah* realizes, “I’m done! I did it! I did it well!” I thought about *brises* and baby namings at Barnert, and all the beautiful young children—beginning with our Adam—who have grown up rooted in the love and nurturing sustenance of family and Jewish community.

Each week as our teens come through the hall by my office, they pass the wall filled with the tiles of tiny preschool hands. Many find their own tiles, placing almost-grown hands against mini palms and fingers, and they laugh. They can’t believe they were ever so small.

The laughter of young people in the halls of Barnert.



My son, a child of Barnert, is getting married! Adam and Julie carefully crafted the words of their *ketubah*.<sup>2</sup> No input from Mom and Dad. They wrote: “Under the *chuppah*, we pledge to each other our mutual love, trust and respect, from the rising of the sun to its setting. May our hearts share in an ever-deepening love for each other, may our lips speak with clear and direct expression, and may our eyes see the good within each other. May we challenge each other to achieve intellectual and physical fulfillment, as well as spiritual and emotional tranquility. May we continue to grow together, maintaining the courage and determination to pursue our desired paths. We commit to a lifetime of learning, discussion and adventure, as individuals and as partners. Together, we promise to establish a home committed to our values: a home rich with wisdom, caring and love, built on

acts of selflessness and loving-kindness and filled with intention, excitement and generosity. Through each other’s eyes, we see the world anew; may we make each other better. With our community of friends and family as witness, we now combine our separate fates into one.”

This is why people cry at weddings. Waterproof mascara!

And here is what I know. Danny and I did not raise Adam—or Jonah and Devra—alone. Our influence *is* powerful. But they were truly raised by the Jewish people: shaped by *Torah* and the wisdom of centuries of sages; imprinted with the shared values of *their* Jewish friends from childhood; guided by *all of us every time they walked into Barnert*, surrounded by adults who care deeply about how to *be* Jewish, to *live* Jewishly, with integrity and passion.

It takes a village. Our village isn’t Franklin Lakes. *It’s Barnert.*

On this eve of my son’s wedding, I am so deeply grateful for all that our sacred synagogue community has brought to my family.

So I ask: why are *you* part of a synagogue?

I love this response from Jack Riemer:

“I want to be a part of a synagogue because I want to be a part of the Jewish people, and there is no other institution that unites the Jews as well, across the centuries and across the borders. The synagogue is not only a bond to my past. It is also a bond to the Jewish people of the present, the ones

*Continued on page 6*

<sup>1</sup> An *aufruf* is the occasion for calling a bride and groom to the Torah to receive a special blessing. *Aufruf* is the Yiddish for *aliyah*; the term is used specifically for this occasion.

<sup>2</sup> The *ketubah* is the Jewish wedding contract. It confirms the details of the wedding, and affirms the vows of the couple. It’s witnessed by close friends, and often is displayed in the couple’s home. In the USA, the *ketubah* is in addition to the civil license.

# A Message from Sara Losch

## Standing at the Signpost



digging, they finally lifted it up to discover it was a signpost upon which were directional arrows pointing to four different

A story is told of a group of Israeli *kibbutz* members who went for a hike in the desert. Soon, they were lost and couldn't figure out which direction would get them where they wanted to go. After some time, they came upon an object half buried in the sand. After much work

places: Jordan, Egypt, their *kibbutz*, and their desired destination.

How did they figure what direction to walk in? They knew only one thing, and that was enough. They knew the direction from which they had come.

Now we ask ourselves: how are we like the hikers?

As Jews in 2015, we are able to make choices, to follow different paths, to walk towards our own destinations. Our guidebook is *Torah*; when we are lost, our GPS is *mitzvot*; and our map contains our history and traditions, reminding us from where we've come.

It's time for a new Barnert signpost and it's time to ask: what directional signs should be hung upon it? What directional

signs would you want to follow?

Let's imagine: Jewish students and adults heading out of the Temple building to learn about Jewish arts and culture in a museum; to study Biblical Architecture at Home Depot; to practice Israeli Martial Arts at a local *Krav Maga* studio.

Let's imagine: Jewish families being personally guided on their own Jewish journey; deciding on scheduling and subject choices as they go.

Let's imagine: Jewish children speaking to you in Hebrew; asking to learn more about Israel; running the family *Seder*.

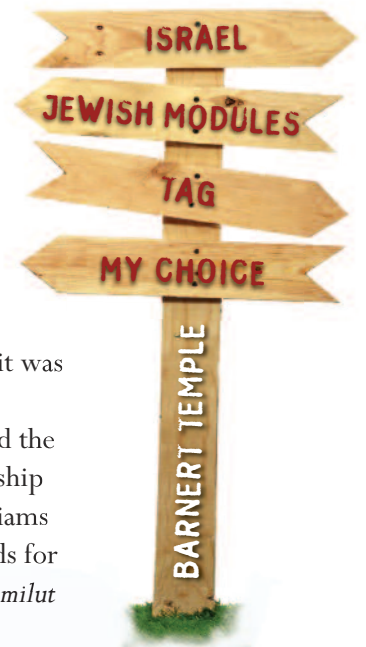
We have imagined all of this and we're seeing the new signs already.

The first points toward offering religious school modules. One is currently taking place for 3rd–6th graders. *All about Israel*, this mini module began in March with one 3rd-grade participant exclaiming, "I'm so happy I signed up for this. I wish it was every week!"

The second points toward the Kathie F. Williams TAG Scholarship Challenge, sponsored by the Williams family and supporters (TAG stands for *Torah* = study, *Avodah* = ritual, *Gemilut Chassadim* = acts of kindness).

The exciting details of both TAG and the module design will be unveiled on May 17 at our

*Continued on page 5*



### The Kathie F. Williams TAG Scholarship Challenge

In memory of our beloved past president, the Kathie F. Williams **TAG** Scholarship Challenges encourages student participation by assigning points for involvement in various activities. Points will be earned in each of the areas of TAG. At the end of each school year, scholarships will be awarded to students in each grade. At the end of 6th grade, a \$3,600 prize toward a trip to Israel will be awarded. On May 17, we will outline in more detail how points will be earned and recorded.

## ADULT EDUCATION: FIND YOUR PLACE!

### **Torah Study, Saturdays at 9:30 am**

#### **May 2**

Join Rabbi Steiner or Rabbi Soffin for an in-depth and highly engaging exploration of the *Torah* portion of the week. We begin with breakfast at 9:30 am (participants take turns providing the food) and discussion at 10 am. You will go home with much to think about and to share as the words of *Torah*—and other supportive texts—are brought to life. No experience necessary and new friends are always welcome!

### **Talmud Study with Rabbi Joel Soffin, Thursdays at 7:30 pm**

#### **May 7 and 28**

Join our modern-day discussion of the *Talmud*. Learn how to shop, talk, and think Jewishly. Look behind the scenes at the lives of real-life rabbis and learn from their triumphs and missteps. Most of all, enter into the historic Jewish conversation and discover your own Jewish soul. Be prepared to think differently as you engage in the world. As with our *Torah* classes, no experience necessary and new friends are always welcome!

### **Israeli Film Series, Sundays at 7 pm**

#### **May 17**

There are amazing films coming out of Israel. This series will give us the opportunity to learn and explore more about Israeli culture, including daily-life, Arab/Israeli, and political issues.

### **Adult Confirmation Class, Sundays at 9 am**

#### **May 3**

Adult Confirmation offers you the opportunity to explore and affirm your Jewish identity with Rabbi Frishman! We will study Jewish ethics, theology and theodicy (is God dead?), rituals and holidays, prayer, living purposefully. You do not need to know Hebrew!

The class will meet once or twice a month from September through May, on Sunday mornings from 9 am to 10:30 am, breakfast included! You do not need to have had a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* to be confirmed. Please RSVP to Helen Milstein at [helenm1847@barnerttemple.org](mailto:helenm1847@barnerttemple.org).

## It All Starts When You Are One and a Half

It all starts when your child is one and a half and you carry her into the preschool, and it doesn't end when she completes kindergarten. It continues when you lift up your son to see the top of the teepee, filled with cans of food. Then, your little one is painting like Chagall in the pre-K class.



Before you know it, you feel like you've joined a family — the Barnert Temple family. Together, with your new friends, you go to services with your son leading you eagerly into the sanctuary, to the *Purim Shpiel* and to the *Mitzvah Mall*. Your child amazes you as she leads your family *Passover Seder*.

This is the journey of the Barnert family. It started with you and your babies, and it continues for a lifetime.

## Sara Losch *From page 4*

closing day of religious school during our annual awards. (See box on previous page for details.)

Where else can we go? The possibilities are endless for all Barnert learners.

We have both a strong Jewish and Barnert history. We certainly know from where we've come. So, as we add new directions to it, come stand with us at the signpost. We'll be there with the guidebook and the GPS as you get ready to start or continue your journey.

I hope to see you on Sunday, May 17, at 10 am. Wishing you a wonderful summer.

—Sara

## SHABBAT EVENING WORSHIP WITH RABBI FRISHMAN AND RABBI STEINER

*Shabbat* services are reflective yet joyous—a true renewal of the spirit. You may come in tired, but you'll walk away renewed and revived. It's a promise! All ages are welcome, and dress is nice-casual. And we have the best *Oneg Shabbat* desserts—check out the chocolate caramel pretzels!

On the first Friday, the 7 pm service is followed by a potluck supper.

Friday, May 1  
7 pm Service  
8 pm Potluck Supper

Saturday, May 2  
9:30 am *Torah* Study,  
*Ahare Mot/Kedoshim*  
10 am Service, *B'nai Mitzvah*  
of Dylan Hess and  
Adam Kochman

Friday, May 8  
8 pm Service

Saturday, May 9  
10 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah*  
of Sarah Marker

Friday, May 15  
5:30 pm *Tot Shabbat* and  
Pizza Dinner  
8 pm Service

Friday, May 22  
8 pm Service

Saturday, May 23  
7 pm Adult Confirmation  
Celebration with *Yizkor*

Sunday, May 24  
10 am Confirmation

Friday, May 29  
8 pm Service

Saturday, May 30  
10 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah*  
of Rachel Platt

Friday, June 5  
7 pm Service  
8 pm Potluck Supper

Saturday, June 6  
10 am Service, *B'not Mitzvah*  
of Caroline McKinnon and  
Hannah Tomaskovic

Friday, June 12  
8 pm Service

Saturday, June 13  
10 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah*  
of Grace Goldberg

Friday, June 19  
8 pm Service

Saturday, June 20  
10 am Service, *Bar Mitzvah*  
of Alexander Samieske

Friday, June 26  
7 pm Service

## Rabbi Frishman From page 3

with whom I live. During the week, I may bump into them somewhere, as a neighbor, as a friend, as a client, perhaps even as a co-worker or as a competitor. But when we meet together in this place, we meet as partners. We stand here with a sense of being connected to each other, and of being responsible for each other.”<sup>3</sup>

I am keenly aware of how I have grown because of my relationships and interactions with you, the people of our Barnert community and synagogue.

We're not a building. *We're a home.* We help one another become responsible citizens of the Jewish people—and the world.

May we continue to grow from strength to strength!

Yours,  
Rabbi Elyse Frishman

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in *New Membership & Financial Alternatives for the American Synagogue*, by Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky, Rabbi Avi S. Olitzky.

## NETWORKING

### Upcoming Meetings

The Temple Community Network is a professional networking group targeted at helping the job-search needs of members of the community. It is a joint project of Barnert Temple, Temple Beth Rishon, Temple Beth Or, and Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. Everyone is welcome at the group's meetings, including both those searching for a job who are transitioning and those already in a position. The meetings are designed to be warm, inclusive and informative. Doors open for networking at 6:30 pm and any programming starts at 7 pm.

Our Networking group will meet on the following days:

Wednesday, May 20

Monday, June 22

For more information, please contact me at [blevin@galaxy.net](mailto:blevin@galaxy.net) or (201) 247-0863.

—Bob Levin

# Shabbat Shalom שבת שלום

## Blessing before Giving Tzedakah

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַי, וְצִוָּנוּ לִרְדּוֹף צֶדֶק.



*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu lirdof tzedek.*

We praise You, *Adonai* our God, Sovereign of the universe, who calls us to holiness through mitzvot, commanding us to pursue justice.



## Candlelighting Blessing

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַי, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat.*

We praise You, *Adonai* our God, Sovereign of the universe, who hallows us with mitzvot and commands us to kindle the light of Shabbat.

## Blessing for Wine or Grape Juice

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.*

We praise You, *Adonai* our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.



## Blessing Over Bread

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ.

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, hamotzi lechem min haaretz.*

We praise You, *Adonai* our God, Sovereign of the universe, who causes bread to come forth from the earth.

## Blessing for All Children

יְבָרֶכְךָ יי וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ.  
יָאֵר יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיַחֲנֶנּוּ.  
יֵשָׁא יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִשֵּׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

*Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha. Ya-eir Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka.*

*Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yascim l'cha shalom.*

May God bless you and keep you. May God look kindly upon you, and be gracious to you.  
May God reach out to you in tenderness, and give you peace.



## BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROFILES

### DYLAN HESS May 2, 2015

Hi, my name is Dylan. I am in 7th grade. I like to play sports, hike, camp, being outside and playing with my friends. I play football, basketball and lacrosse, but my favorite sport is football. My family is my sister Sam, and Mom and Dad.

For my *Mitzvah* Project I will be collecting food for an organization called Toni's kitchen. Toni's Kitchen serves those in our community who are hungry without regards to circumstances. Guests are welcomed in the warm embrace of hospitality.

I would like to thank Rabbi Frishman, Rabbi Steiner, Helen Fleischmann and Cantor Bromberg for helping me to prepare for my *Bar Mitzvah*. I would also like to thank my family who motivated me and inspired me. I can't wait to become a *Bar Mitzvah* and share this amazing event with my family and friends.

### ADAM KOCHMAN May 2, 2015

My name is Adam Jack Kochman. I have two brothers, Justin and Noah.

For my *Mitzvah* Project, I have worked with a group called Oasis, in Paterson, New Jersey. Oasis is a place where less-fortunate people go for food, help and friends. I organized a food drive for Oasis's after-school program and I am collecting donations to support their children and babies. Through Oasis, I also met Carlos Guapo, who is now my pen pal. Carlos is in second grade, lives in Paterson, and has eight siblings. My mindset has changed since working with Oasis and meeting Carlos as I realize that I take many things for granted that other people do not have. I am planning to work on that.

I cannot wait until my *Bar Mitzvah* but I know that it will be very challenging. I would like to thank my mom and dad,

*Morah* Edith, Helen, Rabbi Steiner and Cantor Bromberg for helping me learn my *Torah* and *Haftarah* portions and blessings, and supporting me.

### SARAH MARKER May 9, 2015

Hi! My name is Sarah Marker. I am a seventh grader. I live with my Mom, Dad, and my younger sister Samantha. I love to spend time with my family and friends. I really enjoy swimming. I am a swimmer on the Bergen Barracudas swim team and this is my third year on the team.

For my *Mitzvah* Project I am part of a program called the Meatloaf Machers at the Temple. Once or twice a month a few kids get together and make three meatloaves and two batches of brownies with a recipe we follow each time. When we are finished they go to the St. Paul's Men's Shelter. Also on the day of my *Bat Mitzvah*, I will be collecting school supplies for a foundation called Supplies 4 Success. This program provides disadvantaged children with the most basic equipment to start the year off on the right foot. I am glad to see all the children with their new supplies ready to learn in the new school year.

I would love to thank all of the Barnert teachers for making my years of Religious School wonderful. I would also like to thank Helen Fleischmann, *Morah* Edith, Rabbi Steiner, and Rabbi Frishman. Without you I wouldn't have been able to read the prayers and be able to stand up on the *Bima* and become a *Bat Mitzvah*. Lastly, I would like to thank my family, especially my mom and dad. They have been so supportive through my journey of becoming a Jewish adult. I am very lucky to have all of you in my life and without you my *Bat Mitzvah* wouldn't have been possible. I am so excited to share this special day in my life with all of the people that I love.

### RACHEL PLATT May 30, 2015

My name is Rachel Platt and I am in seventh grade. I live with my mom, dad, my older brother Ryan and my dog Jeter. In my free time I love to dance, horse-back ride and hang out with my friends. I spend my summer at sleepaway camp in Pennsylvania and it's one of my favorite places to be.

For my *Mitzvah* Project I have been making meatloaf and cookies once a month to help feed the men at the shelter in Paterson. I am also collecting items for the children that live at YCS. YCS provides programs throughout New Jersey to make a difference in the lives of at-risk and special-needs children. They make sure the children receive proper medical care, warm meals, clothing, education, and even the opportunity to attend sleepaway camp. I have asked my friends and family to bring items from the YCS camp wish list such as sunscreen, playing cards, toothpaste and swim goggles to my service.

I would like to thank Helen Fleischmann, *Morah* Edith, Rabbi Steiner, Cantor Bromberg, Rabbi Frishman and the rest of my Barnert family for helping me prepare for my *Bat Mitzvah*. I would also like to thank my parents for driving me to Hebrew school and *Bat Mitzvah* practice. I can't wait to celebrate my special day with all my friends and family!

### CAROLINE MCKINNON June 6, 2015

Hi, my name is Caroline McKinnon and I am in the seventh grade. I live with my mom and dad, my brother Tyler when he is home from college, and our cat Max. In my free time I dance, read, and hang out with my friends.

For my *Bat Mitzvah*, I chose to do

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three different *Mitzvah* Projects. The first one I started in the beginning of seventh grade is called Meatloaf Machers. There are two parts to this project. One group of volunteers bakes meatloaves and brownies for a homeless shelter in Paterson called the St. Paul's Emergency Men's Shelter. The second group delivers the meatloaves and brownies to the shelter. I took part in baking the meatloaves and brownies, but I wanted to do more. I wanted to personally put a smile on someone's face for at least a few minutes. That's when I learned about the Family Promise Day Shelter which provides shelter and support for working families who have lost their homes.

Since January, I have been going once a month to help babysit while the moms do their laundry, paperwork, and get prepared for the week coming up. My parents have supported me in this by coming along as well to talk to the adults about their situations and provide emotional support. I have a lot of fun there and I love that I have gotten to help these people when they are in a situation that we often take for granted.

My third project is a donation project held online. It is supporting a cause called The Thirst Project. The project's goal is to get the entire population of Swaziland, which is about 1.29 million people, fresh and clean drinking water. They do this by drilling holes deep into the earth's crust to access naturally occurring water tables. They also engage the local communities to ensure sustainability. This means that the community has to help with the wells either financially (by feeding drillers or collecting money to cover costs) or by physically helping to build the wells. They have already helped over 260,000 people, and my mission is to help them reach their goal by raising \$2,500 to support their work. I also plan to donate 10% of any money I receive from my *Bat Mitzvah* to this cause.

I am so happy to become a *Bat Mitzvah*, but I couldn't have done it

without the help of Helen Fleischmann, *Morah* Edith, Rabbi Steiner, Cantor Bromberg, Rabbi Frishman, and Sara Losch. They have all helped and educated me throughout my time at Barnert, and I can't thank them enough for that. I am so excited for my *Bat Mitzvah*, and I can't wait for my future years at Barnert.

### **From the Thirst Project web site: Engage the Local Community**

The Thirst Project must always involve local Communities in its water well projects. Community involvement is a critical component to well sustainability. If an organization puts a water-well into a village without community participation and contribution (financial or sweat-equity), then sustainability, the effectiveness and the benefit of that water well is highly questionable. Each Community must either contribute financially to the project in some way (feeding drillers/collecting to cover fuel costs, etc.), or they must contribute sweat-equity to the project in some way (clearing the bushes from the Surveyed and selected site, helping the drillers trench and pour concrete, etc.). This is critical, because it creates a sense of ownership over the project, rather than The Thirst Project just going into Communities and giving stuff away. (We know this to be one of the most critical components for ensuring that Communities are committed to maintaining wells after The Thirst Project has left, because they have a personal investment in them.)

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### **HANNAH TOMASKOVIC June 6, 2015**

Hi, my name is Hannah Tomaskovic and I am in 7th grade. I live with my mom; dad; and two brothers, Ben (8) and Joe (10). I enjoy playing a variety of sports, spending time with my friends and family, and

playing the piano. In the summer, I go to a sleepaway camp in Massachusetts called Camp Watitoh, which is very special to me.

I enjoy making others around me feel happy and loved. I have learned in religious school that sometimes the smallest efforts have the greatest impact. For my *Mitzvah* Project, my goal was to focus on helping our own Barnert Community. I have been spending time with a very special lifetime Barnert Temple member who is now 94 years old and lives by herself in Barnert's original hometown of Paterson. I am also looking forward to working with the temple's Caring Community Committee to develop a program where our Barnert teens could lend a hand around the house to those in our congregation that may not have anyone to help them do simple things such as change a lightbulb, move something too heavy, or get something that is too hard to reach. I want to thank Sara Losch for listening to all of my *Mitzvah* Project ideas and giving me such good advice.

I sincerely want to thank everyone who has helped me prepare for my *Bat Mitzvah*, including Rabbi Frishman, Rabbi Steiner, Cantor Bromberg, Helen Fleischmann and *Morah* Edith, as well as all of my amazing teachers both at Barnert and in my school for having confidence in me. I would also like to thank my parents, brothers, grandparents and friends who always encourage me in everything I do. I cannot wait to become a *Bat Mitzvah* with all of the people I love in front of me.

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### **GRACE GOLDBERG June 13, 2015**

Hi, my name is Grace Goldberg. I am in 7th grade. My family members are my older brother Gabe, my older sister Ari, and my parents. I also live with my dog Mickey, two cats, a parrot, and several

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## BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROFILES

fish. I enjoy playing the flute and piano, and I also enjoy volleyball and swimming. I also participate in an extracurricular organization called Destination Imagination.

For my *Mitzvah* Project, I am working with Hackensack Riverkeeper picking up trash and debris along local waterways. My inspiration for this project came from the litter and garbage I often see lying beside the roads. Also, when I attended one of my brother's crew competitions, I was disgusted by how polluted the river was. Plastic bottles and other types of litter were floating around in the water. I decided that I should do something to help. Because of my love for animals, at my *Bat Mitzvah*, I will also be collecting food and supplies for the local animal shelter.

I would like to thank everyone at Barnert Temple. A special thank you to *Morah* Edith, Helen, Cantor Bromberg, Rabbi Steiner and Rabbi Frishman in preparation for my *Bat Mitzvah* celebration. Lastly, I would like to thank my parents for their support. I am very excited to celebrate my *Bat Mitzvah* with all of you!

**ALEXANDER SAMIESKE**

**June 20, 2015**

My name is Alexander Samieske and I am a 7th grader. I live with my mom; dad; and 15-year-old brother, Jake. We also have three cats. I love playing sports, tenor saxophone, listening to music, and hanging out with my friends. I love to read and write and my favorite school subject is English.

For my volunteer *Mitzvah* Project, I will help stack and organize books, create flyers for concerts the library offers, serve as an usher for these concerts, as well as help prepare for book sales at the Oakland Public Library. My family is originally from Oakland, and I feel it would be nice to give back to the community. For my *Tzedakah* Project, I will be collecting clothes, shoes, and sporting equipment, and donating it to the people at CUMAC. CUMAC is an organization right in Paterson. Since I have an abundant amount of all of these things, it feels good to donate it to people that really need it.

I would like to thank all my teachers, Helen Fleischmann, *Morah* Edith, Rabbi Frishman and Rabbi Steiner. Without their confidence in me, I would not be able to become a *Bar Mitzvah*. Although it was challenging, these people made it easier to become a man. I would also like to thank Cantor Bromberg for helping me while Rabbi Steiner had her baby. Also, I would not be able to be here without the love and support of my friends and family.

## GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH

### Using Native Plants and Flowers!

This is the time of year that many people go to the garden center looking for plants and flowers for their properties. This year, make a concerted effort to plant native species. Native plants and flowers provide food for our native birds, butterflies, bees and insects—many of which are experiencing sharp declines in population.

There are many beautiful, low-maintenance options available. Another advantage to using native plants is that once they are established, after the first year or two, they rarely need supplemental watering and fertilizing since they are uniquely suited to New Jersey's climate and conditions.

At the very least, be sure *never* to buy invasive plants such as Japanese barberry, butterfly bush (butterfly weed, *asclepias*, is a great native alternative), and Chinese silvergrass. Invasive plants are wreaking havoc on our native ecosystem. Go online to the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (NJISST) for the **Do Not Plant** list of the invasive species.

—Karen Dougherty



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OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

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# Join Us for Two Extraordinary *Shavuot* Celebrations!

*Shavuot* Service  
Saturday, May 23,  
7 pm

Includes *Yizkor*

Join your Barnert Community in wishing *Mazal Tov* to these Adult Confirmands:

Sue Adleman  
Paul S. Avenius  
Debbie Becker  
Joan Cowlan  
Claire Cupo  
Lisa Dugal

Susan Esserman  
Marian Filan  
Janet Finke  
Jerry Gips  
Jill Gordon-Layton  
Glenda Grandioso

Laurie Hamilton  
Roberta Hong  
Bari Hopkins  
Harmon Kaplan  
Rise Kaufmann  
Sue Klein

Marty Kron  
Rita Kron  
Myndee Males  
Barbara Sacks  
Lisa Smith

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## Following *Shavuot* Service, Enjoy a Festive Barnert Cheesecake Bake-Off!

Calling all bakers to compete in our Barnert Cheesecake Bake-Off! Bring your cheesecakes in that evening. Judges are looking forward to a delicious tasting of fabulous baking and sweets!

---

*Shavuot* Service  
Sunday, May 24  
10 am

Join your Barnert Community in wishing *Mazal Tov* to these Confirmands!

Mollie Berman  
Jessica Birnberg  
Rachel Bradley  
Natalie Bronfin

Juliette Frank  
Jillian Giberson  
Jessica Gordon-Layton  
Sofie Kulick

Marina Mason  
Daniel Orlich  
Sally Troyanovski  
Kayla Weisen

# A Message from the Executive Vice President and the Executive Director

## 1847–2015: How Has Progress Touched Our Congregation?

Barnert Temple's journey over the last 167 years is in many ways reflective of the evolution of Reform synagogues in the United States. Originally an urban synagogue financed by a few families, Barnert has grown to embrace many communities in a suburban setting financed by its entire community.

Synagogues, like much of life, don't operate the same way they did 20, 30 or 50 years ago. The world has changed, and Barnert has evolved with it. It's instructive to reflect on how the changes in our understanding of the world today impact what we expect from our synagogue community.

When Barnert Temple, Congregation *B'nai Jeshurun*, began, synagogues were considered a necessary center for Jewish life, and belonging to a synagogue was a Jewish family's primary connection to a community. Now, there are many options for connection to the Jewish community and exploring Jewish identity. While we still believe the synagogue is the cornerstone of Jewish community, there are other competing opportunities for engagement.

Services were Friday night. Worship was meaningful for the time, but rarely if ever changed. We are continually trying new worship experiences.

Learning was more regimented, with optional learning for girls, and usually only boys celebrating becoming *Bar Mitzvah*. Today, learning is more intensive, and egalitarian learning and worship are our experience. We expect our young women to become *Bat Mitzvah*. We encourage our students to continue to learn and explore their Jewish identity with Confirmation and beyond.

Historically there was a reliance on the rabbi to primarily lead services and teach with a small office staff. The day-to-day engagement of the community and ongoing support was managed by the synagogue community. Congregants provided volunteer time to keep the place running and develop programming. When an event took place, it was entirely managed by lay leadership and an involved congregation. Tables were set up by the Men's Club, decorations managed by the Sisterhood.

Communication was in the form of mail, and then telephone. Technology has expanded the opportunities for

communication and engagement. Communication still happens through snail mail and telephone, but more often we use email and our website to share information. While technology has allowed us to connect more quickly and often, it often removes the need to physically connect with others.

Today, we continue the core mission of creating Jewish community and living Jewish lives. But the experience is very different, as the infrastructure of a synagogue is so much more involved.

Our expectations of Barnert Temple have increased dramatically, along with a higher level of service. The changes in the workforce, with more two-working-parent households, have created a system reliant on the partnership of professional and volunteer, expanding the need for much more professional support.

While Barnert Temple has always been a leader in the Northern New Jersey Jewish community, we offer so much more now. We have a preschool that is a leader in synagogues. Learning is much more challenging. We want our children's learning experience to include more, and now include a strong emphasis on Hebrew literacy. We encourage our adults to be active learners.

We acknowledge the need for a new understanding of what being Jewish is. Is it religious? Is it spiritual? Is it cultural? How do we share the many ways to be Jewish?

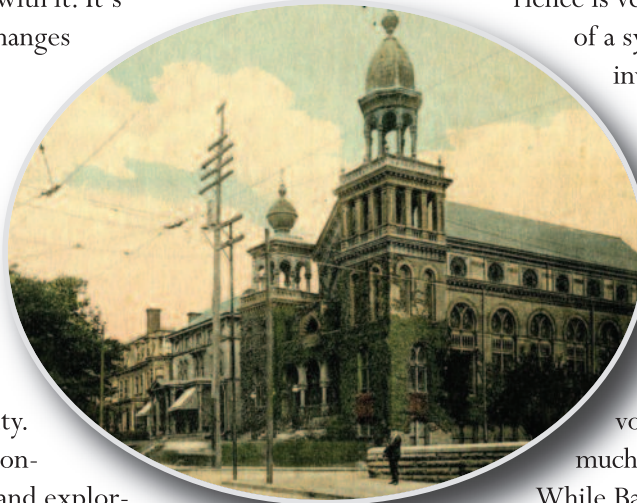
We still know the value of living Jewish lives, being engaged in the Jewish community, committing to the future of the Jewish people. We agree to the value of being engaged in the Barnert Community.

Our Strategic Planning Task Forces are exploring the next part of the journey of Barnert Temple.

In this issue, we will explore how some of the ways Barnert Temple is special. We'll share some of our recent successes, and introduce you to our staff.

Barnert Temple is where we each explore what it means to live a Jewish life, be involved in the Jewish community, and teach our children the values they need to grow. I'm thrilled we are sharing this journey!

—Roberta Hong and Vicky Farhi



# MEET BARNERT TEMPLE'S STAFF

A significant reason in the excellence of Barnert Temple is the support each congregant receives from our Office Staff and Custodial Staff.

## Office

Our Office Staff are exemplary, working together as a team. Over the years, they have created wonderful relationships with many congregants, providing information and support during times of joy and sorrow.

**Natalie Cohen**, our Office Administrator, has been a fixture at Barnert Temple for over 16 years. She manages congregational records, works with the Religious School Administrator to manage school information, and handles day-to-day web and electronic communications. She is an amazing resource for us to benefit from.



**Helen Milstein** is the Clergy Executive Assistant to Rabbis Frishman and Steiner. She handles the rabbis' schedules, a challenging job, with good humor, and handles ritual needs of the congregation each week and for holidays. She also assists Sara Losch in her scheduling.

**Lynn Sabat** started in December as Bookkeeper. She is learning quickly and working on the intricacies of running a multi-million dollar operation. She processes all income and bill payment, and works with our Treasurer and Financial Secretary to manage the temple's accounts.

**Alice Berdy** is our School Administrator. She welcomes each parent and child, wipes tears and celebrates new

babies. She manages the Preschool and Religious School, working with our Office Administrator to keep everything organized.

## Custodians

Our Custodial Staff maintain and clean our large facility and ensure the building is ready for all events. They also serve as mentors to some of our children, offering them opportunities to learn and talk.



**Zachery Griffin** celebrates his 20th year with Barnert in May. You'll see him on *Shabbat* and

during religious school and special events. He keeps the building organized and clean. Zach recently added the sound system to his portfolio.



**Sam Souza** has been at Barnert for over 10 years and is our resident handyman. He is a special help to the pre-school teachers.

**Alba Pavlowski** cleans our pre-school classes

Monday through Thursday, ensuring that our children learn in a clean environment.

**Earl Griffin** is here every Friday evening, Sunday afternoon and some Saturdays. He cleans classrooms, and helps with *Shabbat* evening services and special functions and parties.

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# KATHIE F. WILLIAMS FREE-WILL MATCHING GIFT —A SUCCESS WE CAN BE PROUD OF!

Each year during the High Holidays, every Barnert Temple congregant is asked to honor the tradition of providing strong financial support to our Jewish community. Kathie Williams, z”l, our beloved past president, was for many years the face and voice of our Free-Will Campaigns.

This year, in honor of Kathie’s work and with a vision of changing how we support Barnert Temple, the Williams family created the Kathie F. Williams Free-Will Matching Gift. Each additional dollar raised over that raised last fiscal year was matched by the Williams family. When developing this program last fiscal year, the goal had been to raise at least \$35,000 in additional funds which would then be matched by the Williams Gift.

We are excited to share that thanks to the generosity of our congregants, \$61,978 more than last year has been contributed to the Free-Will Campaign, and an additional matching amount was granted by the Williams family. This number will grow in May, as additional pledges are paid.

Many people were involved in this campaign, including Peter von Halle, Seth Haubenstock, Roberta Hong, Alice Heffner, and Charlie Troyanovski.

The Kathie F. Williams Free-Will Matching Gift will continue next year. Our appreciation to the Williams family for their keen insight and generosity!

—Bob Levin

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## Men’s Club

### What Men’s Club Is

“Donations fund our monthly breakfasts where we eat, meet new people, catch up with each other and participate in interesting programming. The money made from various events (pancake breakfast, wine tasting, and more) we sponsor is donated to various charities as well as funding various Barnert projects. We warmly welcome Barnert’s diversity and encourage all men, regardless of prior or current religion, race or sexual orientation, to become active in the Men’s Club.”

The preceding paragraph is included in most Men’s Club communications. This pretty much sums up what the Men’s Club has been, and will continue to be, about. A place where men can come together socially and also contribute to the temple and the larger community.

Barnert offers many ways to be part of the temple community. Participating in the Men’s Club is one of the ways.

You don’t have to be a “member” of the Men’s Club to

participate—our events are open to all. Some of our events (e.g. monthly breakfasts, the Men’s Club Passover Dinner) are for men. Some events are run in conjunction with other temple groups—such as the “café” operating during the Women of Barnert’s Holiday Boutique, the Pancake Breakfast coinciding with the *Mitzvah* Mall, or the Men’s Club/Women of Barnert *Chanukah* Party.

Finally, we raise money in a variety of ways. These funds support Barnert programs and we’ve also donated to a wide variety of outside organizations.

We are a diverse group and welcome all. As it says above, we encourage all men to become active.

Anyone who would like to learn more about the Men’s Club should feel free to contact me. Hope to see you at a Men’s Club breakfast.

—Charlie Troyanovski  
[ctroyanovski@gmail.com](mailto:ctroyanovski@gmail.com)

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# Renaissance News

## Who the Renaissance Group is!

A 30-second history lesson: September, 1989: the first Renaissance Group was started by Ted Largman and the late Rabbi Z. David Levy at Temple B'nai Or in Morristown. Soon, other groups followed at Reform synagogues throughout New Jersey and New York. A Renaissance Coalition was created to assist, to share ideas, discuss common problems, and in general, to enrich all the groups. Our own group was established by Bob Leonard and the late Jay Adleman approximately 15 years ago.

The 25th anniversary year (2014-2015) has been a celebratory year, with activities at many of the regional temples. Last April, Barnert's Renaissance Group hosted and produced a Coalition event: a musical extravaganza of classical, jazz, Broadway, and Israeli selections featuring our own Vlad Lapin and Janet Montgomery and other wonderful musicians. The event started with a warm welcome from Rabbi Frishman to our guests from other temples and the Barnert community.

Definition of a Renaissance "person": One who has diverse interests and expertise in a number of areas. Certainly this is an accurate description of our current Barnert membership.

Although our group is primarily a social organization which enjoys intellectual, artistic, culinary, etc. endeavors, we are in integral part of the Barnert community. Many of us participate fully in the activities of the temple. The Israeli Film Festival is a favorite and well-attended event. *Mitzvah* Mall is supported by Renaissance and individually by our membership. We boast one Lifetime and three Board of Trustee members, and a founding *Mitzvah* Mall member. Among us are three published authors and the founding chair of a free healthcare facility for low-income adults in Bergen County.

We have recently re-established a programming committee which will be meeting in the very near future to map out activities for the remainder of this year and plan for next. A Renaissance *Shabbat* Inside Out is on the agenda...more details to come.

And, of course, we always welcome new members. Please contact me at [jrcpiglets@yahoo.com](mailto:jrcpiglets@yahoo.com) or (201) 496 6010.

—Joan Cowlan

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# Women of Barnert

## Our Vision

Our vision is to provide, for every woman at Barnert Temple, opportunities for Jewish learning, social connection and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). We welcome all the women of the temple—regardless of age, stage of life and spiritual beliefs. It's good to get different points of view.

What does WoB (Women of Barnert) mean to the Barnert Temple community? This year we have been asking ourselves this question a lot! We've been trying out new programming and getting input from our members. We want to create a "place" for the women of Barnert to meet, talk, relax and connect. Who better than other women of Barnert to understand the stresses of family, work and school? Who better to support, nurture and encourage each other?

Our practice has always been to use the funds we

raise to help the organizations in which we are interested, as well as to help the temple in any way they need.

Collaborating on joint projects with other groups at the temple like the Men's Club/WoB *Chanukah* Party, the *Rosh Hashanah* Community Picnic and the *Mitzvah* Mall, gives us the chance to get to know our fellow congregants in a different way.

Women of Barnert will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in the fall. Join us as we continue to build meaningful experiences which provide growth through community and engagement.

—Rebeca Gordy

# SCIENCE SAYS: VOLUNTEERING IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

It's an old saying: "What a blessing it is to help another." Several new scientific studies have found that volunteering actually contributes to good health, both mentally and physically. The University of Exeter Medical School in England, Carnegie Mellon University and UnitedHealth Group with Optum Institute conducted separate studies of the effects of volunteering on people's health.

The UnitedHealth Group/Optum Institute study revealed four key benefits of volunteering that made a positive impact on people's overall health in these ways:

1. Health: volunteers say that they feel better—physically, mentally and emotionally
2. Stress: volunteering helps people manage and lower their stress levels
3. Purpose: volunteers feel a deeper connection to their community and to others
4. Engagement: volunteers are more informed healthcare consumers and more engaged and involved in managing their health<sup>1</sup>

A Carnegie Mellon University Study focused on volunteerism and hypertension in 2013 discovered that those who volunteer on a regular basis are less likely to develop high blood pressure.<sup>2</sup> The University of Exeter, England, study determined

that volunteering can improve mental health and help you live longer. Their research pooled and compared data from multiple experimental trials and longitudinal cohort studies. Some observational evidence points to around a 20 percent reduction in mortality among volunteers compared to non-volunteers in cohort studies. Volunteers also reported lower levels of depression, increased life satisfaction and enhanced well-being, although the findings have yet to be confirmed in trials.<sup>3</sup>

Anecdotally, Barnert Temple congregants who are active in some area of our community find comradery, enjoyment and fulfillment. Give it a try! There are many opportunities for engagement at Barnert Temple, and they don't require huge amounts of time. Pick one and enjoy that good health!

<sup>1</sup>UnitedHealth Group, Doing Good is Good for You, 2013 Study

<sup>2</sup>Volunteering May Be Good For Body and Mind, Harvard Health Publications, 6/26/13

<sup>3</sup>University of Exeter, BMC Public Health, 2013

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## Mt. NEBO

When congregations launch, they usually begin by establishing a cemetery and a school.

Mt. Nebo was established in 1866 as the Barnert Temple cemetery, and has been part of the Barnert story since then. Located in Totowa, it is the second and only active Barnert Temple cemetery. Notable Barnert members are buried there, including Nathan Barnert, our illustrious past president and former mayor of Paterson.

When creating Mt. Nebo, the decision was made to offer an affordable cemetery in which to bury loved ones. That tradition continues today. Plots are sold with perpetual care at a reasonable price. The cemetery is managed by Sanford B. Epstein, Inc., working in partnership with the Barnert staff and volunteers. A local resident opens the gate each morning and locks it each evening. The cemetery is well maintained, although an entry section will need some cosmetic repairs in the next few years.

Recently, a new section of the cemetery was created to allow more Barnert Temple members a place for burial. This new section continues the sense of serenity at Mt. Nebo.

You are invited to take a walk through Mt. Nebo. Located at 195 Totowa Road, it is the story of many generations of Barnert and Jewish history. Visiting hours are Sunday through Friday, 9 am–5 pm.

The cemetery is closed on *Shabbat* and Jewish holidays.

Mt. Nebo is sacred land for us to share with our ancestors and our descendants, all as part of the Barnert family.



# **Barnert Temple is Honored to Invite Adults and Post-*B'nai Mitzvah* Students to Meet 10 Special Israeli Veterans at Our**

Since 1993



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In Our Homes For Two Weeks... In Our Hearts For a Lifetime

## **Breakfast and Meet & Greet Sunday, May 10**

Each year, 10–12 Israeli veterans who have been injured during their military service come to Bergen County as part of their rehabilitation. The warmth and welcome that they receive from the American Jewish community is a powerful part of the healing they experience during their stay. Barnert Temple has been a significant support of *Zahal Shalom*, so it is with special appreciation that we invite you to enjoy a tasty meal and hear about the lives of these stalwart Israelis.

### **8:45–9:45 am: Breakfast\* in the social hall**

(School-aged children go to class and have breakfast with their classmates as usual.)  
Adults will hear from the veterans in a short presentation.

**10 am:** Parents are strongly encouraged to join their children when the veterans split up into religious school classrooms, and students will have the opportunity to ask questions about Israel.

**10:30 am:** Students, adults and veterans return together to the social hall for dessert, joyful singing, and a performance by our amazing Junior Choir.

Please RSVP to Helen Milstein at [helenm1847@barnerttemple.org](mailto:helenm1847@barnerttemple.org) or (201) 848-1800 for this wonderful experience.

\*The cost of the breakfast is underwritten by the Israel Action Committee and the Lifelong Learning Fund.

## Shabbat Inside Out; Stories from our Barnert Community

Last fall, we rolled out a new initiative called *Shabbat Inside Out*, which shifted *Shabbat* worship from a temple-based experience to an off-site, socially oriented *Shabbat* observance with home- or restaurant-based group dinners to encourage greater participation in the observance of *Shabbat*.

This month, we wanted to share our own experiences as well as a couple of stories from some other members who have participated. Our goal is to share a story or two each month, so if you have participated, either with your own family or with others and would like to share your experience with us, please email me at [beccasarah@me.com](mailto:beccasarah@me.com).

We hope to hear from you.

Warmly,  
Rebecca and Seth,  
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

### Seth Haubenstock

#### Our *Shabbat Inside Out* Experiences

Three generations of the Herman family came for a potluck *Shabbat* dinner at the Haubenstocks'. We lit all kinds of candles as we celebrated Ken Herman's birthday with a cake his grandchildren helped make. There was no shortage of Barnert experiences as the boys have grown up at the school, while their Grande (Grandma) has been involved for years since Paterson. Stories from Israeli Expo were shared from the 70s events my parents helped work on with the Hermans and the Sauers. After dinner, the kids were found asleep together on the den couch.

March's SIO dinner was at the Filans'. Marian and Tom made a six-course tapas dinner. The Resnicks, Valentis and Haubenstocks joined together to celebrate a culinary treat Tom cooked all day. Perhaps the eight of us might not otherwise have been together, yet we shared a fantastic evening of delicious food, laughter, and stories of connections that brought us there.

### Rebecca McKinnon

#### Our *Shabbat Inside Out* Experiences

I love to entertain but with working full time, managing family commitments and all the other demands of modern suburban life, that is no easy task. Especially on a Friday night!

That said, for months I had been talking with the Harts and Kronemers about trying to get together for dinner. We had actually had a date on the calendar over the summer but as so always is the case, something came up and we had to cancel.

I thought *Shabbat Inside Out* would be the perfect opportunity for us to finally come together. So, rather than take on the full responsibility of hosting a formal sit-down dinner, we decided to do it as a potluck dinner and buffet at my house. With the pressure off, I thought, why not reach out to a few others who we also wanted to get together with? After all, if everyone can bring their kids and everyone chips in on the dinner, then in my book the more the merrier! So that's what we did. Paul and Enid Avenius, the Dewan and Steiner families joined in as well and it was wonderful. I can't think of any other time where this group, with three generations present and NOT related, would have ever had the opportunity to be together. New friends were made, Caroline got to babysit Ezra (nothing makes her happier), and we all agreed that *Shabbat Inside Out* gives us the perfect opportunity to connect with other Barnert friends we want to, but rarely get to see, outside of services.

We have since hosted one other time and have also been welcomed as guests in someone else's home.

*Shabbat Inside Out* has allowed my family to observe *Shabbat* in a way that is fully inclusive of my interfaith family since it is rooted in a home-based celebration which is as social as it is meaningful. We look forward to many more wonderful Friday nights together.

### Stephen Becker

#### Our *Shabbat Inside Out* Experience

*Shabbat Inside Out* is a success!

Joining other Barnert Temple families for *Shabbat Dinner* is a fulfilling experience on multiple levels.

*Continued on page 19*



## Shabbat Inside Out From page 18

Maggie and I joined Mitch and Trish Hausman, Bob, Myndee, Jake Males and their dog Jasper, at the lovely and warm home of Gabe, Olivia, and Jennifer Sauer.

After the candle and wine blessings and *Motzi* led by Olivia, and with Barnert Temple memorabilia surrounding us, we dined on a fantastic assortment of delicious food that each family contributed.

The evening was filled with free-flowing conversation as we got to know each other better.

How fortunate we are to be part of the Barnert *Kehillah Kedosha*, the sacred community, of like-minded, kind people who can welcome *Shabbat* together.

**Bob Levin**

### **One of Our Shabbat Inside Out Experiences— At the Restaurant**

In January, Susan and I joined a large group at a

restaurant in Oakland. My first reaction while we were waiting for our table was that the restaurant was not set up to handle a large group—just open space with no private room and one long table set for 16, maybe 18. By the time we were seated, however, I felt better. We did a blessing for wine and over the bread (no *challah* available). As we sat down, my wife guided us to the near center of the table where we were facing a member of the Membership Committee who I had met previously at Membership Committee meetings, but never really knew nor spoken with. I had also never met her spouse or twin sons. At a table this large, we all tended to talk in groups of fours. I think it actually worked quite well. Susan and I had warm friendly conversation for the entire time we were at dinner. Chalk up another success story.

## REDEFINING CHARITY by Noah Eckstein

Every year the *Mitzvah* Mall changes in either a strategic or fundamental way. For example, this year the fundraiser, which is led by the devoted Sue Klein, combined student activities with adult learning to embody a more holistic approach toward *mitzvot*. The students were able to spend more time with the *Mitzvah* Mall and wrote a myriad of questions for the charities. This year marked the 15th anniversary of the Mall, and the room of donors and children shared similar expressions of excitement and enthusiasm toward learning about the charities.

The charities included *David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust*, which focuses on conserving orphan elephants in Africa; *Meals with a Mission*, which serves well-balanced meals to people of New Jersey; and *Bergen Swan*, which commits itself to environmental conservation in Bergen County. The *Mitzvah* Mall incorporated 10 charities that centered around 10 topics. These topics included: Children's Health, Compassion to Animals, Hunger, Holocaust, Honoring the Elderly, Love for Israel, Preserving the Earth, Redeeming the Captive, Welcoming the Stranger, and Women's Issues. With these topics in mind, children and adults alike feel a new worldly perspective commenced by the conversations of the *Mitzvah* Mall.

As I walked throughout the *Mitzvah* Mall, I saw a divide between two groups. On one hand, there are the adult donors who look at the charities with an economic and political viewpoint; on the other hand, there are the children who view the charities with open hearts and motivation.

The adults give the money to better the charities, but the students give the hope that drives the charities to work until their goals are met. I interviewed a group of third graders who spoke highly and intellectually about the necessity of caring for the homeless. One third grader stated the need for job training with the homeless in order to level the playing field for the homeless. I was shocked at the students' perspectives, as I felt that they walked away from the *Mitzvah* Mall with a global perspective on what it means to be charitable.

Traditionally, Jews give ten percent of their annual income to charities. However, the *Mitzvah* Mall continues to redefine the meaning of charity by breaking down old traditions and creating new ones. As much as charity is giving, it is also about educating and inspiring. As I drove home with my brother Jordan, who is a part of the third-grade class, I asked him what his favorite part of the *Mitzvah* Mall was. He answered quickly, talking about chocolate chips and pancakes. As I continued to ask him about the charities, he showed a wealth of knowledge on each charity as he was moved, mainly by the environmental charity Bergen Swan. Jordan, like his third-grade peers, is the future of *mitzvah* and *zedakah* of the world. The *Mitzvah* Mall is a first step toward educating on the meaning of charity, and that meaning is so much more than giving money.

—Noah Eckstein

## FEBRUARY—MARCH DONATIONS

### Associate Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

	In Memory Of
Beth and Joseph Valenti	Sandra Schwartz

### In Honor Of Asher Steiner's Birth

Florence and Irwin Ames  
Elaine and Dan Gold  
Reggie and Peter Gross  
Lesley, Jeff, Harrison and Jack Klein  
Rami and Arthur Nalven  
Susan and Richard Nashel

### Barnert Temple Endowment Fund

	In Memory Of
Janet and Ted Lobsenz	Doris Lobsenz
Eileen and Wally Manheimer	Wallace P. Manheimer

### David Nalven Memorial Youth Education Fund

	In Memory Of
Leonore Albert	Alys Paris

### Elsie and Howard Kahan Memorial Holocaust Fund

	In Memory Of
Susan Toron and Charles Troyanovski	Moshe Troyanovski

### Gutenstein Youth Community Service Fund

	In Memory Of
Bob Gutenstein	Max Gutenstein

### Helen Lee *Mitzvah* Fund

	In Memory Of
Joan Cowlan	Steven Kates
Jeffrey Lee	Bertha Cohn Lefkowitz
	Bernard Goldstein
Arlene and Howard Lemelson	Charles Adler
Women Of Barnert	Elisse Share

### Jacob Cohn Library Fund

	In Memory Of
Joyce Unger	Louis Lappin

### Jed Haubenstock BarTY Fund

	In Memory Of
Sandy and David Cohen	Lorraine and Philip Cohen
Barbara Haubenstock	Ray Rose
	Gerda von Halle

	In Honor Of
Barbara Haubenstock	Dr. Bruce Tapper's 85th Birthday

### Kathie F. Williams' TAG Scholarship Challenge

	In Memory Of
Joan Cowlan	Bertram Cowlan
Ellen and Reid Fader	Joyce Fader
Bob Gutenstein	Ellen Gutenstein
Norma and Seymour Hurwitz	William Borson
Anne and Andrew Kanter and Family	Gerda von Halle

### In Memory of Paul Friedman

Carolyn Abramson  
Patti and Bob Aisner  
Myra Chazin  
Irene and James Cooperman  
Janie Cooperman  
Jeanne Corwin  
Francine and Theodore Daniels  
Joyce Field  
Gretchen Heath  
Matthew Lerner  
Howard and Bobbi Lurie  
Beth Lurie and Family  
Rhoda and Don Mains  
Lynne Maser  
Joyce Moscoe  
Golden Valley DFL Women's Club  
Mary Moos and Bob Weil  
Ann and Felix Phillips  
Sherie and Arnie Reiter  
Nancy, John and Colin Revere  
Connie and Paul Ross  
Van and Jim Sanders  
Charles Selcer  
Barbara Sigurdson  
Paula and Mike Weiner

*Continued on page 21*

## FEBRUARY—MARCH DONATIONS From page 20

### Mount Nebo Cemetery Beautification Fund

Leonore R. Albert	<b>In Memory Of</b>
	Elsie Raff
	Lillian Raff
	Iris Seligson

### Nana Cele Low Garden Fund

Stephanie Glaymon	<b>In Honor Of</b>
	Eli Pasternak's Bar Mitzvah

### Oneg Shabbat Fund

Stacey Rappaport and Craig Solomon	<b>In Memory Of</b>
	Alice Solomon
Wild Family	Stanley Wild
	<b>In Honor Of</b>
Barnert Temple Men's Club	Men's Club <i>Shabbat</i>
Randi and Tedd Kochman	Adam's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Carole and Jules Lennon	Justin Garland's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Ronnie and Larry Levine	Alexander Samieske's
	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Michele and Rick Marker	Sarah's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Rebecca and Andrew McKinnon	
	Caroline's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Tracy and Andrew Platt	Rachel's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Robin and Charles Shafran	Asher Jamie Steiner's
	Baby Naming
Tomaskovic Family	Hannah's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>

### Prayer Book Fund

Dorothy Danziger	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Lenni and Bob Puritz	Charles Danziger
Rebecca Rund and Roger Placer	Gilbert P. Dorfman
	Stephen George Rund

### Preschool Teacher Appreciation Fund

Erica and Craig Fishman	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Carolyn Kessler	Nana Raff
	Edna Turndorf
	Rose Mosberg

### Pulpit Flower Fund

Linda Berger	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Patti and Steven Bieth	Murry Berger
	Herbert Harrison

Alan, Nathan and Jessica Blumberg	Robin Blumberg
Marian and Tom Filan	Barbara K. Ringler
Frankl Family	Jeno Frankl
Bobbie Jodre and Ken Gardner	Ben Gardner
	Leonard Samuels
Kress/Kanter Family	Henry Kress
Rita and Marty Kron	Yetta Folkman
Amy, Rob,	
Jacob, David and Amanda Miller	
	Audrey Miller Poritzky
Nancy and Al Krone	Ira Richard
Stacey Rappaport and Craig Solomon	
	Alice Solomon
Reiter Family	Freda Goldberg
	Deborah Ostrega
	Hilda and Martin Reiter
Resnick Family	Ralph Levitt
Elisse and Neil Share	Sarah Allinson
Shulman Family	Steve Wener
	<b>In Honor Of</b>
Randi and Tedd Kochman	Adam's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Carole and Jules Lennon	Justin Garland's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Michele and Rick Marker	Sarah's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Rebecca and Andrew McKinnon	
	Caroline's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Tracy and Andrew Platt	Rachel's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Elizabeth, Roland and Jake Samieske	
	Alexander's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Tomaskovic Family	Hannah's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>

### Rabbi Martin Freedman URJ Camp Scholarship Fund

Joshua and Lucia Farber	
	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Audrey Schulman-Cohen	Rose and Max Schulman
Shirley Shacknai Freedman	Rabbi Solomon J. Freedman
	Sondra Ross
Robert Gutenstein	Helen Stone
Cipora Schwartz	Gerda von Halle
	<b>In Honor Of</b>
Bob Gutenstein	Rick Greenberg's Big Birthday
Cipora Schwartz	Carole Ann and Joel Steiger's
	New Home

*Continued on page 22*

## FEBRUARY—MARCH DONATIONS From page 21

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sam Reiner  
Janet and David Waldman

#### In Memory Of

Nicky and Paul Anderson	John Anderson
Denise Benmosche	Bob Benmosche
Ron Berman	Mildred Berman
Beverly and Michael Blum	Louise Mach
Carole and Pete Brodie	Edwin Levine
Carol and Sam Cassell	Beatrice Cassell
Jayne and Alan Demsky	Leonard Rosen
Jill Edelson	Margaret Salkin
Sylvia and Dick Ellin	Howard Kagan

Ramona Ziverin

Carol and Gary Epstein  
Susan Goodstadt-Levin and Robert Levin

Nathan Levin

Janet and Elliot Greene  
Irving B. Guller

Milton Bloom  
Adele Guller

Joan R. Hartman  
Lois and Martin Hochberg  
Kati and Les Ivany

Alan Hartman  
Helen Robins  
Magdolna Lax  
Sandor Lax  
Peter Lax

Gabriella Ivanyi

Pal Ivanyi

Laurie and Steven F. Kluger  
Lori and Ken Levy  
Dr. Susan Polirstok

Eleanor Kluger  
Albert Levy  
Lila Rovet

Janie, Joel, Ali and Danny Rakow

Erma Goldstein

Miriam and Michael Sirota  
Brynne and Roy Weber

Gerda von Halle  
Harry Weber

#### In Honor Of

Karen and Todd Galinko	Janet Finke's Birthday
	Ronnie Kauder's Birthday
Carol Bracco Ghazey	Thalia Halpert Rodis and Sara Himeles' Acceptance into Rabbinical School
Elaine and Dan Gold	Olivia Pincus' <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Marcia Kestenbaum	Joan Cowlan's Caring Julie Good's Caring Carol Sank's Friendship

Beth and Joe Valenti  
Cindy and Steven Zage

Joe's Conversion  
Amy's *Bat Mitzvah*

#### In Honor Of

Claire Cupo  
Ilene and Steven Kandler

### Sanctuary Enhancements Fund

#### In Memory Of

Kronemer Family  
Robert Kronemer

### Social Action Fund

#### In Memory Of

Alice Bershtein  
Lenni and Bob Puritz  
David Bershtein  
Sophie Puritz

### Tree of Life

#### In Honor Of

Karen and Todd Galinko	Maya Rachel Galinko's Birth
Karen and Neil Hart	Zachary's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Randi and Tedd Kochman	Adam's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Arlene Strigo	Sarah Marker's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Rebecca and Andrew McKinnon	

Caroline's *Bat Mitzvah*

Tracy and Andrew Platt  
Debra and Evan Tomaskovic

Rachel's *Bat Mitzvah*  
Hannah's *Bat Mitzvah*

### Women Of Barnert

#### In Honor Of

Shirley Shacknai Freedman  
Happy *Purim* and Happy  
*Passover*

### Yahrzeit Fund

#### In Memory Of

Susan Adleman	William Adleman
Florence and Irwin Ames	Fanny Ames
Beverly and Michael Blum	Herbert Braun
Scott Boyarsky	William Boyarsky
Nancy and Jim Cowles	Harold Hecht
Gayle and Mel Gerstein	Frank Gerstein
Barbara and Steven Kiel	Richard Kiel
	Sara Jean Kiel
Lois Kramer	Adolph Kramer
	Ethel B. Weintraub
Ronnie and Laurence Levine	Harriet Mintz
Sandi Pleeter	Jerome Harris
Ruth and Howard Schack	Louis Rosenbaum
Ruth Summers	Harry Sorkin
Eleanor Doblin Unger	Arnold S. Doblin

## MAY-JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Craig and Lynn Abramowitz  
Paul and Marcia Abrams  
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Irwin and Florence Ames  
Joel and Janet Bauer  
Michael and Phyllis Becker  
Jay and Marilyn Bernstein  
Jack and Louise Birnberg  
Dan and Barbara Brooks  
Michael and Toni Brower  
Richard and Kathleen Cameron  
Michael and Patti Cantor  
Billy and Allie Carroll  
Samuel and Carol Cassell  
Paul Chalmers and Ronnie Kauder  
Dao Chung and Janet Millstein  
Jeff and Debbie Cohn  
Selwyn and Carin Cooperman  
Tom and Jacqui Dorsett  
Stephen and Amy Elman  
Andrew and Bari Engel  
Rich and Marianne Feifer  
Peter Fishkin and Leila Nosrati  
Fred and Cheryl Fothergill  
Paul and Barbara Frankel  
Mark Friedberg and Emily Kraus  
Jeffrey and Karen Gerstel  
Robert and Rebeca Gordy

Rick Greenberg and Stacey Bradford-Greenberg  
Paul and Pamela Greenberg  
David and Beth Greenwald  
Scott and Pam Harper  
Seth and Lisa Haubenstock  
Kenneth and Benita Herman  
Mark and Lauren Hernandez  
Barry and Sue Hess  
Stephen and Bari Hopkins  
Steve and Barbara Kiel  
Jeffrey and Lesley Klein  
Rolf and Sue Klein  
Paul and Joan Kopelman  
Jonathan and Marianne Krantz  
Al and Nancy Krone  
Allan and Paula Krutchik  
Rich and Susan Kuller  
Brian and Elisabeth LaForgia  
Bob Levin and Susan Goodstadt-Levin  
Rob and Terry Levy  
Danny and Jamie Loia  
Brett and Rikki Lowy  
Wally and Eileen Manheimer  
Jeff and Melissa Molnar  
Bob and Jane Morais  
Paul and Helene Naftali  
Dan and Marni Neuburger  
Brian and Debbie Nussbaum

Todd and Jill Orlich  
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Scott and Randi Pomerantz  
Andrew Popik and Judy Friend  
Jim and Lisa Powers  
Alex and Karin Pucciariello  
Paul Reichenbach and Cathy Goodfriend  
Jerry and Wendy Richman  
Sandy and Toby Robinson  
Costa Rodis and Felicia Halpert  
Scott and Debra Rosen  
Steven and Daryl Roth  
Gary and Melissa Russo  
Tony and Abbey Sapienza  
Barton Schack and Susan Esserman-Schack  
Jeffrey and Lauren Schotz  
Jeffrey Segal and Bonnie Lipeles  
Paul and Ann Shansky  
Andrew and Elissa Silverman  
Marc and Sondra Steiner  
Matt and Nan Sumner  
Marty and Jenny Tell  
Evan and Deb Tomaskovic  
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# May 2015

# 12 Iyar 5775 - 13 Sivan 5775

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>* Rabbi Frishman's Class ♦ Rabbi Steiner's Class § Rabbi Soffin's Class ^ Sara Losch's Class</p>	<p>Torah: Purple Avodah: Blue Gemilut Hasidim: Green</p>				<p><b>1</b> *7:53 pm</p> <p>7 pm Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper</p>	<p><b>2</b> Ahare Mot/Kedoshim Lev. 16:1-18:30 Lev. 19:1-20:27 9:30 am Torah Study 10 am Celebrate Shabbat with us! Dylan Hess B/M Adam Kochman B/M</p>
<p><b>3</b> Religious School 9 am Adult Confirmation*</p>	<p><b>4</b> Post Confirmation 8 pm Executive Committee</p>	<p><b>5</b> Religious School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation</p>	<p><b>6</b> Religious School</p>	<p><b>7</b> LAG B'OMER 7:30 pm Talmud Study§</p>	<p><b>8</b> *8:01 pm Preschool Grandparents/ Special Guest Shabbat</p> <p>8 pm Shabbat Service with Worship Band</p>	<p><b>9</b> Emor Lev. 21:1-24:23 10 am Celebrate Shabbat with us! Sarah Marker B/M</p>
<p><b>10</b> Mother's Day Religious School 9 am Zahal Shalom Breakfast Family Promise</p>	<p><b>11</b> 4:30 pm Israel Mini Course^ 8 pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p><b>12</b> Religious School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan Off-site 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan Off-site Confirmation</p>	<p><b>13</b> Religious School</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> *8:08 pm</p> <p>5:30 pm Tot Shabbat and Pizza Dinner 8 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p><b>16</b> Bahar/Bechukotai Lev. 25:1-26:2 Lev. 26:3-27:34</p>
<p><b>17</b> Last Sunday Religious School 9 am Men's Club 7 pm Israeli Film Series</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7 - 8:30 pm Rosh Chodesh^</p>	<p><b>19</b> Last Tuesday Religious School Confirmation</p>	<p><b>20</b> Last Wednesday Religious School 6:30 pm Networking</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> *8:14 pm</p> <p>8 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p><b>23</b> Bamidbar Num. 1:1-4:20</p> <p>7 pm Adult Confirmation Celebration with Yizkor EREV SHAVUOT</p>
<p><b>24</b> SHAVUOT 10 am Confirmation</p>	<p><b>25</b> MEMORIAL DAY No Preschool Office Closed</p>	<p><b>26</b> Men's Shelter</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:30 pm Talmud Study§</p>	<p><b>29</b> *8:20 pm</p> <p>Women of Barnert Shabbat 8 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p><b>30</b> Naso Num. 4:21-7:89 10 am Celebrate Shabbat with us! Rachel Platt B/M</p>
<p><b>31</b></p>						

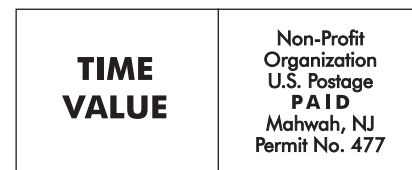
# June 2015

# 14 Sivan 5775 - 13 Tammuz 5775

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
* Rabbi Frishman's Class ♦ Rabbi Steiner's Class § Rabbi Soffin's Class ^ Sara Losch's Class	1	2 7 pm Men's Club Awards Dinner	3	4	5 7 pm Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper Honoring Melissa and Zack Kolstein	6 B'haalot'cha Num. 8:1-12:16 10 am Celebrate Shabbat with us! Caroline McKinnon B/M Hannah Tomaskovic B/M
7 9:30 am Congregational Breakfast 10:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting	8	9	10	11	12 8 pm Shabbat Service	13 Shelach Num. 13:1-15:41 10 am Celebrate Shabbat with us! Grace Goldberg B/M
14 Family Promise	15	16	17	18	19 8 pm Shabbat Service	20 Korach Num. 16:1-18:32 10 am Celebrate Shabbat with us! Alexander Samieske B/M
21 Father's Day	22 First Day Camp 6:30 pm Networking	23 Men's Shelter	24	25	26 8 pm Shabbat Service	27 Chukat Num. 19:1-22:1
28	29	30			7 pm Shabbat Service	Torah: Purple Avodah: Blue Gemilut Hasidim: Green

## Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Nathan Barnert Memorial Temple  
747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417  
[www.barnerttemple.org](http://www.barnerttemple.org)



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Rabbi Rachel Steiner  
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Vicky Farhi, Executive Director ..... (201) 848-1800  
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Sara Losch, Director of Lifelong Learning ..... (201) 848-1027  
[welvkds@barnerttemple.org](mailto:welvkds@barnerttemple.org)

Preschool and Religious School Office ..... (201) 848-1027  
[schooloffice@barnerttemple.org](mailto:schooloffice@barnerttemple.org)

Mt. Nebo Cemetery ..... (973) 373-0144  
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## Mark Your Calendars

Friday, May 1  
**Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper** 7 pm

Thursday, May 7  
**LAG B'OMER**

Sunday, May 10  
**MOTHER'S DAY**  
**Zahal Shalom Breakfast** 9 am

Friday, May 15  
**Tot Shabbat and Pizza Dinner** 5:30 pm

Sunday, May 17  
**Israel Film Series** 7 pm

Monday, May 18  
**Rosh Chodesh** 7 pm

Saturday, May 23  
**Adult Confirmation Celebration**  
**with Yizkor** 7 pm  
**EREV SHAVUOT**

Sunday, May 24  
**SHAVUOT**  
**Confirmation** 10 am

Monday, May 25  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**No Preschool**  
**Temple Office Closed**

Friday, June 5  
**Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper** 7 pm

Sunday, June 7  
**Congregational Breakfast** 9:30 am  
**Annual Congregational Meeting** 10:15 am

Sunday, June 21  
**FATHER'S DAY**