

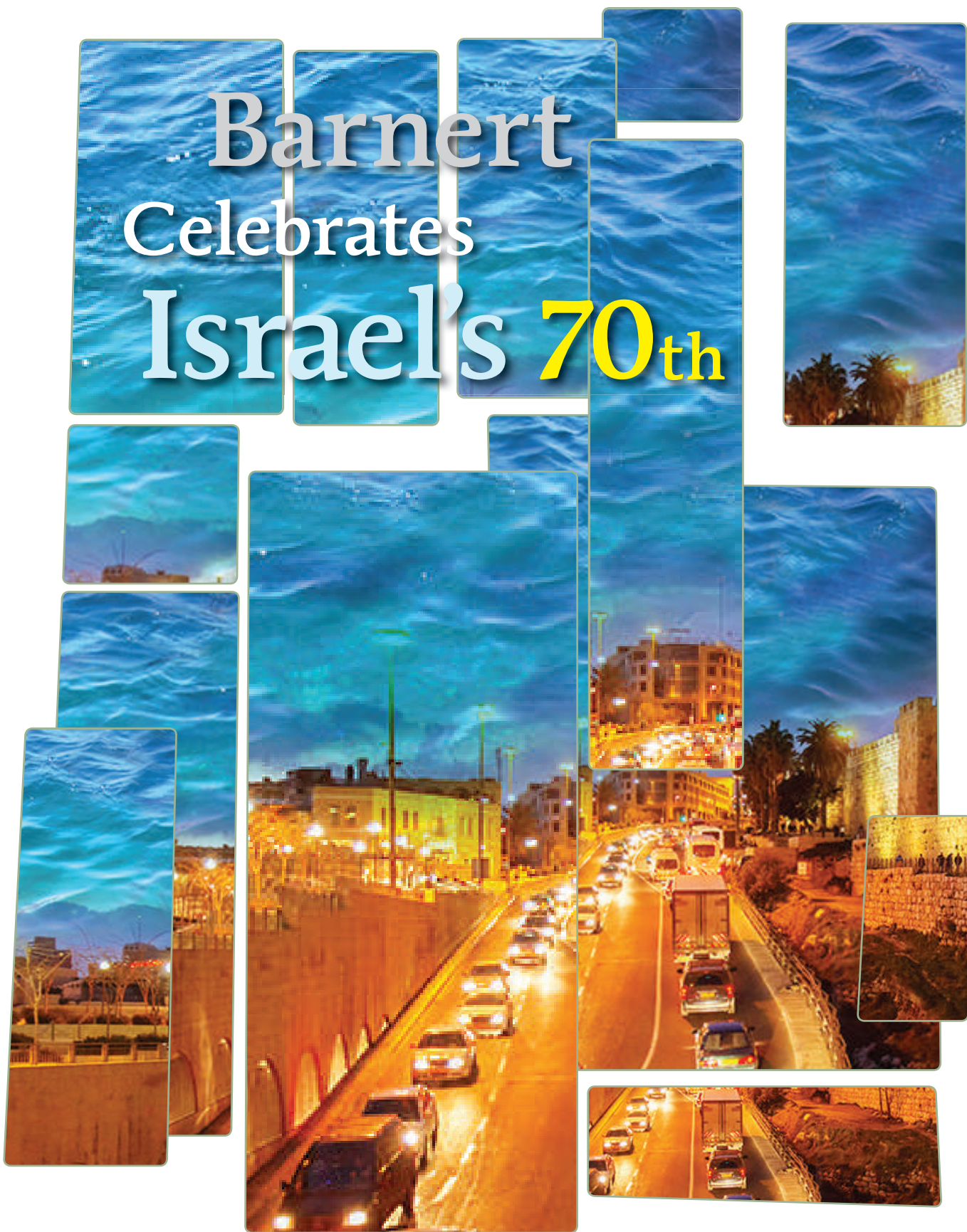
May-June 2018 barnerttemple.org

BARNERT

The Magazine

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

Barnert
Celebrates
Israel's 70th



BARNERT

The Magazine

CONTENTS

What a busy year this has been! So much has happened, so much transition in the coming year! And Barnert still evolves as a Jewish house of learning, prayer and community. Here are some of the highlights of the past two months and the coming months.

We celebrate Israel's 70th birthday! What a miracle Israel is — a Jewish homeland that is a recognized country. Several students who have had significant experiences in Israel share the impact of that time with us. Vicky Farhi also shares a moving tribute to Israel (pg. 4).

Rabbi Steiner will be taking a group to Israel; here's your chance to be part of this life-changing experience! (pg. 7).

We welcome our new Youth Director Billy Bloomberg (pg. 12).

The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, June 10. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and get a State of the Congregation report (pg. 15).

Register to vote! If you'll be 18 by the next November election, you can begin to register on May 16! Here's your chance to be part of the democratic process! (pg. 21).

Some holidays we celebrated:

- Our *Purim shpiel* was one of the best! Enjoy the photos and the memories! (pg. 14).
- The Women's Seder had a record turnout (pg. 23).

Barnert Preschool Summer Camp is now registering; make sure your child or grandchild gets their place! (pg. 8).

Our Mission: The mission of Barnert Temple is to be a sacred community, a *kehillah kedoshah*, 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 Don Rossoff

Israel as family: the oys and the joys



Having been studying family systems, I am aware of how complicated families are. As they say, we can't live with them and we can't live without them. We can disapprove of the actions of family members but that does not diminish our love for them. It is our love, personal connections, sense of responsibility, shared history, and common destiny which prevent us from simply

disengaging. Families can evoke both our greatest pride as well as our deepest disappointment, even embarrassment. Family relationships can be both fulfilling and frustrating at the same time. Families are complicated.

For me, Israel is family. I can't live with Israel and I can't live without Israel.

I can't live with Israel as it is today, at least certain aspects. There is so much that frustrates me. Israel has one of the highest poverty rates in the developed world. This is due in great measure to the lower employment rates in the Arab and ultra-Orthodox communities. Although this is changing slightly, the ultra-Orthodox have so many children but resist going into the workplace to support them. Regarding the Palestinians, certainly their leaders have made bad decisions in the past and security must be a top priority. Still, there is no ease in Zion when Palestinians are subjected to regular indignities, settlements expand, and some who live in the West Bank use tactics of intimidation against their Palestinian neighbors. On another front, I am outraged by the disproportionate power of the ultra-Orthodox over Jewish religious life which delegitimizes Reform, Conservative, and to a growing degree, modern Orthodox Judaism. The struggle for a rightful place at the Western Wall is symbolic of a distorted system which fails to serve either Israel or the Jewish people. Most recently, Israel's handling of refugees fleeing Africa and entering Israel illegally has gone back and forth. Those opposed to keeping these refugees are concerned about maintaining the Jewish character of Israel's population. Those in favor of keeping them are concerned about maintaining the Jewish character of Israel's values. After all, "You know the heart of the stranger since you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Yes, when it comes to Israel, there are certain things that are difficult to live with.

But I can't live without Israel either. For me, Israel is not about cellphones, medical technologies, models of sustainable living or the countless other contributions which the Jewish state has made to humanity. I can't live without Israel because Israel is where Jewish history was made and is still being made each day. Israel is the laboratory in which

Jewish values, sometimes competing, get worked out in the real world. Israel is where my beloved Hebrew language, rooted in ancient texts, is spoken in supermarkets, coffee shops, and living rooms. As a laboratory for Jewish culture, Israel is the place in which the Jewish family is most alive. And as part of that family, Reform Judaism is growing more and more alive each day as it continues to spread the message now accepted by most Israelis—that there is more than one way to being Jewish and living Jewishly. While some of my "Jewish Family in Israel" discourages me, Reform Judaism in Israel gives me pride and gives me hope!

Yes, I think that we can live Jewish lives without a connection with Israel. But I also believe that without Israel, our Judaism is less connected from the experience of the Jewish people and more lacking in historic or communal depth.

As members of the larger Jewish family, we are bound to Israel by personal connections, a sense of mutual responsibility; by shared history and common identity, and by love. As family, we have the responsibility to remain engaged on some level and to support those causes which we feel strongly about that will help Israel be more of what we/you believe it can and should be.

The best way, of course, is to spend time in Israel. If you have never been to Israel, I urge you to consider going when you can. (I know that Rabbi Steiner is going to be putting together a great trip.) If you have been in Israel, but not for a long time, I encourage you to go again. You will be amazed at how much it has changed. Having just been there to visit our son who is teaching there for a year, I was reminded how special Israel is and how much Israel means to me. Israel is the only place to which I can travel 6,000 miles from where I live and when I get there, I am home, home with my family, the Jewish people.

Rabbi Don Rossoff

Rabbi Rossoff's Farewell Service

Join your Barnert family
as we thank
Rabbi Don Rossoff
for his time with our community.

Friday, June 1.

Shabbat service at 7 pm.

A Message From Rabbi Rachel Steiner

Israel and us



In reflecting on how best to honor and engage with the 70th birthday of Israel's independence, I found myself lost in my formative memories of time spent in Israel. A summer in high school with NFTY. And then later for 18 consecutive months of living on a *kibbutz* in the north and a year in Jerusalem, as I began my rabbinical studies at HUC-JIR.

Many people in our community feel deeply attached to Israel. Many feel the opposite. And still there are many others who are not sure where they fit—there are more questions than answers. In the coming year, I will create opportunities for us to explore all of this together.

For this publication, we invited individuals who have spent time in Israel in different capacities to offer their reflections on the impact of Israel on their lives: Mia Lowy, Isaac Hart, Becca Diamond, and Vicky Farhi. These essays reflect different aspects of relationship with Israel: the evolving understanding of the relations of Jews and Palestinians, the struggle to find the right use of our voices as Jews who live outside of Israel, and the impact even three weeks of exposure can have on our connection. I hope you will enjoy and be moved by their words. If you

are inspired to learn or engage more deeply in any aspect of their writings, please let us know!

There are many ways to learn about and even travel to Israel. For teen opportunities, I would be happy to talk with you about summer trips of varying lengths or the life-changing opportunity to spend a high school semester abroad. For adult opportunities, you can learn more through the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (the equivalent of Reform Judaism in Israel), or through the myriad organizations that look to build connections between Jews in America and Israel. I am happy to offer specific suggestions in person based on your personal interests and questions.

I cannot overstate the impact of my time spent in Israel on my Jewish identity and my rabbinate. And yet...I sadly have not had the opportunity to return since I left in May of 2006.

You will see later on in this publication that I will be leading a family trip to Israel in the coming years. If you are interested in learning more about an opportunity to travel together at the end of 2019 or in 2020, please send me an email (rabbisteiner@barnerttemple.org) or call the office and let me know. These trips offer unparalleled opportunities to connect and learn and grow—with Israel and with one another. I am so excited for this experience and in this community!

Mia Lowy

This past summer, I went on Mitzvah Corps Israel. For me, this was an adventure of a lifetime. I would travel out of the country with 18 strangers to volunteer for three weeks in Israel. Nothing could have ever prepared me for the life-changing journey I would go on. The first few days were surreal—I was finally in Israel! Ever since I was little, I've dreamed of going. I've heard so many stories and seen pictures of it, but stepping off that plane is something I can't describe. Even though I couldn't read much of the Hebrew surrounding me, I smiled to myself because it felt familiar. I knew that the people walking around me were my people! This trip was so unique because it wasn't your typical tour of Israel. From day one, we worked our way from the Golan Heights down to Eilat. Every day, we would travel to a new part of Israel and volunteer. Working so closely with the Israeli community is really why this trip was so life-changing for me. It made me realize that I can do so much to help the world, and that doesn't

have to be through money or material objects. I was able to spend three hours playing with children of refugees in south Tel Aviv and help to paint a Bedouin community center as a safe place for females. This trip helped me realize that even Israel isn't perfect—it needs just as much love and peace as any other place in the world. I can spend my time helping others and devoting my time to better their lives. That trip to Israel changed my life because it's made me realize what I want to do and what I need to do. I now feel the need to better the world, especially Israel. Israel has an incredibly special place in my heart, and as Jews, it's our duty to protect it. I love Israel with all of my heart, and cannot wait to travel there again.

URJ **mitzvah**
corps
Social Justice Experiences for Teens

Isaac Hart

I went to Israel for the first time in January of 2016 for four months, expecting to learn about Jewish culture and language. What I did not expect—but what I did most powerfully find—was a sense of idealism, one difficult to find on the battered shores of the American body politic. What stuck with me most was the assuredness of a meaningful life—especially after army service—that so many Israelis carry themselves with.

While Israel has led many scientific and technological advances (the products of reason and Enlightenment), its very existence is based off a belief in what seemed impossible. After all, the story of modern Israel is an impossible story. The Ottoman province of Palestine was a backwater at the turn of the 20th century, populated by a few hundred thousand Arabs and even fewer Jews (for perspective, over 13 million people live in the same area today). The vast majority of the world's Jews had been exiled since Roman control of Palestine two millennia ago.

Over the course of the 19th century, Jews achieved emancipation—full *de jure* equality—in Western European countries while pogroms plagued Eastern European Jewish populations concentrated in the Russian Pale of Settlement. The Jewish situation seemed to be improving, until anti-Semitism came to the fore from its numerous disguises during the military trial of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer in the French army who was accused of selling state secrets to archrival Germany. He was convicted without a shred of evidence. Journalist Theodor Herzl covered his trial and concluded that despite the progress Jewish emancipation has brought in Western Europe, safety could not be guaranteed without a state. He organized the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897, and the rest is history. History achieved by great demographic and social change, history that was to every onlooker inconceivable.

When I was asked to write this piece for Barnert about the influence of Israel on my life, I first thought of something entirely different from the Jewish state: Rainer Maria Rilke's poem "Archaic Torso of Apollo." He describes the beauty, both imagined and real, of a fragmented ancient statue of the god Apollo. His beauty is by nature godly, thus unattainable for an average person. And yet Rilke still found an urge for change. Just as *Pirkei Avot* teaches "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it," Rilke concludes with his legendary sentence: "You must change your life." He exhorts us to pursue unattainable perfection. This is Israel as I know it.

To live in Israel is to strive towards the impossible; as its first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, famously said in a 1956 interview, "In Israel, in order to

be a realist you must believe in miracles." It took me some time to understand this bit of wisdom when I first arrived. Ben-Gurion's words do indeed feel foreign, but I must ask you: What is it to live without the challenge towards the heavens, the ever-felt yearning for the impossible and the resulting change and determination to bring us nearer?

The *kibbutz* I lived on for four months while studying on the Union for Reform Judaism's Heller High School program was in the Judean hills. I arrived in January to an abounding brownness. The hillsides abutting the town looked as though the wildflowers spring-time Israel is famous for had camouflaged themselves to match the color of the soil itself. And then there was the cultural adjustment and the school-day classes and the homework.

But eventually, the darkness and early evenings of February turned to a bright, clean March. After class ended in the early evening, I took to the vineyard in the valley just beyond the settled area of the *kibbutz*—both alone and with friends—and was free among the unripe grapes and vines. It's a freedom that is impossible in normal life; time spent in the woods is our rejection of the limitations of a cell phone, a laptop, these electronics that bring us together across continents but away from the earth.

The *chalutzim* were here once, the first modern Israelis. And I latched onto them, to an irreducible understanding in the strength of the land. My connection to the earth and its embodiment of history was essential in my connection to the state. The moist turf—this was the end of the rainy season—softened every step and gave me balance to bring the history and religion into being. These hills were mine as they were my ancestors two thousand years ago.

I got home in the late spring devoted to the cause. I began my time as a columnist for an Israeli NGO, railing against the bias I saw the foreign media's coverage of Israel. I landed internships for an array of Israel-advocacy organizations here in the Northeast. And in doing so, just as one must renounce their foreign citizenships and allegiances to attain a diplomatic placement in the State Department, I had to largely renounce my claims to explore Palestinian literature and history.

If nothing else I was an Israel advocate after returning from a semester on an Israeli *kibbutz* during sophomore year. My love for Israel had blossomed as I developed a strong connection to the land while living outside Jerusalem in the Judean mountains. I was at last a member of a strong, empowering community. However, I realized that Israel had also trapped me in an ideological box. The pro-Israel community is vibrant
(Continued on next page)

Isaac Hart *(From previous page)*

and diverse, but like any partisan group, it is often an echo chamber. Even though I continued to collect varying perspectives elsewhere, it was hard to find dissenting opinions among the chorus of pro-Israel “experts.”

I returned the following summer on the Bronfman Fellowship with a group of teenaged Jewish leaders. We unified for five weeks of study of Jewish texts and pluralism in Jerusalem, coming together despite vastly different backgrounds as friends for life. Our time together fostered a mutual respect between us, a knowledge that a Modern Orthodox Ted Cruz supporter from Texas (my roommate and a close friend) and a secular Jew from Manhattan could truly be friends. The impasse is crossed only in the dual recognition of both our common humanity and our similar strives for and belief in improvement.

On the Fellowship, we also spent a day with Palestinians. For the first time, I had conversed face to face with Palestinians. Instead of seeing them as “other,” they were people, living in a shared space. Just like me.

After this, I realized that despite the accuracy of the Israeli history I had been taught on my high school in Israel program, reality was not so binary. I knew that I had to look beyond the pro-Israel echo chamber. Yet my trepidation persisted. I’d heard Jews who voiced objections to some Israeli policies called “self-hating Jews” in the past. Was I one of them?

No. I didn’t lose my purpose when I stepped back and reflected. I was confused. And this was okay. I won’t be rejected because of my thoughtful reservations; I can be a critical thinker everywhere. It was then that I realized the importance of creating communities of explorers, individuals always willing to question and reflect. On the Bronfman Fellowship, I became a leader within a group that fostered change and recognized internal paradoxes. Communities like this, full of questioners and explorers, allow me to absorb more from everything around me, to listen resiliently to anything with which I might disagree. Only in groups like these can we leave our echo chambers and come open-minded to support one another.

I returned to the United States in August for a two-week stint working at Emory University at the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel. While I had planned beforehand to do more of the pro-Israel research I’d engaged in before the Bronfman Fellowship, I decided instead to develop a curriculum to explore Israeli national myth. Students, instead of learning in a setting of assumptions, use their time in the classroom to explore their own. They question realities in a search for truth, just as Jews did when they made *aliyah* and formed the modern Israeli state.

Now, I use my work in education, at Barnert and beyond, to teach others to challenge their preconceptions, fostering explorative minds in all those around me. Judaism, I now share when I teach at my religious school, is no linear journey in pursuit of a singular objective. My passion for Israel was at first a passion to protect its existence. But today it is a passion for life, to take the path less traveled, one filled with many detours for questioning and reflection. Our Jewish duty is to try on others’ arguments and doubt our own, to continuously examine our thoughts and figure out what works and what doesn’t.

In our hyper-partisan and divided world, this courage to attempt the impossible, to develop conversations and understanding with those who hold different views from our own. In the eternal words of Theodor Herzl, “If you will it, it is no dream.” As I stood in the vineyard on the *kibbutz*, I stand today: Israel challenges us to question the constraints of our reality and work towards what is right. Even if we don’t get all the way there in the end, we will be satisfied with our progress, satisfied with defying the impossible.



Old City, July 2017

Becca Diamond

I have always loved being Jewish in America. In my suburban New Jersey home, I didn't feel like I was living in the Diaspora, but rather in one of the major Jewish centers of the world. Because of my strong ties to America and my work in social-justice issues at home, I never felt like I could truly have a voice on Israel issues. My feeling was that if I couldn't vote in Israel, I was not able to make my voice heard. After this year in Israel, my view of my role in Israel has changed significantly. One of the turning moments for me was a trip to the Supreme Court of Israel with the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC).

Growing up at Barnert Temple, where high value is placed on social action, I knew of the work of the IRAC, especially the advocacy for a fair use of space for Progressive Jews at the Kotel (Western Wall) and civil marriage rights. However, I knew nothing of the IRAC's work on issues that weren't specifically about the rights of Progressive Jews in Israel.

I went to the court with Anat Hoffman, IRAC's Executive Director; and Rabbi Noa Sattath, IRAC's Director, as well as three of my classmates. The case was an appeal by the IRAC, calling on the government to prosecute a group called *Lehava* for incitement of racist violence. *Lehava*, headed by Bentzi Gopstein, is an acronym for "Prevention of Assimilation in the Holy Land." According to the IRAC website, *Lehava* "encourages attacks against Arabs and preaches a message of hatred, intimidation, and incitement." The IRAC has spent years documenting the activities of *Lehava* and creating a court case against them, and IRAC's lawyer Orly Erez-Likhovski argued that the police need to take action. However, the three justices chided the IRAC, saying they couldn't be "babysitters" of the attorney general's office like the IRAC was advocating, and the lawyer for the police argued that the police do not have the resources to investigate every single

case, and they also have a protocol that the IRAC is supposedly circumventing.

The outcome of that appeal was frustrating and disappointing, but I was inspired by the persistence of Anat, Noa, and Orly. The most immediate takeaway from this experience is that fighting racism in Israel is a Progressive issue, but the deeper lesson is about the role of Diaspora Jews in internal Israeli affairs. The HUC students who attended spoke among ourselves about why we had not heard about this aspect of the IRAC work in our Diaspora communities, and we imagined what the outcome would be if the American Jewish community placed as much importance on this issue as with the Kotel or the conversion law. Noa had told us in a session at HUC that public opinion, including Diaspora opinion, has an incredibly high effect on the outcome of court cases in Israel.

I am reminded of a text from the Babylonian *Talmud* about our responsibility for one another:

Whoever can stop the people of his house from sinning but does not is held responsible for the sins of the people of his house. Whoever can stop the people of his city from sinning but does not is held responsible for the sins of the people of his city. Whoever can stop the people of the whole world from sinning but does not is held responsible for the sins of the people of the whole world.

T. Bab. Shabbat 54b

I see the Jewish people in Israel as part of the same "household" as American Jews. Our peoplehood connects us across national boundaries, and therefore we have a responsibility for the actions of our people. I have learned that even though I am not a citizen of Israel, I am a member of *Am Yisrael*, and that gives me a responsibility to speak up and engage with Israel with full confidence.

Travel To Israel

Rabbi Steiner is going to lead a Barnert Temple family trip to Israel in the coming years. Please let her know if you would be interested in learning more about this exciting experience in 2019 or 2020!

rabbisteiner@barnerttemple.org



Vicky Farhi

I always knew I would visit Israel. I wasn't sure when, but I knew I would get there.

Growing up, Israel was a presence. The survival of the Jewish state, in '67 and '73, was something my parents spoke about with concern. My close friend Judy spent summers visiting family in Israel and sharing her stories with me when she returned. By the time I was 18, I knew that Israel was the homeland of the Jewish people and a magical place to be.



Many years passed until I was able to visit Israel; my first trip occurred 13 years ago. It was right after the disengagement from Gaza, and friends suggested it might be dangerous. But I knew that this was the time to go, so there I was on a standard 10-day beginners' congregational trip. I figured I would see Israel, learn something and have a great time shopping. (Not necessarily in that order!)

Israel was amazing. The first days of the trip were exhausting—a lot of walking in extreme heat combined with many interesting lectures. I knew the Zionist narrative, but being in the place it actually happened made it come alive. Learning about the connection between ancient Israel and the modern state of Israel was fascinating. Meeting the people and experiencing the culture made me want to do and try more. And the more I learned, the stronger my connection to Israel.

Understanding the connection to our Jewish homeland and experiencing it firsthand are two very different things. For the first time, I was experiencing that connection myself and it was so powerful. Israel is where we connect to our history and our matriarchs and patriarchs. Israel is where our people fought for freedom against many different enemies. When I walked the streets of Jerusalem, Nahariya and Tel Aviv, I walked in Jewish steps.

One day I was walking down the street in Tel Aviv and suddenly stopped and looked around. There were lots of people walking, lots of activity. And they were Jews. This was a Jewish city, founded by Jews, run by Jews. We had done this, and done it well!

During the trip, we were scheduled to visit the Western Wall. Nothing prepared me for this experience. I stood at the Wall and touched the old stones and felt a connection—to God, to Israel, to the Jewish people. I felt

a connection to those who had come before me and those who would come after me. I felt the joy and obligation and responsibility of being part of the covenant between God and the Jewish people. And I thanked God for making me a Jew.

It was in Israel that my Jewish self was raised to a whole new consciousness, a higher level of celebration of living a Jewish life. I have been back to Israel several times since that trip almost 13 years ago. Each trip is a transformative experience that challenges me and expands my understanding of living and being a Jew.

On my last trip, I was fortunate to join fellow Shalom Hartman classmates with Rabbi Rick Jacobs for one of the first egalitarian prayer services at the Wall in Jerusalem. It was a spiritually uplifting experience. Yes, there were nasty people yelling at us. But we were praying together for *shalom* and the Jewish people. After this, I can truly say that I understand the verse "my heart lies in the East."

Barnert Summer Camp Registration Now Happening!

Barnert is now accepting registration for Camp Barnert's Nature Explorers Program. Our camp is focused on promoting an understanding and passion for the natural world. We believe that children who are passionate about nature will grow up to protect it, fulfilling the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. Camp is available for ages 15 months to 4+ years and you can choose either a half-day (9 am – 2:30 pm) or full-day (9 am – 3 pm) schedule. Information is available on our website (www.barnerttemple.org) or by calling (201) 848-1027.



Shabbat and Holiday Worship with Rabbi Rossoff 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 4
7 pm Service
8 pm Potluck Supper

Saturday, May 5
9:30 am Torah Study,
Parshat Emor

Friday, May 11
8 pm Service

Saturday, May 12
9:30 am *Rosh Chodesh*
10 am Service, *Bar Mitzvah*
of Gabriel Hexter

Friday, May 18
5 pm *Tot Shabbat* and
Pizza Dinner
8 pm Service

Saturday, May 19
9:30 am *Shabbat Yoga*
8 pm *Havdalah* and *Yizkor*,
Tikun L'Shavuot

Friday, May 25
8 pm Service

Friday, June 1
7 pm Farewell Rabbi Rossoff
Service
8 pm Potluck Supper

Saturday, June 2
9:30 am Torah Study
9:30 am *Shabbat Yoga*
10 am Service, *Bar Mitzvah*
of Daniel Garland

Friday, June 8
8 pm Service Honoring
High School Graduates

Saturday, June 9
9:30 am Torah Study,
Parshat Shelach
10 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah*
of Amanda Miller

Friday, June 15
8 pm Service

Saturday, June 16
9:30 am *Rosh Chodesh*
10 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah*
of Emma Arenstein

Friday, June 22
8 pm Service

Saturday, June 23
10 am Service, *Bar Mitzvah*
of Rory Kopelman

Friday, June 29
7 pm First Summer Service



The Barnert Community Rallies to Support Our Overseas Military

Recently the Barnert community learned that there was a need for special foodstuffs in an overseas military base. The response from our community was wonderful, and we shipped six very large boxes to our Barnert congregant Tom Anderson and his group. Tom (first on the left) sent us this photo with the following message:

Thank you again for helping to feed and provide a morale boost to ODA 5214 (and two Navy EOD guys).
Tom Anderson



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 vichune'ka.
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

Gabriel Hexter

Date of Bar Mitzvah: May 12, 2018

My name is Gabe Hexter and I am in 7th grade. I live with my 17-year-old sister Elizabeth and split my time between my mom's and dad's houses. I love playing sports and video games. I play basketball and football, and this spring I am starting to run track for the first time. In school, my favorite subjects are math and science.

For my *Mitzvah* project, I have been contributing to the monthly meal that the Barnert community donates to the St. Paul's Men's Shelter in Paterson, New Jersey. Each month I bake brownies for all of the men to enjoy. On the day of my *Bar Mitzvah*, I am collecting much-needed items for the shelter and will be donating them as well.

I'd like to thank Rabbi Steiner, *Mora* Edith, Sara Losch and Helen Fleischmann for teaching me everything that I needed to know to prepare me for this momentous occasion. I also want to thank my entire family for your encouragement and belief in me. All of these people helped me to get where I am today and inspired me to work hard.

Daniel Garland

Date of Bar Mitzvah: June 2, 2018

Hi, my name is Daniel Garland. I am in 7th grade. I have many interests such as reading, hiking, lacrosse and gaming. My favorite school subject is math. Over the summer my family and I go to Acadia National Park in Maine. This summer will be my 15th time going. My family is my sister Rachel and my brother Justin, mom and dad, and my dog Acadia—yes, named after the national park.

I love to read. My goal is to allow children in need to have the same chances I have had in being exposed to the wonders and adventures of reading. To that end I have been donating, and will continue to donate, gently used books to local less-fortunate schools than my own. In addition, I will be collecting new books as part of my *Bar Mitzvah* project.

A very special thank you to Rabbi Steiner, who encouraged and supported me for this momentous event. I would also like to thank my family who motivated me and inspired me. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them. I can't wait to become a *Bar Mitzvah* and share this amazing event with my family and friends.

Amanda Miller

Date of Bat Mitzvah: June 9, 2018

Hi, my name is Amanda Miller and I am in 7th grade. I live with my mom and dad, my brothers Jacob and David, and my dog Brady. I love playing all sports. I play basketball, softball and volleyball, and I like to swim, ski, and hang out with my friends.

For my *Mitzvah* project I will be collecting non-perishable food items to benefit local area food banks like CUMAC in Paterson and the Center for Food Action in Mahwah. Everyone needs food to live and I'd like to help those who struggle to find it. I have also been making meatloaves for St. Paul's Men's Shelter in Paterson and I have served dinner there too. I will also donate to the Audrey Miller Poritzky Education Fund for Children created in memory of my Aunt Audrey. This fund awards money to college-bound kids who exhibit her qualities of leadership, community service, and excellence in education. This fund is important to me because I am proud to be named after her.

I would like to thank many people at Barnert who have helped me prepare for my *Bat Mitzvah*. Thank you to Sara Losch who got it all started way back in preschool and religious school. Thank you to Helen Fleischmann and *Mora* Edith who have helped me with all my Hebrew and thank you to Rabbi Steiner and Rabbi Rossoff for helping me with my essays. Lastly, a big thanks goes to my parents and brothers for all their love and support.

Emma Arenstein

Date of Bat Mitzvah: June 16, 2018

Hi! My name is Emma Arenstein. I am in 7th grade. I live with my pup (I like to think he's still a pup, but he's five), Tucker; my nanny, Mila; my brother, Jake; and my mother Alanna and father, Scott. I love to read and play in the snow (mostly skiing), and I love to spend time with my family and friends. Sometimes I love to just sit and chill, and other times to be active—whether it be doing fun family activities, or playing soccer.

Anyone who knows me knows that I also adore dogs. So I decided that for my *Mitzvah* project, I would help dogs. I searched for a place where I could volunteer, but to no avail. Nowhere would accept a 12-year-old (especially one that is as short as an 8-year-old!) But I finally found the Grateful Doggies Rescue Retreat (GD RR). The GD RR rescues dogs from high-kill shelters.

(Continued on next page)

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Profiles (From previous page)

The organization brings in the dogs, and holds weekly events to help the dogs find their new families.

So every Saturday, I go to JB Pet Supplies (where they set up the dogs) to volunteer and help to take care of the dogs and help to find them their new families. I also do my best to bring in our extra newspaper, old dog toys, collars, leashes—whatever Tucker doesn't use anymore—for the doggies. For my collection, I am organizing an old-towel drive for the dogs. These old towels will be used for the dogs acting like blankets, the bedding in crates, and so much more.

Because the GDRR are donation-based, they require fundraising to keep their program going. To combat this issue, I designed holiday, *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* cards, and thank-you cards to sell. All profits go to the grateful doggies. For anybody who supported or supports the GDRR, we appreciate your support!

I would like to give a shout-out to all of my teachers here at Barnert, for making me the person, student, reader, learner, that I am today. I would specifically like to give a shout-out to all of my religious school teachers and Sara Losch. You have helped me to learn Hebrew, our culture, and our stories. I also want to give a shout-out to Mark, Rabbi Don Rossoff, and Rabbi Steiner who are all helping me prepare for my *Bat Mitzvah* from learning prayers, writing essays, and constructing speeches. I cherish my knowledge of Judaism, that you all taught me.

My last but not least shout-outs are to my family: mom, dad, Jake, and Mila. You have all helped me to become the person I am. You comfort me, challenge me, support me, love me no matter what, and have done countless things for me. I love you all.

Rory Kopelman

Date of Bar Mitzvah: June 23, 2018

My name is Rory Kopelman. I am currently in 7th grade, and I will turn 13 years old at the end of May. I live with my mom, Joan; my dad, Paul; and my sister, Janina Megan.

My life has not always been this way, as I spent the first 2½ years of my life in a baby home in Russia. At 2½ years of age, I came to the United States with very little exposure to any language. In January 2008, I came to America, and became an American citizen, when, accompanied by my parents, my feet touched U.S. soil. I am so thankful to the people in my life for this opportunity.

I love swimming, and I love playing video games, especially Minecraft. I play drums, and am also taking trumpet lessons, and learning to play tennis. Last year I worked as a temple helper at Barnert with Zack, and I enjoyed the experience.

My friends know me best by my hug, or thumbs-up, or big smile. My *Bar Mitzvah* will be a little different from that of my friends. It will still include reading from the *Torah*, but I probably will have less memorization and shorter speaking parts.

I would like to thank each of my religious school teachers at Barnert, especially Sara Losch, Howard Nadler, Helen Fleischmann, Jennifer Goldstein, and Marc Chelemer, as well as Rabbi Steiner, and especially my rabbi, Rabbi Rossoff.

Thank you also to my mom, and sister, for sharing this journey, but especially to my dad, and also to Rabbi Rossoff, who with the staff of Barnert, helped me to make this happen.

Introducing our new BarTY Advisor!

Hello families of Barnert Temple,

My name is Billy Bloomberg and I am so glad to be joining your community. I want to give a little background information about myself. I am originally from Lawrenceville, NJ, and grew up going to Congregation Beth Chaim in Princeton Junction. After finishing my degree in culinary arts I transferred to William Paterson University, where I am studying sociology with a minor in religious studies. At William Paterson I am a member of the Epsilon chapter of Phi Kappa Tau and I serve as Hillel's student government representative.

Jewish youth programming has been a large portion of my life, shaping what I study and bringing me lifelong friendships. Starting in 4th grade, I was involved in youth programming at my temple. I continued through high school, where I served on my youth group board.

My freshman year of high school I started attending NFTY events, and eventually spent my summer at Urban Mitzvah Corps. I now work with NFTY-GER locally, and with NFTY and the URJ on the North American level. Working with such amazing teens is inspiring. I cannot wait to work with the teens from Barnert Temple, see their passions, and build BarTY into an even more vibrant community!

I wish you all well,
Billy Bloomberg



Celebrate Shavuot!

Join us on Saturday, May 19 at 7 pm for

Shavuot Yizkor Service

followed by Tikkun Layl Shavuot Study Discussion:

The “Ten Commandments” What Do They Really Say?

Do replicas belong in our courthouses, public schools, and halls of government? Jeff Wild will share insights into the constitutional laws pertaining to the display of religious symbols on public property.

Sunday, May 20 at 10:30 am

Shavuot Confirmation Service

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

Sidney Birnberg
Justin Giberson
Emma Lidsky
Caroline McKinnon
Tyler Molnar
Emily Orlich
Olivia Pincus
Noah Shafron

Barnert Celebrated Purim with "It's Still Rock 'n' Roll in Shushan"!



Join Your Barnert Community
at the

Annual Congregational Meeting and Congregational Breakfast

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

Enjoy a delicious breakfast with your Barnert Community!

Get an update on the State of the Congregation.

Vote on the Board of Trustees.

Thank outgoing officers and welcome incoming officers.

Congratulate the President's Award recipients.

And much more!



A Message From Sara Losch

Israel as Homeland



I was 18 years old when I first visited Israel. I was the first person I knew to travel to "The Promised Land." My father was, to say the least, totally "farklemt." He sent me on the plane with a long letter in which he recounted boyhood memories of putting coins in a blue "pishka" (tzedakah box) for Israel. His boyhood, so poor monetarily but so rich in hope, included dreams that one day

there would be an *Eretz Yisrael*, a Jewish land, where all Jews could live in safety and peace.

Israel was a biblical promise he didn't think we'd see, yet his youngest child was on her way to experience that promise, and he was filled with pride and awe.

The trip was run by the American Zionist Youth Foundation (AZYF) and included teens from all over the United States and Canada, spending six weeks immersed in the Israel of the 70s. We had 10 days on *kibbutz*; two days at the Ghetto Fighters' Museum, learning the basics of anti-Semitism and the rise of Nazism; tours of all of the wonderful cities; visits to so many Crusader fortresses; and climbs up Masada and Mt. Sinai (what is thought to be, inconclusively, the mountain Moses climbed to receive the Ten Commandments). Of course, on our very first day, we planted trees at a Jewish National Fund forest (see 18-year-old me in the photo) in memory of our loved ones. I was a Jew in love, feeling at home in what felt like MY promised land of Israel.



I went back to Israel in December of 1981. During the year I spent living on *kibbutz*, studying Hebrew, working in various jobs, and meeting my future husband, the first *intifada* with Lebanon began. As part of a peace process, Israel gave back the Sinai to Egypt. Our Israeli friends were often tired of talking about politics. Israel was 43 years old and having growing pains.

Back home, American Jewish views began changing as well. Unlike my own parents' view that "what's good for Israel is what's good for the Jews," many progressive and liberal Jewish voices began to be heard. Questions about Israeli choices and tactics in carrying out policies came under scrutiny and this remains true today.

Now, at age 70, our Promised Land is surely not perfect. Yet, we continue to teach our children that Israel IS their Promised Land too. In one particular lesson, we talk about the difference between a house and a home. Houses are built to provide structural stability. Houses are walls and pipes and floorboards. Homes provide love, acceptance and belonging. A home is where we create history.

Israel is our home, with all of her instabilities and imperfections. Our hearts hold a place for her and when we are away, especially if kept away, we feel loss. Psalm 137 teaches:

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea,
we wept, when we remembered Zion.*

If you've never been to Israel, or if, like me, you've been away too long, speak to Rabbi Steiner about a future trip. Tell her what you'd like to see and do. She and I look forward to going home with you, together, in the near future.

B'shalom,
Sara

Exploring Mussar Continues!



Rabbi Steiner continues teaching *Mussar* in a four-session class this summer. If you've never studied *Mussar*, now is the time to begin! If you've studied *Mussar* before, you'll enjoy continuing the learning.

Wednesdays, July 11 and August 1
9:15–10:45 am

Mitzvah-Plex 2018 Memories: Building Community, Raising Funds and Awareness

Compiled by Sue Klein, Chair Social Action Education, Inspiration and Action
Photos by Gregory Tester and Rachael Burgess

Mitzvah-Plex 2018 raised \$17,500 for six charities the Barnert Temple community chose to learn about and support this year. But it was about more than the money. Activities scheduled throughout the weekend brought families, individuals, temple members and guests together to worship, study *Torah*, work on projects, and raise funds—all with a social action focus and clear calls to action.

We Worked on Projects



Hand-knit hats will keep premature babies at The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood warm.



Residents of St. Paul's Men's Shelter in Paterson had macaroons for dessert, thanks to budding Barnert chefs.



Preschoolers decorated "birthday bags" and filled them with all the fixings of a proper celebration for children at Hogar Infantil Child Development Center in Paterson and the Center for Hope and Safety.



Mitzvah-Plex 2018 *(From previous page)*

Temple garden preparations will pay off in produce to enjoy and to donate to those in need.



We Connected with Charities



We layered all the ingredients for a healthy meal in a jar for patients of Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI).



Ms. Veteran America 2017 conveyed the challenges homeless women veterans face; Final Salute helps with safe transitional housing, finances, job searches and more.



We recruited Connections mentors to help teens transition from foster care into independent adulthood.



BarTY teens represented HIAS, an international organization that rescues refugees and helps them build new lives in safety and freedom.

Mitzvah-Plex 2018 *(From previous page)*

We Modeled Barnert Community Ethics, Values and Involvement



Music & Memory collected iPods to program with playlists that will help people with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other cognitive challenges reconnect with their past and interact with the future.



And we ate pancakes!





CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE



SABABA!

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018

11am - 4pm • 57th-74th St. on Fifth Ave.

Join us at the world's largest celebration of Israel @ 70

Don't miss this year's special guests: Israeli musician Ninet Tayeb and Israeli Chef Eyal Shani

Featuring: Saxophonist Yarden Klayman, Milk and Honeys, The National Yiddish Theatre/Folksbiene, DJ Omri Anghel, Six 13, house band Soulfarm, 15 excellent marching bands, 30 marvelous floats and more! #togetheronfifth

CelebrateIsraelNY.org



CelebrateIsraelParade



@celebrateisrael

LIVE on FOX's My9 or CelebrateIsraelNY.org starting at Noon.

A special thanks to our partners:



A project of:



Artwork: Elizabeth Rosen

Adult Education: Find Your Place!



Shabbat Yoga. **Saturdays, May 19 and June 2, 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.



Making Sense in Confusing Times, with Rabbi Rachel Steiner. **Tuesdays, May 1 and 15, at 9:15 am.**

Judaism offers us invaluable tools to make sense of what's happening in our lives, our community, and our world. Come together, let's talk.



Talmud Study. **Thursdays, May 10 and 24; June 7, at 7:30 pm.**

Join 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 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. Check the calendar for dates.



Torah Study. **Saturdays, May 5 and June 9, at 9:30 am.**

Enjoy 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. Discover the relevance of *Torah* as we interpret it and bring it to life. No experience necessary and new friends are always welcome! Check the calendar for dates.



Rosh Chodesh. **Saturdays, May 12 and June 16, at 9:30 am.**

Experience the rituals and spirituality of *Rosh Chodesh*. We'll celebrate and learn together as we share the joy, wisdom and camaraderie of women. Come once, come monthly.

Experience *Rosh Chodesh* at Barnert. *Rosh Chodesh* means "head of the month" and marks the beginning of the new month. For much of history, it has been associated with women. In recent years, *Rosh Chodesh* groups have emerged as powerful opportunities for women to be and learn together.

Register To Vote

Voter registration begins May 16 for those turning 18 In November.



The Rein Family is proud to have a Big Shot at Barnert Temple Preschool

ReinTeenTours.com

ReinCommunityService.com

BARNERT TEMPLE

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA

**SATURDAY, MAY 5
7 PM - 11 PM**

**Home of Derek & Jill Smith
716 Somerset St., Franklin Lakes**



**\$36
PERSON**

**INCLUDES A CATERED
DINNER FROM
BLUE MOON, FESTIVE
LIBATIONS, MUSIC &
YOUR BARNERT
AMIGOS!**

RSVP & PAYMENT: <http://bit.ly/BTCincodeMayoFiesta>

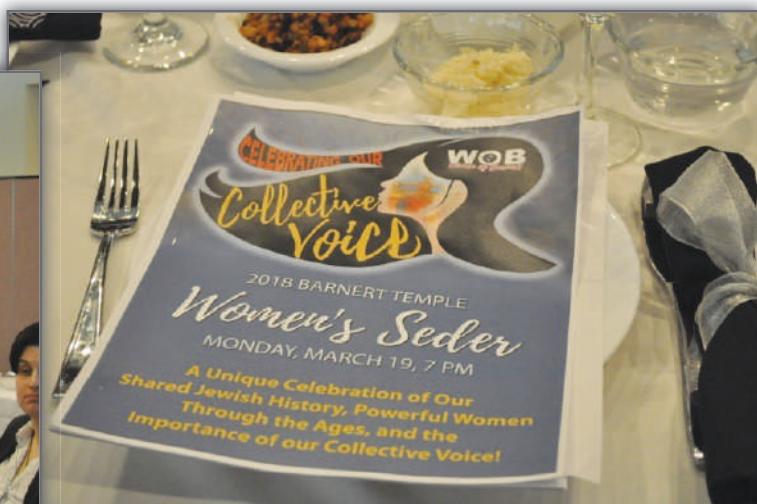
**Email Vicky Farhi at vfarhi@barnerttemple.org or
Derek Smith at dtslaws@msn.com with questions.**

*Sometimes the best reason to get
together is simply to be together!*

Hosted by the Women of Barnert, Men's Club, Barnert Social Committee & Barnert Temple Preschool Parent Assn.

Women of Barnert Women's Seder

Rabbi Rachel Steiner led the Women of Barnert Seder. It was an enjoyable evening for all.



Women of Barnert Women's Seder *(From previous page)*



Transition Steering Committee

The Transition Steering Committee has a few dates that you will want to mark on your calendars.

On Friday June 1, after an early 7 pm service, we will join together to thank and say goodbye to Rabbi Don and Fran Rossoff while we share another fabulous Barnert Shabbat Potluck Supper. If you've heard some buzz about the yummy dishes and great wines being brought by your fellow congregants, this will be your chance to partake and share your own specialties.

Next, the thing we have all been waiting to hear: the date has been set for Rabbi Rachel Steiner's Installation as Barnert's next senior rabbi, so be sure to mark Friday, November 2. The weekend will begin with a *Shabbat* service where Rabbi Steiner will be formally installed. The installation will be done by a mentor/teacher of Rabbi Steiner's who is not only special to her,

but to all Reform Jews: Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ. This will be a weekend of events that you won't want to miss.

Additionally, through the spring and summer, there will be a new series of membership initiatives. While these offerings are being planned as both targeted to specific groups (ex. empty nesters) and as general gatherings, they can provide an opportunity for anyone who doesn't yet know Rabbi Steiner or Barnert to get an idea of who we and our 21st-century rabbi really are.

The details are being settled as I write but we are hopeful all will be scheduled and shared shortly, so as long as you stay aware of info coming from Barnert, you won't miss a thing.

Marian Filan

ShulCloud is Coming!

In the near future, we will be introducing a new database and billing system: ShulCloud. ShulCloud will allow easier online payments, donations, and school registrations. We'll be able to offer online registration for special events, Adult Learning classes, and a wide variety of events.

ShulCloud always offers a website service. We are currently in the process of redesigning and updating our website to make it more contemporary and user-friendly.



The next months will be our transition to this new experience. You'll receive an email with information about how to access ShulCloud. Please help us help you as we move forward by sharing your questions, concerns and insights.

Vicky Farhi
Executive Director
Barnert Temple

Celebrate Israel at 70! Parade

**Sunday, June 3
11 am – 4 pm**

57th – 74th St. on Fifth Avenue

Military Casualty Names

February–March 2018

U.S. Military killed in Iraq:

Sgt. Christina Marie Schoenecker
Captain Mark K. Weber
Captain Andreas B. O'Keeffe
Captain Christopher T. Zanetis
Master Sergeant Christopher J. Raguso
Staff Sergeant Dashan J. Briggs
Master Sergeant William R. Posch
Staff Sergeant Carl P. Enis

Total U.S. casualties in Iraq to date: 4,509

Total U.S. casualties in Afghanistan to date: 2,412

U.S. Military who died in Germany:

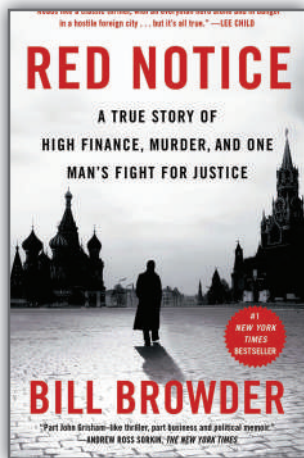
Sgt. 1st Class Maitland Deweever Wilson

Book Club

May 2018

The Book Club, which meets approximately every six weeks in the evening at a member's home, has decided to step up to the current problem of the Russians and their interference in our American affairs. For May we have taken on Vladimir Putin and his regime of thugocracy. Bill Browder, son of a famed mathematician and grandson of Earl Browder, chairman of the Communist Party USA, was the founder of The Heritage Fund. He took advantage of the unlimited investment opportunities in Putin Russian and for a time was in Putin's favor. But after 2005, Putin claimed the company had not paid taxes, Browder's best

friend was imprisoned on trumped-up charges, beaten and eventually killed. Browder's visa was denied, and he left Russia. This book is about his life and relationships with many sordid characters. If anything, it sounds like an intriguing read and a good peek at Putin and his thugs.



Timely and fascinating.

The book is *Red Notice* by Bill Browder. We will be meeting either May 21 or 22 from 8 to 10 pm at the home of Benita Herman. RSVP at (201) 891-2509 or to bherman@dt.com.

We welcome all new readers.

Benita Herman

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your love and support. Mike would have been so proud of all the cards, donations, food, flowers and all the people who came to the funeral and *shiva*. I am amazed at the number of friends and extended family who came to pay final respects to a wonderful man. It is a comfort to me to know how much he was loved and how much love and support I have from our community.

Love,
Debbie Becker

Save the Date for our Family Celebration

Celebrate

ISRAEL @70 

Israel in the Park * June 10

50 Eisenhower Drive

cul de sac

Join the community and celebrate Israel's special 70th anniversary!

 **Jewish Federation**
OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

*Transforming
Lives Together*

jfnj.org/israel70 | 201.701.4958

THE WOB INVITES YOU TO

BROADWAY *Night*



Disney FROZEN THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

THE LEGENDARY ST. JAMES THEATRE
246 W 44TH ST, NEW YORK, NY

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018 - 7 PM

\$136/Ticket - Mid Mezzanine

Only 55 Tickets Available!

All Are Welcome!

FROZEN is intended for children at least 8 years old. All guests require a ticket regardless of age.

For younger children, consider one of these exciting Disney touring productions: Disney On Ice or Disney Live.

Learn more about
FROZEN the musical at
frozenthemusical.com.

For tickets, mail check (payable to BT Sisterhood) to:
Jennifer Sauer | 14 Blauvelt Ave. | Ramsey, NJ 07446

Your payment is your confirmation. Tickets will NOT be held and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't delay! This show is in high demand!

Questions? Contact Jennifer Sauer @ 917-417-0675.

Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey

invites you to

a moderated conversation with Author and

Chef Michael Solomonov

and Michal Levison, local cookbook author

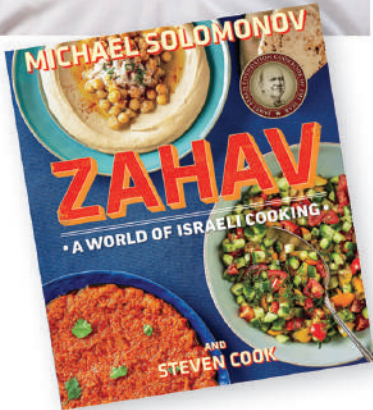
Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center

475 Grove St, Ridgewood

May 17, 2018 | 7 pm

\$18/ticket

Register today! www.jfnnj.org/oboc



A World of Israeli Cooking

CHEF MICHAEL SOLOMONOV is the Executive Chef/ Co-owner at Zahav, a modern Israeli restaurant that brings the authentic flavors of Israel's culture to Philadelphia. He is known for his extraordinary skill at transforming simple foods into artful culinary masterpieces and is widely regarded as one of the country's top chefs and entrepreneurs. He is the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Chef award by the James Beard Foundation.

Celebrate
ISRAEL
@70



Jewish Federation
OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

*Transforming
Lives Together*

Elisa J. Hirsch | elisah@jfnnj.org | 201-820-3918

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

a project of the Synagogue Leadership Initiative, is sponsored
by the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey and the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation.



Vision and Mission Statement The Barnert Temple Congregation B'nai Jeshurun Franklin Lakes, NJ

Welcome to the Barnert Temple.
This is our Vision and Mission.
We present these ideals as a declaration of
our purpose, to guide our priorities
and decisions, and to measure
the progress of our work together.

Our Vision

We are a welcoming Reform Jewish community,
connected by the realization that we are
part of something larger than ourselves,
continually striving to excel at opening doors
for ethical and spiritual growth.

Our Mission

The mission of the Barnert Temple
is to be a sacred community, a *kehillah kedoshah*,
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.

Our Core Values

The people of the Barnert Temple are guided
by these core values:

- Mutual respect for one another, *Derech Eretz*
- A partnership of members, leaders, staff and clergy, *Brit Shleimut*
- Love of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, *Klal Yisrael*
- Repair of our world, *Tikkun Olam*
- Questioning and seeking insight, *Rodef Chochmah*

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

Everyone Loves Them!

Support Women of Barnert!

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

Gift cards are perfect for

- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Graduations
- Wedding and Shower Gifts
- Long-Distance Gifts

Most gift cards can be used online.

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

Amazon.com	\$25
AMC Movies	\$25
Barnes & Noble	\$25
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$25
Bonefish/Outback/Carrabba's	\$25
BP Gas Cards	\$50
Chili's/Macaroni Grill/ On The Border/Maggianno's	\$25
Crate & Barrel	\$25
Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25
Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins	\$10
Gap/Banana Republic/Old Navy	\$25
Gulf Gas Cards	\$25
Lowe's	\$25
Macy's	\$25
Panera Bread	\$10
Shell Gas Cards	\$25
ShopRite	\$25 & \$100
Staples	\$25
Starbucks	\$25
Stop & Shop	\$25 & \$100
Subway	\$10
Target	\$25
Walmart	\$25 & \$100
Wendy's	\$10
Zappos	\$25

Checks made out to Barnert Temple Sisterhood or we
accept cash. To order, contact Amy Lynn at (201) 891-3993 or
amyllynn@optonline.net.

Pave the way

Individuals
Family
Community

CONGRATS
CONFIRMATION
CLASS OF 2020

MAZAL TOV
SUE & PETER
HAPPY 50TH

WE ♥ YOU
GRANDMA SADIE

Forever in Stone Engraved Pavers At the Center for Lifelong Learning

Paver size, 6" x 9"; cost is \$165 per paver. Maximum of 14 characters per line; spaces count as characters.

Line 1														
Line 2														
Line 3														
Line 4														

Paver size, 6" x 6"; cost is \$110 per paver. Maximum of 10 characters per line; spaces count as characters.

Line 1										
Line 2										
Line 3										

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

Inscription to be as follows:

Name

Occasion

Date

Donor (only for Rocks)

Purchased by:

Name

Address

Telephone Number

Tax-deductible check enclosed for _____

All gifts will be acknowledged.

For further information, contact Vicky Farhi at vfarhi@barnerttemple.org or (201) 848-1800).

Mail completed forms and payment to

Barnert Temple, 747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417.

February-March 2018 Donations

Associate Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Zackery Griffin

Beverly and Michael Blum	In Memory of
Carole and Peter Brodie	Arie Ben Zvi
Ruth Greenberg,	Edwin Levine
Marilyn and Tony Ferraiolo	
Ellyn and Patrick Loy	Richard Tauber
Randi and Scott Pomerantz	Ken Neumann
Beth and Joseph Valenti	Sandra Schwartz

In Memory of Renee Rakow

Karen and Todd Galinko
Pam and Jeff Himeles and Janie and Joel Rakow
Debbie Zlotowitz and Rick Greenberg

	In Honor of
Edith Katzourin	Rabbi Rachel Steiner

Barnert Garden Fund

	In Memory of
Susan Goodstadt-Levin and Bob Levin	Harry Goodstadt

Barnert Temple Community Support Fund

	In Memory of
Arlene and Howard Lemelson	Charles Adler

Barnert Temple Endowment Fund

	In Memory of
Susan Goodstadt-Levin and Robert Levin	Nathan Levin
Janet and Ted Lobsenz	Robert and Ellen Gutenstein
	Doris Lobsenz
Eileen and Wally Manheimer	Antoinette Manheimer

David Nalven Memorial Youth Education Fund

	In Memory of
Nalven-Krasnow family	Frieda Nalven

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
Miki Gurman and family	Robert Gutenstein
Lois and Martin Hochberg	Helen Robins
Susan and Richard Nashel	Robert Gutenstein

Helen Lee Mitzvah Fund

	In Memory of
Nancy, Al and Brenner Krone	Ira Richard
Jeffrey Lee	Bertha Cohn Lefkowitz
	Bernard Goldstein
	Betty Goldstein

Jed Haubenstock BarTY Fund

	In Memory of
Deborah Goodkin and Glenn Richard	Rose Goodkin

Lifelong Learning Fund

	In Memory of
Brynne and Roy Weber	Pearl and Louis Falkenstein

Mount Nebo Cemetery Beautification Fund

	In Memory of
Sylvia and Dick Ellin	Ida Rose
	George Kroll
Adrienne and Howard Feltman	Herman Haimowicz
Susan and Richard Kuller	George Kroll
Shansky family	George Cieser
Neil Share, MD and Jennifer Share	Elisse Share

In Memory of Mike Becker

Barnert Temple Men's Club
Benjamin/Howard family
Claire Cupo
Sylvia and Dick Ellin
Carol and Gary Epstein
Karen and Todd Galinko
Trish and Mitchell Hausman
Katie and Les Ivany
Ilene and Steven Kandler
Sue, Rolf, Jacob and Danny Klein
Susan and Richard Kuller
Florette and Ron Lynn
Darlene and Alan Mintz
Jane and Bob Morais
Susan and Richard Nashel
Michelle and Joe Rosenthal
Sarit Rothman
Neil Share and Jennifer Share
Beth and Joseph Valenti
Gail White
Debbie Zlotowitz and Rick Greenberg

Oneg Shabbat Fund

	In Memory of
Rappaport/Solomon family	Alice Solomon
Debbie and Peter Till	Trude Ortenau
	Sheila Robbins
Susan and Jeffrey Wild	Stanley Wild

	In Honor of
Arenstein family	Emma's Bat Mitzvah
Jenifer and David Hexter	Gabriel's Bar Mitzvah
Silverman family	Carli's Bat Mitzvah

(Continued on next page)

February-March 2018 Donations (From previous page)

Pavers

Alan Tompesku

In Memory of
Walter Tompesku

Alanna and Scott Arenstein

In Honor of
Emma's *Bat Mitzvah*

Prayer Book Fund

Audrey and Wilbert Lissak
Lenni and Robert Puritz
Cipora Schwartz

In Memory of
Morris Lissak
Gilbert Dorfman
Mike Becker

Pulpit Flower Fund

Patti, Steve and Harrison Bieth

In Memory of
Herbert Harrison
Joyce Harrison
Barbara Krieger Ringler
Jacqueline Krieger Klein

Marian and Tom Filan

Bobbie Jodre and
Ken Gardner

Ben Gardner
Len Samuels
Henry Kress
Yetta Folkman
Charles Folkman
Audrey Miller Poritzky
Frieda Nalven
George Cieser
Alice Solomon
Hilda and Martin Reiter
Robert Gutenstein

Anne and Andrew Kanter
Rita and Marty Kron

Amy and Robert Miller
Nalven and Krasnow families
Shansky family
Rappaport/Solomon family
Reiter family

Neil Share and Jennifer Share
Shulman family
Debbie and Peter Till

Elisse Share
Steve Wener
Trude Ortenau
Sheila Robbins
Vetaly Terletsky

Vera and Lubomir Terletsky
Debbie Zlotowitz and
Rick Greenberg
Shirley Zlotowitz,
Zlotowitz/Greenberg family,
Feinberg family, and
Robin Zlotowitz

Sheldon Greenberg

Frieda and Max Masef

Arenstein family
Jenifer and David Hexter
Silverman family

In Honor of
Emma's *Bat Mitzvah*
Gabriel's *Bar Mitzvah*
Carli's *Bat Mitzvah*

Rabbi Martin Freedman URJ Camp Scholarship Fund

Arlene and Howard Lemelson
Cipora Schwartz

In Memory of
Roslyn Yuran
Margolis Odentz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barbara and Henry Abrash
Carin and Selwyn Cooperman

In Memory of
Sarah Abrash
Selma Kirschner
Albert Cooperman

Beth and David Greenwald
Miki Gurman and family

Joan Hartman
Norma and Seymour Hurwitz
Barbara Miller
Susan and Richard Nashel

Miki Gurman

Social Action Fund

Joan Cowlan
Jill Edelson
Fran and Bob Kaufmann

Alan Kessler
Lenni and Robert Puritz
Elizabeth and Larry Resnick
Cipora Schwartz

In Memory of Renee Rakow

Janet Finke
Elizabeth and Larry Resnick
Cipora Schwartz

Janet Finke
Fran and Rabbi Don Rossoff

Women of Barnert

Joan Cowlan
Ruth Schack

Yahrzeit Fund

Susan Adleman
Martha and Jim Baum
Margie and Mike Buckweitz
Carol and Sam Cassell
Eleanor Doblin
Ellen and Reid Fader
and family
Gayle and Mel Gerstein
Ruth Greenberg
Miki Gurman
Barbara and Steven Kiel

Laurie and Steven Kluger
Ronnie and Larry Levine
Susan and Jonathan Miller
Randi and Mark Seffinger
Arlene Strigo
Florence Teich
Joyce Unger
Shirley Zlotowitz

Howard Greenwald
Sheldon Gurman
Sheila Weiss
Alan Hartman
William Borson
Florence Lowenstein
Renee Rakow

In Honor of
Rabbi Don Rossoff

In Memory of
Steven R. Kates
Margaret Edelson
Marjorie Weil
Tessie Kaufmann
Patricia Davis
Sophie Puritz
Robert Gutenstein
Norma Levy

In Honor of
Matthew Miller's *Bar Mitzvah*
Marty Kron

In Memory of
Bertram Cowlan
Louis Rosenbaum

In Memory of
William Adleman
Renee Rakow
Paula Schleimer
Beatrice Cassell
A. Doblin

Joyce Fader
Frank Gerstein
Alvin Greenberg
Sheila Weiss
Sara Jean Kiel
Richard Kiel
Eleanor Kluger
Harriet Mintz
Evelyn Miller
Donald Seffinger
Bob Strigo
Max Cohen
Louis Lappin
Fried and Max Masef

May 2018 16 Iyar 5778 – 17 Sivan 5778

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* Rabbi Rossoff's Class ♦ Rabbi Steiner's Class § Rabbi Soffin's Class ^ Sara Losch's Class</p>		<p>1 9:15 am Making Sense in Confusing Times* JJPBT 8th/9th Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation 7:30 pm Meeting for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in May-June 2019</p>	<p>2 JJPBT</p>	<p>3 LAG BA'OMER</p>	<p>4 7 pm Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper</p>	<p>5 Emor Lev. 21:1-24:23 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Torah Study* 7 pm WOB/MC/ Social Committee/ Preschool Cinco De Mayo (Off-site)</p>
<p>6 9 am Junior Choir JJPBT LEV Class — Torah</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Last Tuesday JJPBT Last 8th/9th Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation</p>	<p>9 JJPBT 7:30 pm Women of Barnert Board and Nominations</p>	<p>10 7:30 pm Talmud Study§</p>	<p>11 Preschool Special Guest Shabbat 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal 8 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>12 Bahar/Bechukotai Lev. 25:1-27:34 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh^ 10 am Gabriel Hexter B/M BarTY Color War</p>
<p>13 MOTHER'S DAY</p>	<p>14 Last Post Confirmation 7:30 pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p>15 9:15 am Making Sense in Confusing Times* Confirmation</p>	<p>16 Last Wednesday JJPBT</p>	<p>17 7 pm WOB Mah Jongg</p>	<p>18 5 pm Tot Shabbat and Pizza Dinner 8 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>19 Bamidbar Num. 1:1-4:20 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Shabbat Yoga 8 pm Havdalah and Yizkor Tikun L'Shavuot EREV SHAVUOT</p>
<p>20 SHAVUOT 9:30 am Confirmation Ceremony</p>	<p>21 Preschool Teacher Appreciation Lunch 6:30 pm Networking: Abby Kohut 7:30 pm WOB Knit Night</p>	<p>22 Men's Shelter 8 pm Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 7:30 pm Executive Committee</p>	<p>24 7:30 pm Talmud Study§</p>	<p>25 8 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>26 Naso Num. 4:21-7:89</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 MEMORIAL DAY No Preschool Office Closed</p>	<p>29 8 pm Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

June 2018 18 Sivan 5778 – 17 Tammuz 5778

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Rabbi Rossoff's Class ♦ Rabbi Steiner's Class § Rabbi Soffin's Class ^ Sara Losch's Class					1 *8:05 pm 7 pm Farewell Rabbi Rossoff Shabbat Service with Worship Band and Potluck Supper	2 B'haalot'cha Num. 8:1-12:16 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Torah Study* 9:30 am Shabbat Yoga 10 am Daniel Garland B/M BarTY Event (Off-site)
3 Celebrate Israel Parade	4	5 7 pm Men's Club BBQ and Awards Dinner	6	7	8 *8:09 pm Last Olam Baby Class Last Shabbat Tot Last Day Shabbat in the Forest 8 pm Shabbat Service Honoring High School Graduates	9 Shelach Num. 13:1-15:41 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Torah Study* 10 am Amanda Miller B/M
10 Congregational Meeting	11 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal	12 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal	13 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal	14 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal	15 *8:12 pm 9 am Fantastics Graduation 10:30 am Little Sprouts Moving-Up 10:30 am Rising Stars Moving-Up 10:30 am Big Shots Moving-Up 8 pm Shabbat Service	16 Korach Num. 16:1-18:32 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh^ 10 am Emma Arenstein B/M
17 FATHER'S DAY	18 Club Vacation	19 Club Vacation	20 Club Vacation	21 Club Vacation	22 *8:14 pm Club Vacation	23 Chukat Num. 19:1-22:1 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 10 am Rory Kopelman B/M
24	25 First Day of Camp Barnert 6:30 pm Networking: Alex Freund	26 Men's Shelter	27	28	29 *8:15 pm 7 pm First Summer Shabbat Service	30 Balak Num. 22:2-25:9

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Nathan Barnert Memorial Temple
747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
www.barnerttemple.org



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Rabbi Rachel Steiner
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Vicky Farhi, Executive Director (201) 848-1800
vfarhi@barnerttemple.org

Sara Losch, Director of Lifelong Learning (201) 848-1027
welvkds@barnerttemple.org

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

Mt. Nebo Cemetery (973) 373-0144
Sanford B. Epstein Inc.

**TIME
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Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, May 3
LAG BA'OMER

Friday, May 4
**Shabbat Service and
Potluck Supper** 7 pm

Saturday, May 5
**WOB/MC/Social Committee/
Preschool Cinco De Mayo** 7 pm

Sunday, May 13
MOTHER'S DAY

Friday, May 18
**Tot Shabbat and
Pizza Dinner** 5 pm

Saturday, May 19
**EREV SHAVUOT
Havdalah, Yizkor,
Tikun L'Shavuot** 8 pm

Sunday, May 20
**SHAVUOT
Confirmation Ceremony** 9:30 am

Monday, May 28
**MEMORIAL DAY
No Preschool
Office Closed**

Friday, June 1
**Farewell Rabbi Rossoff
Shabbat Service
with Worship Band and
Potluck Supper** 7 pm

Sunday, June 3
Celebrate Israel Parade

Sunday, June 10
Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 17
FATHER'S DAY

Monday, June 25
1st Day of Camp Barnert

Friday, June 29
1st Summer Shabbat Service 7 pm