

May-June 2017 barnerttemple.org

# BARNERT

The Magazine

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



## Barnert Thanks Rabbi Frishman



# 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 Elyse Frishman

I have learned a lot about love over the years



Dear friends,

I've learned a lot about love over the years.

In Judaism, love is *chesed* and *gevurah*, a spectrum from compassion to discerning support. *Chesed* is mercy. Whatever a person does wrong, you forgive that wrong. *Chesed* inspires instant hugs. It draws from emotion more than from intellect.

*Gevurah* is love that is deepened through analysis and judgment. *Gevurah* helps us shape a person's character. *Gevurah* inspires keen, loving advice. It may include forgiveness or punishment. It draws more from intellect than from emotion.

Most of us blend *chesed* and *gevurah*, though we're each inclined towards one or the other.

I've loved you in sorrow and troubled times, in joy and celebration. I've sought to be present when you need, to inspire personal growth or *tikkun olam*. I've listened when you've been upset about children, spouses, work, parents, even with me.

My natural inclination is *gevurah*. Yet, I seek to balance *gevurah* and *chesed*, conscious of my thoughts and feelings, intending to respond supportively and helpfully. I care deeply about being present, and hope neither to enable nor to become too important. Whatever advice I offer is to further a person's independence, and connection to the Jewish people.

What happens after I retire? Does love disappear? Will I disappear?

I'm retiring, not leaving.

What does that mean or imply for the months and years ahead?

There's going to be a separation for a while, as our new Senior Interim Rabbi Don Rossoff helps us transition emotionally. It doesn't mean we'll care less for each other; we'll become more open to our next senior rabbi, with great anticipation for the new gifts that person will bring. In some ways, I'm like an old shoe that fits beautifully; but wait till those new shoes arrive and wear in... They'll be gorgeous and just what you were looking for.

Will I be available by email or phone? Imagine me on sabbatical. Turn to Rabbi Rossoff or Rabbi Steiner. Will I be coming to services, or be preaching at the High Holidays? One major reason for my retirement is to travel with Danny and be with my children, and my upcoming grandchild. We'll create new family opportunities closer to their homes, and around the world with Danny. Will I be available for life-cycle events? In any circumstance that might be necessary, you'll connect with Rabbi Rossoff or Rabbi Steiner, and they

will reach out to me if it's appropriate. Will I offer my advice on synagogue matters? Only when sought by our leaders. Will I be teaching or preaching? I hope to share *Torah* with you in future years.

Future years... that is the point, actually. For a brief period of time, it's necessary for me to draw back, both for my family to engage with me more, and for our community to engage with me less. But in time, if you want to be together, we will. I'm retiring, not leaving. Our relationships will shift but not disappear. How could they?

Love is emotional and intellectual, compassionate and discerning. I love you. And I embrace your love for me. How grateful I am for all we've shared. How grateful I am for the future we will share, too.

There is so much gratitude in my heart.

Thank you.

Love,

Rabbi Elyse Frishman

## A FAREWELL SHABBAT IN HONOR OF RABBI ELYSE FRISHMAN

### JUNE 16, 2017 – 7 PM

By the time you are reading this, spring cleaning is under way, sports practices and games are outdoors again, the weather is warm and beautiful and the snow has completely melted — hopefully! Hard to believe but we are getting ready to say our goodbyes to Rabbi Frishman.

Please join us in worship and celebration as Rabbi Frishman leads her final *Shabbat* service on June 16.

We promise there will be laughter, song, (some tears), and a few surprises. Plus, a truly amazing *Oneg* to follow.

Anyone wishing to help with this event, please contact Bari Hopkins at [ebshopkins@aol.com](mailto:ebshopkins@aol.com) or Kathy Hecht at [khbarnert@gmail.com](mailto:khbarnert@gmail.com).

Please note special start time of 7 pm.

—Bari Hopkins



# A Message from Rabbi Rachel Steiner

With appreciation



I remember clearly the first time I met Rabbi Elyse Frishman. It was the first round of interviews for the newest class of soon-to-be-ordained rabbis at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, our alma mater. Other colleagues had already interviewed with Rabbi Frishman and the word on the street was clear: "She's tough." So you can imagine my surprise when this smiling

rabbi walked halfway down the corridor to meet me. She took my hand, looked me right in the eye, and said, "I've been looking forward to meeting you, Rachel."

I think about this first meeting frequently as I think this story reflects a deep experience of knowing Rabbi Frishman. She is tough, but also gentle, serious and funny, intellectually sharp and also spiritually grounded. Rabbi Frishman is a truth teller — pushing us when we need it — and a pastoral presence — helping us to take stock of the blessings in our lives when we feel overwhelmed. Which is to say, both the experience of my colleagues and my own first impression were true. That's what makes her so special. That's what has made all of us so lucky these last many years while she has been our rabbi.

*Pirkei Avot* teaches: *aseh l'cha rav u-k'neh l'cha chaver*, get yourself a teacher and find a friend. Embedded in this ancient teaching is the belief that in seeking out a

teacher we can also find a companion, for in true learning, deep relationships are formed.

You can certainly imagine that in the many hours Rabbi Frishman and I have spent together during these last seven years, our relationship has evolved and deepened. We began with enthusiasm and an appropriate amount of professional respect. I was newly minted, thrilled to be serving my first congregation, optimistic about the opportunity to serve with Rabbi Frishman. I have learned from our rabbi in literally every area of my service to this Jewish community — in lifecycle events, in teaching, in work with lay leaders, in the ongoing effort to find balance between work and family, in nurturing my own professional growth. But the aspect of our work that has made the deepest impact on my service to this community, on my soul — really! — is in worship: our service to you; our service to all that connects us, to God.

In many ways, I had to "unlearn" some of what I was taught in rabbinical school. Don't stand still while leading services, read prayers so others can understand while also joining in, don't feel bound by what's on the page of the prayer book, learn to teach interactively on Friday nights instead of writing formal sermons, and bring all of this into the grandeur of the High Holy Days rather than letting the formality of the liturgy dictate our experience. It is not an overstatement to say that my *rav*, my teacher, has transformed me both as a Jew and as a rabbi. My theology is one of connection, a spirituality of details. Rabbi Frishman's genius in crafting worship has deepened my lived experience of this core principle. My approach to ritual and worship has transformed.

*(Continued on page 11)*

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## A Message from the President

On Rabbi Frishman



Dear Friends,

For the past 22 years, Rabbi Frishman has devoted herself to us tirelessly and unselfishly.

During her tenure here, she transformed our community to inspire us to be who we are today. Together, we established a congregation filled with mutual respect and appreciation for one another's gifts.

Because of her leadership, we are a community that values ethical behavior and social justice. She has challenged and inspired us to be thoughtful, take action, and live our lives

on a higher plane.

Rabbi Frishman revolutionized Reform Jewish worship not just at Barnert but nationally as one of our movement's great leaders. Her work pioneering and editing our prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*, earned her recognition as one of the most influential American Jews of our time.

Now it's time for her to begin the next chapter of her life as she retires from Barnert. Over the next 2+ months we'll have many opportunities to celebrate with her. We won't be saying "goodbye" per se but rather, "we'll be seeing you," and I know I am not alone when I say I can't wait to see what the future holds for her!

Rebecca McKinnon

# Shabbat Shalom שבת שלום

## Blessing before Giving Tzedakah

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו לרדוף צדק.



*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

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של שבת.

*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

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, בורא פרי הגפן.

*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

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
המוציא לחם מן הארץ.

*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

יברכך יי וישמרך.  
יאר יי פניו אליך ויחנך.  
ישא יי פניו אליך וישם לך שלום.

*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

## Josh Pleeter

**Date of Bar Mitzvah: May 6, 2017**

Hi, my name is Josh Pleeter and I am excited to become a *Bar Mitzvah* on May 6, 2017. I have been learning at Barnert since preschool.

I have decided to have two *mitzvot* projects. At my *Bar Mitzvah* service, I will ask congregants to make a monetary donation to the Adler Aphasia Center in Maywood, New Jersey. The Adler Aphasia Center is a non-profit organization that provides help and therapy to people affected by the speech disorder aphasia, which is commonly a result of a stroke. Secondly, I have been donating my time to the Ridgewood Library and reading to younger kids. This is very rewarding to me and I enjoy making the kids happy.

I would like to thank my parents, my brother Andrew, *Mora* Edith, Rabbi Frishman, Rabbi Steiner, Helen Fleischmann and Sara Losch, for everything you do.

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## Max Birnberg

**Date of Bar Mitzvah: May 20, 2017**

My name is Max Birnberg, and I am in 7th grade. I live with my mom; dad; my two older sisters, Jessica and Sidney; and my best friend and dog, Cooper. I love to play soccer and I practice all the time. My favorite classes are Gym, English, and Social Studies. Every year I go to Florida and stay with my grandparents and I always enjoy that. I am very fortunate to have been to so many places around the world including Spain, Italy, Canada, Israel, and others.

For my *mitzvah* project, I have been cooking meatloaves at the temple every third Tuesday of the month. I started cooking about six months ago with different Barnert Temple members. It is the best feeling in the world knowing that I am helping people that haven't been as fortunate as me. When I started cooking, I did not realize how much of a difference my two hands could make for even just one person. Since one of my good friends does it with me, it makes it even more enjoyable.

Finally, I would like to thank the team at Barnert Temple for giving me the opportunity to become a *Bar Mitzvah* and taking me through a wonderful journey. I would like to give a special thank you to Helen Fleischmann, *Mora* Edith, Sara Losch, and Rabbi Frishman, as well as my family and the entire Barnert Temple staff. It has been wonderful to have gone through my journey with the Barnert Temple crew and a big thanks to the community.

## Jennifer Mason

**Date of Bat Mitzvah: June 3, 2017**

Hello, my name is Jennifer Mason. I'm a seventh grader. I live with my parents, Mindy and Dan; and my little sister, Krystal. I love dancing, playing tennis, biking, skiing, hiking, STEAM class, reading, and traveling with my family. I have been playing the flute since fifth grade and now I am in concert and jazz bands.

This year for my volunteer *mitzvah* mission, I have participated in a team project, with some of my classmates from Barnert, called Meatloaf Machers. We meet every month and make meatloaf and brownies to be brought to the St. Paul's Men's Shelter in Paterson. It feels good knowing that we are helping feed people in need.

For my *mitzvah* collection, I will be collecting donated items for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House houses families that have children undergoing treatment in hospitals. It allows families to be near their children while they are being treated. I think this is a great cause because they help make families more comfortable during a very difficult time in their lives. On the day of my *Bat Mitzvah*, I am asking for my guests to bring personal toiletries and the collected items will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

I am very grateful for all the people who have helped me on my journey to become a *Bat Mitzvah*. Thank you Rabbi Frishman, Rabbi Steiner, Sara Losch, Helen Fleischmann, Marc Chelemer, *Mora* Edith, and all the Religious School teachers and staff.

Thank you to my parents, my sister, my grandparents and my entire family. I love them all so much. They have been so supportive towards me and my ideas and helped me to achieve my goals.

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## Mollie Rose Good

**Date of Bat Mitzvah: June 10, 2017**

I am Mollie Rose Good and I am in the seventh grade. I live with my mom, Julie; dad, Charlie; and 10-year-old brother, Benjamin. In my free time, I love to hang out with friends, play the trombone, and read. You also have seen me around the temple a lot. When I am not doing those things, you could probably find my family and me (including my grandma Nancy) at the beach in Brigantine, New Jersey.

My *mitzvah* projects all revolve around *Torah*, *Avodah*, and *Gemilut Chasadim*. Examples include:

*(Continued on next page)*

# 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 5  
7 pm Service  
8 pm Potluck Supper

Saturday, May 6  
9:30 am *Shabbat* Yoga  
10 am Service, *Bar Mitzvah* of Josh Pleeter

Friday, May 12  
5 pm Tot *Shabbat* and Pizza Dinner  
8 pm Service

Saturday, May 13  
9:30 am *Torah* Study, *Parshat Emor*

Friday, May 19  
8 pm Service led by Women of Barnert

Saturday, May 20  
9:30 am *Rosh Chodesh*  
9:30 am *Shabbat* Yoga  
10 am Service, *Bar Mitzvah* of Max Birnberg

Friday, May 26  
8 pm Service

Friday, June 2  
7 pm Service  
8 pm Interfaith Potluck Supper

Saturday, June 3  
10 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah* of Jennifer Mason

Friday, June 9  
8 pm Service

Saturday, June 10  
10 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah* of Mollie Good

Friday, June 16  
7 pm Farewell *Shabbat*

Friday, June 23  
7 pm Service

Friday, June 30  
7 pm Service



## Bar/Bat Mitzvah Profiles

**Mollie Rose Good** (From previous page)

serving food at the St. Paul's Men Shelter in Paterson as well as making meatloaves for them. This experience has been very eye-opening to me because I used to think that there is only homelessness in New York City. However, this is a problem around the world. The homeless men were very grateful for my service. Some of the other things I did included: helping out younger kids in band, giving a person a foul ball that I caught at Citi Field and not taking the reward, volunteering at the Oakland Public Library, and helping out around Barnert Temple.

For my mission collection, I am asking friends and family to donate school supplies for inner-city children with special needs.

I would like to thank Rabbi Frishman, Rabbi Steiner, Helen Fleischmann, Mora Edith, and my family for their kindness and support in preparing for this special Jewish milestone. I am also so honored to be Rabbi Frishman's last *Bat Mitzvah*. Twelve years and two months ago, she blessed me on the same *bima* at my baby-naming and has given me an amazing and solid foundation to begin my Jewish journey. She will always be my Super Rabbi.



# A Year in the Life of Our Children



*Our youngest celebrate Passover.*



*Preschool children in our garden, making mud.*



*JJPBT Bible Builders.*



*Adventure Club: Preschoolers learn to "notice."*



*Students bake an "Israel cake."*



*JJPBT students at Jewish yoga.*



*Preschool's Bicycle Club.*



*Jordan singing Shabbat songs at Shabbat Tot.*



Join Your Barnert Community  
at the

# Annual Congregational Meeting and Congregational Breakfast

**Sunday, June 4**  
**9:30 am Breakfast**  
**10 am Meeting**

Enjoy a delicious breakfast with your Barnert Community!

Get an update on the State of the Congregation.

Approval of next year's budget.

Vote on the new president and Board of Trustees.

Thank outgoing officers and welcome incoming officers.

Congratulate the President's Award recipients.

And much more!



# A Message from Sara Losch

L'hitraot to Rabbi Elyse Frishman



I am a glass-half-full, looking-forward person. However, there is joy to be found in glancing at the past, which provides us with opportunities to count blessings as we remember and reminisce. That is what I find myself doing now, as we prepare to move forward as a community, and as we say *L'hitraot* to Rabbi Elyse Frishman.

Rabbi Frishman's arrived in my seventh year at Barnert.

The community had moved from Paterson the year before I arrived and was slowly growing. After his tireless and successful efforts (supported by an incredible group of Patersonian lay leaders), and after 38 years as spiritual guide, Rabbi Freedman retired. Having grown up in the Conservative movement, I did not know much about Reform Judaism and Rabbi Freedman was the only Reform rabbi I knew. So when Rabbi Frishman arrived, my education began in earnest.

Music was the first and most exciting change Rabbi Frishman brought us. I loved the new melodies she introduced, many of which we continue to sing today. In so many ways, Rabbi Frishman showed us, through her teaching and by example, how to engage in, and appreciate worship. We learned to take a deep *Shabbat* breath. Participation grew and the sanctuary started filling. Summers brought everyone outside.

Professionally, Rabbi Frishman created a team design for the staff. We have been through many highs and lows together. We've challenged each other and we've been challenged. September 11, 2001 was one such challenge, when with lay leaders who are education and mental health professionals, we opened the temple doors and our arms to

comfort our children, parents and each other. It was not the first, nor the last time that such comfort was needed. I will always appreciate and value Rabbi Frishman's strength and guidance in those difficult moments.

For 22 years, Rabbi Elyse Frishman has been the voice in our heads, urging us to push each other forward, to live on a higher plain. She has taught us through sacred texts and her own wisdom that we are stronger together, that we need each other. Because of that, we will be strong together as we move forward into a new era.

Just as we did when Martin Freedman left the building, we will be a little sad and perhaps even anxious for what comes next. I am certain that, just as we did 22 years ago upon Rabbi Freedman's retirement, as Rabbi Frishman retires, we will change, we will grow, and we will thrive. Our rabbis contributed all they had to help make us strong and adaptable. Elyse, when you walk out the door, we will be sad and a little anxious. But we will be ready too. And that is a tribute to you.

For all you've taught me, I thank you. *B'hatzlacha* in everything you do. Wishing you a wonderful retirement and so many grandma *simchas*.

*L'hitraot.*  
Sara



Jewish Journey Project students write and create their own Ten Commandments.

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## Adult Education



### **Talmud Study.**

**Thursday, May 4 and 18, at 7:30 pm.**

Join our Rabbi Joel Soffin for our modern-day discussion of the *Talmud*.

Learn how to shop, talk, and think

jewishly. Look behind the scenes at the lives of ancient 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!



### **Torah Study.**

**Saturday, May 13, at 9:30 am.**

Enjoy an in-depth and highly engaging exploration of the *Torah* portion of the

week with Rabbi Rachel Steiner. We begin with breakfast at 9:30 am (participants take turns providing the food) and discussion at 10 am. Discover the relevance of *Torah* as we interpret it and bring it to life. No experience necessary and new friends are always welcome!



### **Shabbat Yoga.**

**Saturday, May 6 and 20, at 9:30 am.**

The physical and the spiritual meet in exhilaration. Every level of experience is welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and bring your mat. We are excited to offer

*Shabbat Yoga* twice most months!



Rosh Chodesh

### **Rosh Chodesh.**

**Saturday, June 3, at 9:30 am.**

Join Sara Losch at a monthly gathering of women to share in Jewish conversation welcoming the new month. Open to all women of all

generations; first-timers welcome!



### **Shoah: Continuing Our Exploration.**

**Thursdays, May 11 and 25; June 1 and 8, at 7:30 pm.**

Join Vicky Farhi as we continue to explore the *Shoah*, the attempted destruction of European Jewry. We'll spend four weeks learning about the

very different experience of the Lodz and Warsaw Ghettos, examine why Denmark and Bulgaria protected their Jewish citizens, and learn about the Holocaust in France. We'll follow personal stories of those who navigated this nightmare.

## Rabbi Steiner (From page 4)

In this evolving relationship, I have discovered a friend in the truest sense of the Hebrew, *chaver*. For *chaver*, friend, is also the word for study partner. Friendship, our tradition teaches, must help us to grow. A true *chaver* is more than just a buddy. A *chaver* is someone who strikes the sacred and delicate balance of support and nudging forward toward the growth we must always be seeking.

In Rabbi Frishman's retirement we will pick up where we are and build on her legacy. We will, at once, root ourselves in our Jewish tradition and reach up and out from this foundation to connect more deeply, repair our world, and enjoy the blessings of our lives. And, since she's retiring and not leaving, we will have the continued gift of a Rabbi Emerita whose wisdom will continue to be our blessing.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro offers this poignant reading of our verse from *Pirkei Avot*: Find a teacher to challenge your answers. Acquire a friend to challenge your questions.

Rabbi Frishman has pushed us to ask deeper, Jewish questions. She has offered her wisdom in our pursuit of answers. She is our *rav* and our *chaver*, our rabbi and our friend. We are all blessed.

Rabbi Rachel Steiner

## Soldier Casualty Names March 2017

### **U.S. Soldiers Killed In Iraq:**

Pfc. Brian. P. Odiorne

**Total U.S. casualties in Iraq to date: 4,493**

### **U.S. Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan:**

Sgt. 1st Class Robert R. Boniface

**Total U.S. casualties in Afghanistan to date: 2,399**

### **U.S. soldiers killed in Syria**

Staff Sgt. Austin Bieren



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**Join us for the Celebration of Shavuot!**

## **Shavuot: Draw In the Light!**

**A joyful evening celebrating Torah and  
our Confirmands, and honoring the memories  
of those who've come before us.**

**Tuesday evening, May 30 7:15–9:30pm**

**8 pm Shavuot Service with Confirmation Celebration  
and Yizkor, followed by a festive Oneg**

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

**Rachel Dillon  
Shane Finn  
Erica Gordy  
Juliette Griegel  
Aidan Harmer  
Elizabeth Hexter  
Elyse Kaplan**

**Dylan Kay  
Zoe Kay  
Mia Lowy  
Raphael Rakosi-Schmidt  
Shayna Rives  
Rachel Sacks**

# Reflections on the Rabbinate of Rabbi Elyse Frishman

In August, 1995, Rabbi Elyse Frishman became the rabbi of Barnert Temple, and her impact has been significant and lasting. Rabbi Frishman worked with the leadership of the temple to move Barnert towards the vision of a synagogue community that was home to all.

These last months of Rabbi Frishman's time at Barnert are both busy and bittersweet. An April Gala Celebration of Rabbi Frishman was sold out and was a wonderful tribute by the wide range of people she's impacted. On May 7, Barnert Community Day will celebrate our community that she nourished over the last 22 years. There are many more ways the Barnert community will be showing their appreciation (shh!), leading up to the *Shabbat* service on June 16.

Several congregants and Jewish leaders were invited to share their perspective on the impact of Rabbi Frishman's rabbinate on them.

## To Rabbi Frishman

By Jay Dougherty

Karen and I started coming to Barnert on holidays with her parents shortly before we were married in late 1987. Having been raised Catholic, and having stopped going to church when I was in my late teens, I had agreed to get married in a Jewish ceremony and raise the kids as Jews, but had no real interest in pursuing another religion for my own benefit.

We didn't really start to become involved at Barnert until our daughters enrolled in the preschool, starting with Jillian in 1993 and Chloe in 1995. Shortly after that, Karen started teaching at the school, and we gradually spent more time at the temple. Given my background, I was fascinated by the new female rabbi.

I found Rabbi Frishman to be relentlessly engaging and intellectually challenging. She was always genuinely interested to understand how I (or anyone else) thought about issues, and ready to rethink her own assumptions. While she always supported us as an interfaith family raising Jewish kids, she gently asked some tough questions which caused me to revisit some of my attitudes and practices, especially as a parent of Jewish kids. For me, this really stimulated my interest in Jewish thought and I started to explore educational opportunities at Barnert with Rabbi Frishman and later with Rabbi Soffin. Over time, I went from feeling like a bit of an outsider, to an interested observer, to more and more of a welcomed member of the community at Barnert. This is testimony to all of the great folks at Barnert, but I think Rabbi Frishman deserves a lot of credit for emphasizing the importance of embracing newcomers and people who might feel like they don't quite fit in.

When we went on an inspiring temple trip to Israel with Rabbi Frishman in 2008, it became clear to me that I was long overdue to think about finally converting. When I broached that topic with the Rabbi, she was supportive but left it to me to follow through with the final decision. She pointed out that I wasn't the typical conversion candidate, having spent 20 years living a Jewish family life, but she piled on the questions and reading material to ensure that I had really thought it through. She was always there to try to answer my questions, or at least help me to work through them.

After my big day, I was surprised when she sheepishly approached me with a question of her own, for which she wanted to be able to give other converts an honest answer. How bad, she asked (with what might have been a small wince), was the ritual circumcision?

I told the truth: you wouldn't do it twice. That said, I wouldn't change a thing. Thanks for everything, Elyse. We wish you the very best in whatever you do next, and have no doubt that you will continue to make a big difference in people's lives.

Best,  
Jay

## Israel Trip

By Marian Filan

I grew up attending years of religious school. We learned Hebrew, our people's stories, the importance of service to others, and a bit about Israel. Yet when we studied the State of Israel, it was as if we were in a history class, very factual, with little emotional attachment. Being Jewish was a defining fact in my home life, but was not directly connected to Zionism.

As a teen, my mother's family traveled by ship to Israel. It all sounded very exotic, including the Italian officer who she hung around with (the priorities of many 16-year-olds clearly have not changed much), as we learned reading her old diary—one of two things remaining from that trip. The second souvenir is a small enameled *menorah* brought home from the trip, which is a treasure we use every *Chanukah*, despite its scratches.

With our young family, Tom and I moved to Wyckoff and joined Barnert. I began learning from Rabbi Frishman, regularly attending God Talk sessions. Then, when an adult *Bat Mitzvah* class was forming I signed on, joining friends already excited about the undertaking. I did not realize how meaningful the next years of study would be, and proudly became *Bat Mitzvah* with 13 of my Barnert friends. In order to celebrate the occasion, I decided a trip to Israel would be perfect, and my dear friend and classmate Elisse Share agreed. Since neither husband was able to

(Continued on next page)

## Reflections (From previous page)

make the trip, we decided that we would just go together. Rabbi Frishman was leading a Barnert group and that sounded like the way I wanted to meet Israel, with the rabbi who had educated and inspired me.

Rabbi Frishman prepared us to understand that this trip was going to be so much more than a vacation. Although it would be wonderful, we would learn and see things that could even be a bit disturbing, but should be seen. She also said that perhaps somewhere in Israel we would find our “square foot” of Israel. Little did I know that within hours of arriving in Israel, I would find mine.

We arrived on a Friday and attended services that night at Beit Daniel, a Reform congregation in Tel Aviv. Ok, that was familiar; I knew some tunes and the prayers sounded right. How nice to see the hustle and bustle of the city slow down as our *Shabbat* approached. Anyone who knows me knows I spend a lot of the summer down the Jersey shore. I love the beach; it is my place to let it go, to dream and relax. So not surprisingly, when I stepped onto the Tel Aviv beach for our Saturday-morning service, I loved that one, too. We must have made an interesting sight, sitting in a circle with our Barnert baby *Torah*, as most others were busy running, swimming and playing ball. A few beachgoers approached and were welcomed to join us. Some actually did. It was a very different experience — one that I had heard about, this idea of being in a place where like almost everyone else I was Jewish; no, we are Jewish. As I splashed around in the ocean afterwards I knew this was where I had found my “square foot” of Israel.

The feeling of familiarity continued as we traveled the country. Many places and historic sites that I had learned about in *Torah* and our stories were real and still there. Other places resonated with me for more modern reasons. I run the Women of Barnert Gift shop, Shoshanah’s Place, and through the years had ordered many products from Safed Candles. We arrived at the mystical city of Safed in the Galilee during a rainstorm and had only a short time to visit, but my most important stop was at the Safed Candle store. Elisse and I ran through the rain, and though dripping were rewarded with beautiful multicolored wax sculptures on display throughout the store, amongst the so familiar beige triangular boxes of *Chanukah* and *Shabbat* candles. The group attended *Shabbat* services the following week at *Kehillat Yozma* in Modi’in with Rabbi Frishman’s friend Rabbi Shiryon, a familiar face after her many Barnert visits. Again, as the ark was opened and I saw the old Barnert maroon velvet and gold *Torah* covers that we loaned to the newer congregation, the familiarity made a big impact upon me. We wrapped the trip up Saturday morning at the *Bat Mitzvah* of Sophie Kulick, which was just the perfect ending to our Israel trip. We all enjoyed celebrating the occasion with her in a familiar way, yet in an unfamiliar setting.

All in all, I was right, meeting Israel with my rabbi was the best way to go, and has left me hoping to return to this place of surprising familiarity.

### REF Tribute

By Janet Montroy

Over the years I have been continually struck by how Rabbi Frishman reimagines the details of our services in order to bring new meaning to them. I’m thinking now of things like unrolling the *Torah* around the sanctuary on *Simchat Torah*, literally bringing it to everyone to hold and own. Or the simultaneous *Torah* chanting stations on the High Holidays. Instead of the *Torah* reading happening to distant figures a tenth of a mile away or (worse still) appearing on a television screen, the *Torah* is in the midst of the people, immediate and direct.

But I think the place where Rabbi Frishman has had the most profound impact is perhaps so much a part of who we are as a community that we forget how truly innovative it is — *Shabbat*. From the beginning she has broken down the barriers between clergy and congregation, focusing on shared experience and community. Think about something as simple yet profound as acknowledging loss and grief with a glance during *Kaddish*. Or holding the *Torah* open for all to see during a reading. Or leading the service not from above on the *bima* but among the congregants. Think about language that engages, not alienates; about welcome and invitation to non-Jews; about prayer that speaks directly from the heart.

So let me tell you about my favorite service at Barnert. It’s a cold Friday in February, the end of a long week, and the idea of changing into a suit and going out doesn’t sound nearly as appealing as Netflix and pajamas on the couch. But of course I don’t have that option, so I go. And what do I find when I arrive? I find warmth and light, good friends, words to challenge me and make me think, music to lift my spirit, and space and breath to refresh me. That’s *Shabbat* at Barnert Temple, and I’m so very grateful to Rabbi Frishman for making it that way.

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### Blessing Elyse

By Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon

Elyse and I met in Rabbinical School. Our enduring friendship follows parallel paths across continents and over many years. When we were students we both had a love of liturgy and together we wrote a unique program for counting the *Omer* which demonstrated our creative approach to the rabbinate and our respect for liturgical language. While Elyse was building the Barnert Temple community in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, I was building the YOZMA community in Modi’in, Israel. The slogan, *Opening doors. Individuals. Community. The World*, is an approach that we have shared over the years. Elyse’s love of liturgy brought her to the editorial position responsible  
(Continued on next page)



## Reflections (From previous page)

for the innovative *Mishkan T'filah Siddur*. My love of liturgy was reflected in the prayers adopted by the Israel Reform Movement. Elyse is closing a chapter in her life as senior rabbi of Barnert Temple. I am closing a chapter in my life as senior rabbi of YOZMA. As our lives continue to move in parallel paths, I pray we find continued fulfillment and growth in the new direction of our lives.

על כן נודה לעין החיים ונהלל בפיה.

Let us thank the Source of Life and Sing her praises.

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### Mishkan T'filah Remembrance

By Alice Heffner, former Ritual Chairperson

The introduction and adoption of a new prayer book is a rare and special event. With Rabbi Frishman as the Editor-in-Chief of *Mishkan T'filah*, Barnert had the privilege of seeing the process from the inside and serving as partners in its development. She regularly reported on the book's progress, noting the complexities of creating consensus on its contents and format. Most exciting was the opportunity to "beta-test" a draft of the prayer book. Rabbi Frishman invited congregants to participate in a small working group to provide feedback when the prayer book was piloted at Barnert. Equipped with a list of guiding questions, we prayed, reflected, analyzed, and noted our feelings about the book.

Each time our congregation is drawn into worship with *Mishkan T'filah* and elevated by its beautiful and accessible language, I feel honored to have had the opportunity to make a small contribution to our beloved prayer book.

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### Endings and Beginnings

By Rise Kaufmann

All endings and all beginnings are difficult — even those that lead to a better future. Rabbi Elyse Frishman and our whole congregation are about to learn the wisdom of this maxim.

Saying goodbye to our beloved rabbi will be hard for all of us. She has illuminated many years as the leader of our sacred community. She has been the beating heart of Barnert, pumping the spiritual life blood to us all, with her integrity, her strength, her availability to us all in times of joy and in times of grief.

If there is one word that can encompass the spirit of her rabbinate, I think that word should be "accessibility." Through her teaching, she has made the beautiful wisdom of *Torah* and *Kabbalah* accessible to our everyday lives; she has taught us how to live a Jewishly ethical and satisfying life. And through her example and personal accessibility, she has shown us how always to be a "mensch." Even in

her willingness to be silly in her roles in *Purim shpiels*, she has shown us that dignity and scholarship can sometimes wear a silly wig and a goofy smile.

Rabbi Frishman's was the first face I saw and the first hand I shook when she left the *bima* to greet me as I timidly entered the sanctuary for the first time.

We all wish her well in the next Movement of the symphony of her life. The symphony, at this juncture, has a prominent cello solo — we are sad to see her leave. And we all look forward to the lovely music to follow.

But we all will treasure her legacy of integrity and warmth. We all know that her value is above rubies.

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### Living Jewishly, Wanting More

By Sue Klein

In 2016 I got married. Again. This time in Israel, with my rabbi, on my 25th anniversary. It was magical.

Rolf and I first exchanged vows in 1991, standing under a *chuppah* with a justice of the peace. Our secular ceremony was short and meaningful, punctuated by poetic readings that expressed our love and commitment to building a life together as an interfaith couple.



We have come a long way since then. Our family's commitment to "living Jewishly" has grown steadily, guided by Rabbi Elyse Frishman and the Barnert community. Rabbi Frishman's teachings resonate with us. She leads by example, sharing her struggles and passions, pushing us to do and be more.

My sons, Jacob and Danny, studied diligently for their *Bar Mitzvahs*, and went on to question and debate and express their views at their confirmations. They so enjoyed their time with Rabbi Frishman talking about *Talmud*, current events, ethics and the challenges of being a teenager that they continued to study with her through high school.

For them, this intellectual and spiritual growth was  
*(Continued on next page)*

## Reflections (From previous page)

the “reward” for years of learning Hebrew, practicing *Torah* portions and writing essays with her and other Temple educators.

I wanted more, too. So I learned Hebrew and studied for my adult *Bat Mitzvah*. Rabbi Frishman made it okay for us to admit what we didn’t know, and checked in with us regularly to make sure she was presenting relevant information, encouraging reflection and discussion, and addressing our questions. She prompted us to dig deeper to explore and communicate where our Jewish journey was taking us.

And then there was adult confirmation, another two-year commitment to spiritual growth and soul-searching, which culminated in a spectacular ceremony orchestrated by Rabbi Frishman the artist, featuring a *chuppah* that we carried around the social hall to embrace and support each other as we shared heartfelt essays with family, friends, and temple leaders.

When Rabbi Frishman announced she would officiate interfaith weddings, I was inspired yet again by her willingness to help redefine what living Jewishly means for each of us. Would she consider “remarrying” interfaith couples who were not married by a rabbi, too?

Our 25th-anniversary trip to Israel was the perfect time and place. Rabbi Frishman met with us to discuss what we’d need for our renewal of vows in the holy land. Together, Rolf and I shopped for a beautiful *kiddush* cup. We had new rings made — solid gold bands, whole and unbroken to represent our everlasting union. We found a thin glass that would break easily when stomped on. And I worked with a friend to create a *ketubah* for everyone traveling with us to sign as witnesses. All of it was new to us.

We entrusted Rabbi Frishman to choose the site for our ceremony. When we arrived at the Pastoral Kfar Blum Hotel on a kibbutz in Upper Galilee, we didn’t like the sterile meeting room they had reserved for us. “Do you trust me?” she asked, as she promised to find a better setting and encouraged us to relax and get ready.

With great anticipation, we gathered with our Barnert friends in the hotel lounge. Rabbi Frishman had briefed everyone on their roles. We formed a procession through the lobby, covered by a traveling *chuppah* made from one of the rabbi’s special *tallitot*. Two people walked backwards in front of us holding phones displaying our sons Skyping from college. People stopped and stared as we made our way outside to a beautifully lit courtyard where a table set with a vase of lilies and everything we had brought with us was waiting. Magical. Meaningful. Memorable.

Experiencing Israel with Rabbi Frishman is intense. It is a pilgrimage in every sense of the word. We fell in love with the landscape, the history, the customs, the food and the people. We explored religious and cultural sites. We had *Shabbat* services on the beach in Tel Aviv with our baby *Torah*, running into the same ocean our ancestors looked out upon centuries ago. We met with people from

the left, right and center, who challenged us to consider conflicting perspectives. We left exhausted, exhilarated and wanting more.

In 2017, Rabbi Frishman planned one more Barnert trip to encourage multi-timers to return to Israel, travel off the beaten path and dig even deeper. We brought Jacob with us this time as a college graduation gift.

On the last morning, we gathered for *Shabbat* services at the offices of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in a room overlooking the old city in Jerusalem. I had left my *tallit* at the hotel. Rabbi Frishman said, “Use mine.”

I felt so close to her at that moment, reciting the prayer together before wrapping myself in her *tallit*. After services, I tried to express how much I was going to miss her. Rolf, Jacob, and I thanked her for her spiritual guidance and lasting influence in our lives. Humbly, she told us, “It’s about Judaism.” And we replied, “It’s much more than that. It’s about how you have drawn us in and guided us to find the Jewish path that resonates for us.”

I know I will continue to hear Rabbi Frishman’s voice in my head as I navigate the twists and turns of my Jewish journey. Wrapped in the memory of the warmth of her *tallit*, I will push myself to do more, dig deeper, learn and grow as a Jewish person, parent and temple leader.

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### Retrospective Honoring Rabbi Frishman

By Joan Lipkowitz

Having been a member of the Barnert Temple since 1985, I am delighted to share my perspective on how Rabbi Frishman’s stellar leadership has grown our welcoming, suburban community of Reform Jews.

From the start of her tenure at Barnert Temple, Rabbi Frishman negotiated a challenging pastoral transition with extreme aplomb and sensitivity. As the first female rabbi in Barnert’s long history, she brought a new brand of rabbinate, one that was highly responsive to the evolving practices of Reform Judaism, and sensitive to the culture and needs of our temple community. Rabbi Frishman has been a tireless observer of what could be improved in worship and governance. From the outset, she has sought to engage more congregants in worship and educational offerings as well as in the operational management of the temple. She has not shied away from experimentation. Her support of initiatives such as Potluck Suppers, *Shabbat* Inside Out, Mitzvah-Plex, and the Jewish Journey Project, all bear testimony to her commitment to increase and enhance congregants’ Jewish engagement.

Rabbi Frishman has facilitated temple growth through her support of outreach to interfaith families. She has built upon the social activism of her predecessor Rabbi Martin Friedman through helping us to see the world

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## Reflections (From previous page)

through a more uniquely Jewish lens. She has championed "Living Jewishly" through her modeling and encouragement in the support of Reform Judaism in Israel, outreach to the "stranger," and efforts to bring about greater peace and civility in our world.

Perhaps Rabbi Frishman's most enduring accomplishment has been as an educator of congregants of all ages. She has invited our young people to the *bima* during worship, had them lead portions of the service, and showcased their learning on the High Holidays through opportunities to chant *Torah*. She has conducted adult *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and Confirmation classes and celebrated these adult achievements with the congregation. Rabbi Frishman has opened learning opportunities to all while honoring differing opinions respectfully on many issues. She herself models lifelong learning and has inspired others to pursue it.

As a feminist, Rabbi Frishman has been an inspiring role model to adolescent females, several of whom are or will soon be ordained as rabbis. Her guidance in their growth has motivated their career choice.

Not only have individuals been nurtured under her guidance, but the operational organization of the congregation has been greatly empowered. The role of lay governance has been expanded and honored with support extended to new leaders. The degree of transparency about temple "business" has been sharpened, and congregants feel invited to participate in governance.

While Elyse Frishman leaves us on June 16 after 22 years of outstanding service, her legacy will endure, as she has set the bar extremely high for Barnert's next seated senior rabbi. I am so appreciative of what she and Rabbi Danny Freeland have contributed to our congregational journey and wish them well as they devote their efforts to new ventures. We will not forget you!

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### Thank You, Rabbi Frishman

By Rabbi Jillian Cameron

I'm asked on a fairly regular basis why I became a rabbi. Over the years, I've compiled a few variations of the same general answer. There's the short and sweet version for the polite yet somewhat disinterested, all the way to the highly detailed, moment-by-moment accounting that I dust off every so often. No matter the variation, my answer always begins with: When I was 13, a new rabbi came to our synagogue and changed my life.

There are people in all of our lives who shape us, who help us add to the stones that become the path we walk and shine a light toward a future we might not have imagined without them. Rabbi Frishman was that person for me. I am a rabbi because she modeled in countless

ways how extraordinary devoting myself to grappling with life's big questions could be.

I had never been as nervous as I was when I told Rabbi Frishman at 17 that I wanted to be a rabbi like her. Rabbi Frishman expects a lot. She pushes me, asks me difficult questions, sometimes makes me nervous and flustered, and definitely doesn't let me get away with easy answers. I learn from her every time we talk, both from what she says and how she says it. She is my fierce advocate and always finds time to give me invaluable advice from the earliest days of the rabbinical school application process to how I continue to shape and define my rabbinate now. Rabbi Frishman's brilliance and thoughtfulness, humor and passion, courage and integrity will always be the standard to which I hold myself. I am thankful for her love, warmth, and continued mentorship. I am grateful to her for the always-challenging, exceptionally meaningful work I do and life I am privileged to lead as a rabbi.

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### Helping My Family Blossom

By Heidi Robak

We are an interfaith couple raising our daughters in a town with very little Jewish presence. The search for a temple which could teach my girls about their religion and to share their faith with others was very important. My search brought us to Barnert Temple. I can't praise Vicky, Sara, Lori, Helen, Rabbi Steiner and Rabbi Frishman enough for everything they do on a daily basis to create such a welcoming environment. Their support, compassion, and positive influence has been amazing.

Our first and most memorable experience and what made our decision to join the Barnert family was the introduction to Rabbi Frishman. What an amazing, intelligent woman.

We met with Rabbi Frishman. She was so warm and knowing. Her intuitive understanding of our situation was so comforting. Our family felt welcomed.

Rabbi Frishman took our hesitant daughter under her wing and encouraged Alexandra to be confirmed, an experience that would not have happened otherwise. My little girl, who had no formal Jewish education, attended her classes, and because of the wonderful teachings has blossomed into a young lady who is confident in her religious beliefs. I will never forget the way the rabbi embraced my daughter at her confirmation, the words she spoke and the very special gift she will forever cherish.

The Barnert Temple community has given our family exactly what we were missing: a warm, welcoming, learning environment to express shared religious beliefs.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Reflections (From previous page)

### My Rabbi Too

By Anat Hoffman

Israel Religious Action Center

Elyse is my rabbi too. *Talmud* says "Even if another (person) teaches you only one *Mishna* – you call her/him 'Rabbi'"  
(בבא מציעא ל"ג) אפילו לא העיר עיניו אלא במשנה אחת, זהו רבו (בבא מציעא ל"ג)

She taught me a lot more than one *Mishna*. She modeled to me how to be a *mensch* in the face of my own frailties and flaws in our world. She embodies the *Talmudic* assertion: "In a place where there are no people you try to be a person" (במקום שאין אנשים השתדל להיות איש) (פרקי אבות ב' ה')

As leaders of a community, we are often faced with a

dilemma: which direction to take. The one our people wish to go or the one which is right? Elyse always pointed out that when the shepherd is lost, the herd is lost.  
(בזמן שהרועה תועה – הצאן תועין אחריו) (פרקי דרבי אליעזר א' מ')

How blessed we are that this shepherd has an uncanny seismograph in her. She leads each of us in the path we are ready to go.

בדרך שאדם רוצה לילך – בה מוליכין אותו (מכות י"א)

Often taking the road less traveled, the hard path.  
ברוך שחלק מחוכמתו ליראינו (ברכות נ"ח)

Blessed is God who shared his wisdom with you, Elyse.  
Thank you for bestowing it on us.

## Barnert Community Shares Purim with the El-Zahra Islamic Center

On Sunday, March 12, a special part of our *Purim* celebration was the creation of personally decorated *mishloach manot*, packed by our own Barnert community, for the El-Zahra Islamic Center of Midland Park.

Led by Rabbi Steiner, Rebecca McKinnon and Jessica Gordon-Layton, president of BarTY, the Barnert group traveled to the Islamic Center, where they shared the story of *Purim* with the children, explained the custom of giving *mishloach manot*, and handed out the gift bags of yummy treats. Barnert and El-Zahra children and adults had a wonderful afternoon learning and schmoozing.



# Men's Club

## Reflections on Rabbi Frishman

As a two-time past Barnert Temple Men's Club president (the guys really had to dig deep to come up with a warm body the second time) and a past Executive Board member, I have had the privilege of Rabbi Frishman's teaching, pastoral counsel, lifecycle officiating, and friendship for more than 28 years.

Maggie and I joined B'nai Jeshurun, the Barnert Temple, when our daughter Kimberly was two years old. My first participation in temple life was in the Mommy and Me program...which was obviously a misnamed program. Rabbi Martin Freedman<sup>z"l</sup> (of blessed memory) was our rabbi, and Sara Losch's preschool had just opened. We were the sixth family members of the preschool. Highlights included the Friday night *challah* made by the kids, and the friendships that began back then, which remain today.

Rabbi Frishman came on board, and the fact that my Worcester, Massachusetts, youth group and junior choir co-member Danny Freeland was part of the package deal made Barnert Temple life much sweeter. For anyone who listens, I am proud to say that Danny's mother, Aviva Freeland, was my Hebrew School teacher and from whom I have wonderful memories.

The fact that our daughter Margot and Devra Freeland were in Religious School together and that the Frishman/Freeland and Mulhern/Becker families were growing during similar timelines, made Reform Jewish life sync in a special way.

The story that we have heard from others and that personifies the prideful message that impacted our children, occurred when we attended a family *Bar Mitzvah* out of town when Margot leaned over to whisper at the beginning of the service, "Daddy, can men be rabbis too?"

Yes, men can be rabbis too. However, it might be a good idea to sharpen their rabbinic skills and behavior on our model.

What *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* (child or adult) or parent of a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* does not cherish the full-page, handwritten, emotionally filled and personalized message in the front

of the *Torah* Commentary gift? Which adult has not had his/her heart filled with emotional warmth when it's "time for a private moment" on the *bima* when called for an honor? Who has not been blown away when a friend or family member whom she has maybe met once is remembered by name and considerably asked about something you barely remember?

Rabbi Frishman always speaks with love and respect for all auxiliaries of the Barnert Temple. Among the many ways she nurtures and elevates the Men's Club, a few that come to mind include: Teaching and guiding us for the Men's Club *Shabbat*, supporting our programs and fundraisers and including us in all Barnert activities as important and valued partners.

The Men's Club monthly breakfasts continue to be a key part of our community tradition. Rabbi Frishman frequently makes an effort to stop by and say hello and understands the important space and time for only men to gather for learning, service and camaraderie.

Of course we will miss her. More importantly we will remember her. For many of us who have special clergy from our past and present with whom we closely identify, when asked the question, "Who is your rabbi?" the reply will certainly be, "The rabbi who impacted me and my family the most is Rabbi Elyse Frishman of the Barnert Temple in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey."

Stephen G. Becker

Mazal tov to Barnert Temple Board member Rich Edelman, who was named Volunteer of the Year at the Paterson Habitat for Humanity annual dinner in April. We are so proud of Rich and grateful for all the work he does to support this amazing organization! *Yasher koach!*



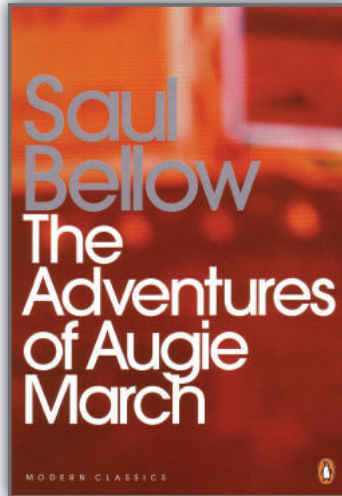


## Book Club

### Summer Reading Schedule

Book Club has planned our summer reading and here is our schedule. We will read a beloved classic for May 22 and then the work of a young author for our July meeting.

First we will go back to the 1953 novel by Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March*. This, Bellow's third novel, won him a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1976 and a place on the 100 all-time novels list. Augie was the Everyman of the 20th Century. He was handsome and intelligent but needed to be loved but then ran away from being taken captive by his lover. Everyman is in control of his own fate. Bellow exposes the alienating forces of the new American cities, while revealing the powerful opposing forces that confronted so much of society, such



as alienation and belonging, poverty versus wealth, and love and loss. It will be interesting to revisit this novel as an adult. Rosa Oppenheim will be hosting us in her Ridgewood home on Monday, May 22, from 8 to 10 pm. RSVP to Rosa at [Oppenheim@business.rutgers.edu](mailto:Oppenheim@business.rutgers.edu) or (201) 652-2343.

Our July book is *Waking Lions*, by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen. The venue is to be determined.

Email Benita Herman at [bherman@dt.com](mailto:bherman@dt.com), for car-pooling or more information.

Temple members are always welcome. Be prepared for good conversation, new insights and wonderful treats. So get your library card out, or fire up your Kindle, and start reading.

Benita Herman

### We Welcome These New Friends!

Lisa, Steven, David and Lucas Gordon, residing in Wanaque  
Rachel, David, Max and Lily Lohman, residing in Franklin Lakes  
Susan Rossman and Eric Magenheimer, residing in Glen Rock

## Mitzvah-Plex 2017 Donations/Thank Yous

By Steve Kiel,  
Mitzvah-Plex Finance Chair

On January 22, Barnert Temple's annual Mitzvah Mall became a Mitzvah-Plex, with information, activities and fundraising to benefit five local charities, and hands-on service projects to benefit three more. The Barnert family rolled up their sleeves to do the important work of learning, volunteering, and donating close to \$22,000 to help five grassroots organizations accomplish their missions.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked with the charities, planned the day and staffed the event. Thanks to the office and custodial staff for their continued support. Without the leadership of Sue Klein, Elizabeth Resnick, Ron Lynn, Donna Meyer, Vicky Farhi, and the Social Action Committee, this wonderful event would not have happened.

### With Tikkun Olam in their hearts...

Special thanks to the following people, and everyone else who donated coins, dollars, and other undocumented funds to support Mitzvah-Plex charities:

Mitch Hausman  
Alice Heffner and Alan Lieber  
Dr. Larry Resnick and Elizabeth Resnick

## Help Us Help!

Do you know a Barnert Temple member who is ill? In need of sustenance? Help us help them! Contact Lori in the Temple office at (201) 848-1800 or [loris1847@barnerttemple.org](mailto:loris1847@barnerttemple.org).





# February-March 2017 Donations

## Associate Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barbara and Steven Kiel	<b>In Memory of</b> Richard Kiel
Beth and Joe Valenti	Sandra Schwartz

## Barnert Temple Endowment Fund

Janet and Ted Lobsenz	<b>In Memory of</b> Doris Lobsenz
Eileen and Wally Manheimer	Antoinette Manheimer

Leonore and Amy Albert	<b>In Honor of</b> Rabbi Frishman's superb guidance. It will be hard to fill her shoes.
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## David Nalven Memorial Youth Education Fund

Board of Trustees of <i>B'nai Israel</i>	<b>In Honor of</b> Ilene and Steven Kandler's new grandson
Rami and Arthur Nalven	Emily Nalven Krasnow being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for research in ALS

## Gutenstein Youth Community Service Fund

Lois and Martin Hochberg	<b>In Memory of</b> Helen Robins
Arlene and Howard Lemelson	Roslyn Yuran

## Helen Lee Mitzvah Fund

Jeffrey Lee	<b>In Memory of</b> Bertha Cohn Lefkowitz Bernard Goldstein
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## Jed Haubenstock BarTY Fund

Sandy, David, Zach, Mel and Nick Cohen	<b>In Memory of</b> Lorraine and Philip Cohen
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Joanne Okuhun	<b>In Honor of</b> Barbara Haubenstock's granddaughter, Joely's, <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Sara and Joe Dunn's granddaughter, Ari's, <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
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## Kathie F. Williams' TAG Scholarship Challenge

Gail White	<b>In Memory of</b> Harvey Rosenkrantz Lawrence Goldman
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## Lifelong Learning Fund

Joan Cowlan	<b>In Memory of</b> Bertram Cowlan
Brynne and Roy Weber	Harry Weber

## Mount Nebo Cemetery Beautification Fund

Ann and Paul Shansky	<b>In Memory of</b> George Cieser
Neil Share, MD and Jennifer	Sarah Allinson Elisse Share

## Oneg Shabbat Fund

Susan and Jeffrey Wild	<b>In Memory of</b> Stanley Wild
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Talie and Jeffrey Birnberg Jill and Howard Goldman Good family Susan and Richard Kuller	<b>In Honor of</b> Max's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Natalie's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Mollie's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Valerie's marriage to Michael Tarangelo Jennifer's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Rachel's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Mindy and Dan Mason Rives family	

## Prayer Book Fund

Lenni and Robert Puritz	<b>In Memory of</b> Sophie Puritz
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## Pulpit Flower Fund

Patti, Steve and Harrison Bieth Elman family Marian and Tom Filan Bobbie Jodre and Ken Gardner	<b>In Memory of</b> Joyce Harrison Anita Elman Barbara K. Ringler
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Greenberg/Zlotowitz family Anne and Andrew Kanter Nalven-Krasnow family Rita and Marty Kron Amy and Rob Miller	Ben Gardner Len Samuels Sheldon Greenberg Henry Kress Frieda Nalven Yetta Folkman
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Sherie and Arnie Reiter Ann and Paul Shansky Vera Terletska and Lou Terletskii Debbie and Peter Till	Audrey Miller Poritzky Hilda and Martin Reiter George Cieser
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	Vetaly Terletsky Trude Ortenau
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Talie and Jeffrey Birnberg Jill and Howard Goldman Good family Rita and Marty Kron Susan and Richard Kuller Mindy and Dan Mason Sherie and Arnie Reiter Rives family	<b>In Honor of</b> Max's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> Natalie's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Mollie's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> Our new grandson, Jackson Asher Wohl Valerie's marriage to Michael Tarangelo Jennifer's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> 50th anniversary of their first date Rachel's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> (Continued on next page)
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## Donations (From previous page)

### Rabbi Martin Freedman URJ Camp Scholarship Fund

Barbara and Steven Kiel **In Memory of**  
Sara Kiel

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Harvey Feldman

Barbara and Henry Abrash  
Debbie and Mike Becker

Carole and Pete Brodie  
Carole and Sam Cassell  
Hilda and Joseph Conn  
Joan Cowlan  
Jill Edelson  
Sylvia and Dick Ellin  
Natasha and David Fitterman

Elaine and Daniel Gold  
Marcia Kestenbaum  
Joan Leonard and family  
Lori and Ken Levy  
Lori and Michael Nash  
Dr. Susan Polirstok  
Carol Weissman

Lauren and Jay Springer

### Social Action Fund

Fran and Bob Kaufmann

Alan Kessler  
Arlene and Howard Lemelson

### Women of Barnert

Leonore and Amy Albert

### Yahrzeit Fund

Susan Adleman  
Martha Baum  
Beverly and Michael Blum  
Eleanor T. Doblin  
Sylvia and Dick Ellin  
Elman family  
Gayle and Mel Gerstein  
Carolyn Kessler  
Ronnie and Larry Levine  
Michele and Rick Marker  
Rebecca Rund and  
Roger Placer  
Ruth and Howard Schack  
Ellyse and Art Zucker

### In Memory of

Sarah Abrash  
Irene Weber  
Rose Hladik  
Edwin Levine  
Beatrice Cassell  
Ann Linn Robak  
Steven R. Kates  
Margaret Edelson  
Sondra Friedson  
Regina Fitterman  
Denise Millman  
Irving Ortof  
Esther and Samuel Yanco  
Robert Leonard  
Albert Levy  
Robert Nash  
Lila Rovet  
Elsie Weissman

### In Honor of

Bergen County Caron  
Parent Support Group

### In Memory of

Marjorie Weil  
Tessie Kaufmann  
Patricia Davis  
Charles Adler

### In Honor of

Thank you for *Purim*  
good wishes

### In Memory of

William Adleman  
Leslie Kaplan  
Herbert Braun  
Arnold S. Doblin  
Lynne Carol  
Eleanor Weissbein  
Frank Gerstein  
Rose Mosberg  
Harriet Mintz  
Bob Strigo  
  
Stephen George Rund  
Louis Rosenbaum  
Neal Zucker

**It's a Gift! It's Spending Money!**

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**Support Women of Barnert!**

**Always the right size, always  
the right color! Gift cards are  
always the perfect gift!**

**Support Women of Barnert by  
purchasing gift cards in the following  
denominations:**

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Barnes & Noble .....	\$25
Bed Bath & Beyond .....	\$25
Bloomingdale's .....	\$25
Bonefish/Outback/Carrabba's .....	\$25
BP Gas Cards .....	\$50
Chili's/Macaroni Grill/ On The Border/Maggiano's .....	\$25
Crate & Barrel .....	\$25
CVS .....	\$25
Dick's Sporting Goods .....	\$25
Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins .....	\$10
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Panera Bread .....	\$10
Shell Gas Cards .....	\$25
ShopRite .....	\$25 & \$100
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Starbucks .....	\$25
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Subway .....	\$10
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Toys R Us/Babies R Us .....	\$25
Walmart .....	\$25 & \$100
Wendy's .....	\$10
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Checks made out to Barnert Temple Sisterhood or we  
accept cash. To order, contact Amy Lynn at (201) 891-3993 or  
[amymlynn@optonline.net](mailto:amymlynn@optonline.net).

# Energy Works Yoga

*with Marla*



**On Every Monday night from 5:45 pm – 7 pm, please join me for a gentle yoga flow class that is OPEN to the entire Barnert community and beyond. Yoga at Barnert offers a comfortable, noncompetitive, safe environment. New students are welcome. Bring a friend. Reserve your space today! Go to [energyworksyoga.com](http://energyworksyoga.com) for a complete schedule.**

## **Your First BARNERT Class is Free.**

I am a Barnert Temple member along with my husband and four children. I began my yoga practice 23 years ago when I was looking for a way to relax. In the past 11 years, I have found that with steady practice, yoga brings more spiritual connection and balance into my life.



200/500 hour Registered Yoga Teacher, (RYT) — Naturally Yoga, Glen Rock, NJ



Kundalini Research Institute (KRI) teacher — Kripalu, Stockbridge, MA with a KRI level 2 in “Conscious Communications” and Therapeutics from Golden Bridge Yoga, NYC.



Reiki practitioner and Sat Nam Rasayan ® healer — Mount Shasta, CA I combine these ancient arts of healing along with hands-on adjustments, breath work, mantra and meditation in my private sessions, workshops and energy flow yoga classes for adults, teens and children.

Dear Friends, My personal mission is to be a compassionate listener with heartfelt presence. Since it is our birthright to live in peace, I sense that all of the magnificence found in nature lives inside of our hearts and souls too. I hope to see you on the mat soon! xoxo Marla

Questions?? Contact me at (201) 790-5551 or [mgourmet@verizon.net](mailto:mgourmet@verizon.net).



# Pave the way

Individuals  
Family  
Community

CONGRATS  
CONFIRMATION  
CLASS OF 2020

MAZAL TOV  
SUE & PETER  
HAPPY 50TH

WE ♥ YOU  
GRANDMA SADIE

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Line 2														
Line 3														
Line 4														

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Make checks payable to Barnert Temple. For questions, call (201) 848-1800.

Due to the nature of the paver project, we cannot guarantee the date of installation.

**Individuals**

**Family**

**Community**

**Keep our Tree of Life growing**

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Leaves at \$118 each \_\_\_\_\_ Rocks at \$1,800 each

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All gifts will be acknowledged.

For further information, contact Vicky Farhi at [vfahri@barnerttemple.org](mailto:vfahri@barnerttemple.org) or (201) 848-1800).

Mail completed forms and payment to  
Barnert Temple, 747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417.



# May 2017 5 Iyar 5777 – 6 Sivan 5777

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> YOM HAZIKARON Post Confirmation (off-site)	<b>2</b> YOM HAAITZMAUT Religious School 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation	<b>3</b> Religious School 6 pm Meeting for B/M in May/June/September 2018 7:30 pm Executive Committee	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Talmud Study§	<b>5</b> 7 pm Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper	<b>6</b> Achare Mot/Kedoshim Lev. 16:1-20:27 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Shabbat Yoga 10 am Josh Pleeter B/M
<b>7</b> Last Sunday Religious School K-2 Last Jewish Journey Project Barnert Temple LEV Class — Gemilut Chasidim 11 am Barnert Community Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Religious School Last 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan Last 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Ma'ayan 7 pm BarTY Board Elections	<b>10</b> Religious School	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm Shoah Class	<b>12</b> Preschool Special Guest Shabbat 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal 5 pm Tot Shabbat and Pizza Dinner 8 pm Shabbat Service Honoring High School Graduates	<b>13</b> Emor Lev. 21:1-24:23 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Torah Study BarTY Rockland Boulder's Game (off-site)
<b>14</b> LAG BA'OMER MOTHER'S DAY Family Promise	<b>15</b> 7:30 pm Board of Trustees	<b>16</b> Last Tuesday Religious School Confirmation	<b>17</b> Last Wednesday Religious School	<b>18</b> 6 pm Social Action/ Social Justice Steering (off-site) 6:30 pm Networking: Chip Hartman 7:30 pm Talmud Study§	<b>19</b> 8 pm Shabbat Service led by Women of Barnert	<b>20</b> Bahar/Bechukotai Lev. 25:1-27:34 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Shabbat Yoga 10 am Max Birnberg B/M
<b>21</b> 9 am Men's Club/WOB Breakfast Honoring Rabbi Frishman	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Confirmation Men's Shelter	<b>24</b> 5 pm BarTY Board Meeting Dinner (off-site)	<b>25</b> 7:30 pm Shoah Class	<b>26</b> 8 pm Shabbat Service	<b>27</b> Bamidbar Num. 1:1-4:20
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> MEMORIAL DAY No Preschool Office Closed	<b>30</b> 7:15 pm Shavuot Service, Confirmation Celebration, Yizkor EREV SHAVUOT	<b>31</b> SHAVUOT No Preschool Office Closed		* Rabbi Frishman's Class ♦ Rabbi Steiner's Class § Rabbi Soffin's Class ^ Sara Losch's Class	Torah: Purple Avodah: Blue Gemilut Chasidim: Green



# June 2017 7 Sivan 5777 – 6 Tammuz 5777

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Rabbi Frishman's Class ♦ Rabbi Steiner's Class § Rabbi Soffin's Class ^ Sara Losch's Class	Torah: Purple Avodah: Blue Gemilut Chasadim: Green			1 7:30 pm Shoah Class	2 8:05 pm Last Olam Baby Class Last Shabbat of 7 pm Shabbat Service and Interfaith Potluck Supper	3 Naso Num. 4:21-7:89 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh 10 am Jennifer Mason B/M
4 9:30 am Congregational Breakfast 10 am Annual Congregational Meeting	5	6 7 pm Men's Club Awards and Election Dinner	7	8 7:30 pm Shoah Class	9 8:09 pm 9:30 am Moving-up Ceremonies for Little Sprouts, Rising Stars, Big Shots Noon Fantastics Graduation Preschool Family Fun 8 pm Shabbat Service	10 B'haalot'Cha Num. 8:1-12:16 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 10 am Mollie Good B/M
11 BARTY Pool Party/ End of Year Gathering/ (off-site) Family Promise	12 7:30 pm Board of Trustees	13	14	15 6 pm Social Action/ Social Justice Steering (off-site)	16 8:13 pm 7 pm Farewell Shabbat	17 Shelach Num. 13:1-15:41
18 FATHER'S DAY	19	20	21	22	23 8:15 pm	24 Korach Num. 16:1-18:32
25 Board Orientation and Retreat	26 First Day of Camp Barnert 6:30 pm Networking: Ken Lang and Diane Young	27 Men's Shelter	28	29	30 8:15 pm 7 pm Shabbat Service	

## Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

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



Rabbi Elyse Frishman  
[rabbifrish@barnerttemple.org](mailto:rabbifrish@barnerttemple.org)

Rabbi Rachel Steiner  
[rabbisteiner@barnerttemple.org](mailto:rabbisteiner@barnerttemple.org)

Vicky Farhi, Executive Director ..... (201) 848-1800  
[vfarhi@barnerttemple.org](mailto:vfarhi@barnerttemple.org)

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)

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## Mark Your Calendars

Monday, May 1  
**YOM HA'ZIKARON**

Tuesday, May 2  
**YOM HA'ATZMAUT**

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

Sunday, May 7  
**Barnert Community Day**

Friday, May 12  
**Tot Shabbat and  
Pizza Dinner** 5 pm

Sunday, May 14  
**LAG BA'OMER  
MOTHER'S DAY**

Friday, May 19  
**Shabbat Service led by  
Women of Barnert** 8 pm

Friday, May 26  
**Shabbat Service** 8 pm

Monday, May 29  
**MEMORIAL DAY  
No Preschool  
Office Closed**

Tuesday, May 30  
**EREV SHAVUOT  
Shabbat Service,  
Confirmation Celebration,  
Yizkor** 7:30 pm

Wednesday, May 31  
**SHAVUOT  
No Preschool  
Office Closed**

Friday, June 2  
**Shabbat Service and Interfaith  
Potluck Supper** 7 pm

Sunday, June 4  
**Congregational Breakfast** 9:30 am  
**Annual Congregational  
Meeting** 10 am

Friday, June 16  
**Farewell Shabbat** 7 pm

Sunday, June 18  
**FATHER'S DAY**

Friday, June 23  
**Summer Shabbat Time  
Begins** 7 pm

Monday, June 26  
**1st Day of Camp Barnert**