April-May-June 2019 barnerttemple.org







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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

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A Message From Rabbi Rachel Steiner

Revelation: Torah in action



This is the season of stories, of freedom, of Revelation. As we head into the spring months, we connect again with the story and traditions of Passover. We recall the long journey to freedom, the many miracles that surround us, and our obligation to work to ensure the freedom of people everywhere. (On April 14, I will explore a few favorite sections of the Passover *seder* with you

and offer some tools for leading your own family *seders*. There is more information on that opportunity in this magazine.)

This leads us to *Shavuot*, the yearly re-enactment of Revelation: receiving *Torah*. The obligation to work for equal rights and freedom of all people is direct — there is so much need. But figuring out the modern-day application of receiving *Torah* can be a bit more abstract. Yes, our tradition teaches that each of us stood at Sinai to receive *Torah*. And yes, the *Torah* is meant to be the guiding text for Jews of all ages and stages. So how do we honor our end of the covenant we reaffirm each year on *Shavuot*?

The great news is that the possibilities are practically endless. We can perform ritual *mitzvot*: lighting *Shabbat* or holiday candles, participating in a Passover *seder*, hanging a *mezuzah* on the doorpost(s) of our home. (I can help with this if you want or need!) We can perform ethical *mitzvot*: giving *tzedakah*, donating food or goods to those with fewer resources, attending a rally or advocating on behalf of an issue we believe will help make the world more whole and hospitable. This is how we repair the world (*tikkun olam*)!

In early March, a group of Barnert Temple high school students spent a long weekend in Washington, D.C., with hundreds of Reform Jewish teens from around the country, learning about how to bring *Torah* to life in just this way. They participated in the Religious Action Center's *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar. (*L'taken* is the Hebrew verb to repair, the same root as the word *"tikkun"* in *tikkun olam*.) The RAC is the social action arm of the Reform Movement in North America.

One of the most important programs they run is this four-day seminar which gives teens the knowledge and tools they need to write effective, persuasive, and Jewishlobbying speeches on a topic of their choice that they then deliver to the offices of their elected officials on Capitol Hill. The speeches included in the following pages, which were delivered live in the offices of Senator Cory Booker, Representative Josh Gottheimer, and Representative Mikie Sherrill, demonstrate the knowledge gained and the passion communicated by our own Barnert young people. They made us very proud. And they remind us that, in this period of honoring our foundational stories and our *Torah*, we make the world better.

Barnert Temple is able to subsidize this trip

because of an anonymous donor who believes so deeply in supporting transformative Jewish youth experiences at Barnert. We are so grateful for this gift.

As you read the work

of our young people, I hope you will try to identify one way that you will make *Torah* alive in your life. If you're not sure where to start, call me and we can figure it out together!

Climate Change – Noah Frank and Ben Schack

Delivered in the office of Representative Josh Gottheimer

Hi, my name is Noah Frank, I am Ben Schack, and we appreciate the time you have given us to talk about an issue that is very important to us: climate change.

The world is getting warmer, and America is one of the main contributors to this problem. Although America is home to only 5% of the world's population, we have produced almost one-third of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions since the industrial revolution, and only 10% of the electricity used in the US is renewable. This is a massive problem with the world's rapidly rising temperatures, which are causing more and more destruction nationally and internationally in the form of abnormally severe weather conditions such as hurricanes Florence and Michael, the California wildfires in November of 2018, heat waves, *(Continued on next page)*

Climate Change (From previous page)

floods, droughts, and major impacts on respiratory and cardiovascular health. America is looked up to by other countries as a leader, and we need to be at the head of stopping non-natural climate change, and ensuring that the world will be hospitable for generations to come.

The world is very important to the Jewish people. Genesis 2:15 says that "God took the man, and placed him in the Garden of Eden to till it and tend it." The *Torah* says that we have to tend the land, which means that we have to protect it. Moreover, the concept of *bal tashchit*, "do not destroy," derived from Deuteronomy, does say that we must not destroy. If we cannot destroy the world, then we can only save it. We must protect the earth we live on because it has given us so much. Additionally, Jews are advocates of social justice and we cannot stand idly by while people are being harmfully affected by climate change.

In my freshman, sophomore, and junior years of



high school, my parents took me to all the places they had never been able to go to as kids. These trips included visits to Yellowstone, Arches, Zion, Denali, and Grand Teton national parks. While visiting these parks, I developed a great appreciation for the wild places in America, and learned everything I could about them. It saddened me to learn that a large number of national parks in the US and its territories have been experiencing heat

waves and dry spells almost twice as severe as the rest of the United States. These hotter temperatures are especially harmful in places such as Alaska, where 63% of all the national park area is located. Many of these parks are very delicate ecosystems, and are more harshly effected by rising temperatures than the rest of America. If these changes in the climate are not stabilized, the snow will continue to melt in larger quantities, making the parks unrecognizable to future generations. I want to be able to take my children to these parks, and show them the beauty, wonder, and rich national history that my parents showed me. If we do not stop climate change, future generations of children will never be able to experience these things.

We urge Representative Josh Gottheimer to co-sponsor the 100 by '50 Act, H.R.3314 in the 116th Congress, when it is reintroduced in the House. This legislation addresses negative impacts of climate change and fossil fuel. The 100 by '50 Act will help move us into our energy future and prevent impending catastrophic climate change. Additionally, this act creates grants for expansion of clean public transit, it helps ensure that individuals and communities that currently rely on fossil fuel jobs are not economically decimated, and it provides tax credits for renewable energy usage and zero-emission cars. This act will help America run off energy that is 100% renewable by 2050. Thank you for giving us your time and we hope you support this act.

Criminal Justice Reform – Nate Frank and Elly Kaplan

Delivered in the office of Representative Josh Gottheimer

Good Morning, I'm Elly Kaplan and this is Nate Frank and we are from Barnert Temple. We'd like to start by thanking you for voting in favor of the First Step Act because we believe that this act will lead to a safer and less-biased system. By banning the shackling of pregnant women and solitary confinement for children, the First Step Act goes a long way to making the prison system a safer environment. However, we believe that this truly is only the first step in improving the criminaljustice system.

Stories and footage from police stops, frisks, and use of violence have shed light on the many problems in law enforcement procedures and on the disparate and deadly impacts of these problems on the minority population. During traffic stops, blacks and Latinos are three times more likely to be searched than their white counterparts. On average every one in three blacks born today will serve time in prison while only one in every 17 white men will. Overcriminalization and mass incarceration have overwhelmingly affected people of color. Too often, law enforcement use race, ethnicity, religion, and national origin as a reason to conduct frisks, searches, and arrests.

When a 15-year-old black young man living in New York City was caught by police officers for jumping the turnstile and for possession of a gram of marijuana in the subways of Brooklyn, he was sentenced to 40 years in an adult prison. While he was serving his time in prison, he endured harsh solitary confinement and unlawful treatments. When I was in New York City last month, I realized I had left my MetroCard at home and I would miss the subway if I went back to get it. It was not until *(Continued on next page)*

Criminal Justice (From previous page)

after I had jumped the turnstile that I realized a patrol officer had been in the station. I continued making my way to the subway and eventually was able to board the subway without any confrontation from the officer. If I



was a black male, I would have been confronted and most likely arrested for my actions.

In Leviticus, there is a text that states, "You are not to commit corruption injustice; do not favor the poor or show deference to the rich; judge your kin fairly." It shouldn't matter what race, religion or nationality a person is. When faced with law enforcement, every person has the right to not be subject to biased accusations. This is why we urge

you to reintroduce the End Racial Profiling Act, which would create a federal prohibition against profiling, and provide funding for training and retraining law enforcement officials on how to discontinue and prevent the use of profiling. All in all this act would add another step towards discontinuing racially biased injustice in our criminal system.

We would like to thank you for your time to meet with us today.

Gun Violence Prevention – Justin Giberson and Corinne Robak

Delivered in the office of Representative Mikie Sherrill

Good Morning, Representative Sherrill. My name is Justin Giberson and this is Corinne Robak, and today we are here representing the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. For the past three days, the program has been preparing us to come in front of our representatives and voice what we think is one of the biggest issues facing the American people today. We have decided that the issue we want to lobby on is the absurd amount of gun violence in our schools and the country. We are here to discuss the bill S.42, The Background Check Expansion Act. We are not here to advocate for the complete removal of firearms from American society. As someone who has shot firearms, I can see why people want to keep their guns, and with the American government being a system that tends to focus on the screams at the polar ends of the political spectrum, I can see why many people are scared that all of their guns will be taken away. We are not here to advocate for that, we are here to try and find a way to get guns out of the hands of violent people, and lower the breathtaking statistic that 30,000 people a year are killed by gun violence. That's about 82 people per day, which is more than the daily average of Americans killed during the Vietnam War. Everyone in America can agree that the Vietnam War was a tragedy, and the consequences were tremendous. Our current situation when it regards to gun violence is also a tragedy of

enormous proportions. Many of the people who are adamant opponents of bills that will strengthen background checks have good intentions. They think that with the passing of



these small bills, a landslide effect will occur and before they know it, the Second Amendment will be removed from the Constitution. Currently, I plan on continuing my education to college, and then on to law school. I have a deep respect for the Constitution and believe that the American people should obey its laws, but something has to change. I have personally been affected by the nightmarish Parkland shooting in February of last year. In a Jewish teen organization that I attend over the year, I meet many people that live throughout the United States, including a girl from Parkland, Florida. When I got the news that there was a shooting in the school that she attended, my thoughts immediately turned to the worst. The thought that I could lose a friend in an instant scared me to no end. Thankfully she survived, but the knowledge that so many teens — some of them her own friends — were slaughtered because of a lack of action taken by people in the community angered me. I want to make a difference in the lives of my fellow students, and knowing your/Congress's women's history (Continued on next page)

Gun Violence (From previous page)

in the armed services, I know that you want to make a positive change in any way possible.

The Tanach, which is the Jewish Bible, mentions on multiple occasions reasons why weapons must be used thoughtfully in situations of war. The prophet Isaiah explains that we, the people, are commanded to avoid destructive weapons and to embrace initiatives that benefit our society. Isaiah taught us to "beat swords into plow shares and [our] spears into pruning hooks." Our prophet encourages us to use our weapons only in

instances that we can be sure will not unnecessarily harm our society. When we turn a weapon into a tool for farming, we do something that creates and sustains. And, if we need a weapon again, it will be hard work — they are not sitting around, waiting to be used. We



would have to turn the tools for farming back into tools for harming.

Under the United States' current laws, roughly 22% of guns are sold by unlicensed sellers. This increases the potential that dangerous people may gain easy access to firearms. It is also possible to acquire a gun with no background checks in certain venues. Personally, I believe that people who want to buy a gun must have a background check and that those who do not pass a background check should not be able to purchase a gun. When someone chooses to carry a gun they must meet certain requirements; if these requirements are not met, the person is not reliable enough to hold a deadly weapon. We know that Representative Sherrill supports criminal background checks, a ban on assault weapons and bump stocks, and that she supports red flag laws. The S.42 Background Check Expansion Act will enforce the needed safety for our country. The bill will promote safety and hope for our futures. We are asking you, Representative Sherrill, to please vote to pass this bill in order to ensure a safer world for us. Thank you, Representative Sherrill, for meeting with us and all you have done for this country. The people of our district greatly appreciate you, and I look forward to seeing what great change you will make in the future.

Reproductive Rights – Alyssa Blendy and Olivia Pincus

Delivered in the offices of Senator Cory Booker and Representative Josh Gottheimer

Hello, we are Alyssa Blendy and Olivia Pincus, from Barnert Temple in New Jersey, advocating for the EACH Woman Act with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Americans have a constitutional right to have an abortion, given the right to privacy in the Fourteenth Amendment. The Hyde Amendment puts restriction on this right by prohibiting federal dollars from going to abortion services except in cases of rape or incest, or when the pregnant person's life is in danger. This has mostly affected individuals who rely on Medicaid for health care, as well as individuals in the armed forces; and one in five women of reproductive age rely on Medicaid for health insurance.

As Jews, the *Torah* tells us that the life of a woman comes before the life of a fetus. The *Torah* distinguishes between the value of the life of the fetus and the life of the

mother. In Exodus, we are told that if someone causes a pregnant woman to miscarry by pushing her, the person is responsible for paying a fine, while if the push causes the woman herself to die, "the penalty shall be life for life." The differing punishments distinguishes between taking the life of the fetus versus that of the mother, giving more value to the life of the mother.



Not having safe and affordable access to abortion directly contradicts this. There are many cases where an abortion is crucial for a medical issue that can be harmful or even fatal for the woman.

In seventh grade, my teacher gave us a memorable lesson. She demonstrated how to put on a condom using a zucchini. My classmates and I were so embarrassed, and covered our red faces with our sweatshirts. While in the moment I wished I was literally anywhere else besides there, I now realize that I was (Continued on next page)

Reproductive Rights (From previous page)

given a gift that not everyone in our country has: the gift of sex education. I feel very lucky to have so many resources for this information. When I came to high school, we had health class, and my mom gave me the sex talk,

and my rabbi gave my Hebrew school class the sex talk. I have had it at least four times; some kids do not even get it once.

My religion also has a lot to do with this. I have many friends whose parents will not even mention sex or consider getting contraceptives for their sexually active children. I know if I were to get pregnant and decide to terminate it, that I have the emotional and financial resources to do so. Living in

New Jersey there is much better access than there is in many other states. This is great for me, but there are many people who do not have the same access, with some states only having one abortion clinic in the entire

state. By passing the EACH Women Act, you have the power to help. This act will make a big impact on lowincome communities where they rely on government healthcare. With the Hyde Amendment in place, federal



healthcare does not cover abortion expenses. In 1973, Roe v. Wade declared that access to a safe abortion is a right that everyone has. Since then that right has been eroded. This is our chance to make a difference.

We'd like to thank Congressman Gottheimer and Senator Booker for their unequivocal support of reproductive rights and urge them to co-sponsor the EACH Woman Act when it is reintroduced in the 116th Congress. The bill

would repeal the Hyde Amendment and guarantee that every person who receives care or insurance through a federal plan will have coverage for abortion.

Thank you for taking this time to listen to us today.

A Message From Sara Losch

The best version of ourselves



As my children were growing, I wondered: what would they say that I've taught them? Can they reflect on any specific values to contribute to me? Was I specific about how I think life should be lived? And more, am I living a life that models these values?

Judaism provides us with mitzvot (commandments/ obligations) and middot (moral teachings and values), that

help act as our "internal GPS." Stuck? Confused? At a fork in life's road? Judaism has a teaching to help you choose the right direction. Feeling unsure about how to react to a friend who has made you angry? Another Jewish teaching about giving the benefit of the doubt can guide you through your uncertainty.

There is a famous *Chassidic* teaching that we've studied here many times. It says: "Each morning when you wake up, you should put two pieces of paper in your pocket. When you are feeling all-too-full of yourself, remove and read the one that reminds you: 'I am but dust and ash.' But on days when you are down about yourself, not feeling

worthwhile, remove and read the other that teaches: 'The world was created for me.'"

Judaism helps us find balance.

Through the study and practice of *mitzvot* and *middot*, we can live the best version of ourselves, one that is balanced, regulated and fair, and which helps us engage meaningfully with the larger world. The important thing for us, as adults, is to live a life of values, and also to share with our children what those values are. Identify WHY you give found money to *tzedakah* rather than keeping and spending it. Explain why you try (though it is so difficult) not to lie. Teach children how your family responds to big world issues. Validate and commend children for doing things the Jewish way.

In our preschool and our Jewish Journey Project Barnert Temple (JJP), in our *Ma'ayan* 8th/9th-grade program, in Confirmation Class and Post-Confirmation Class, our teachers, Rabbi Steiner and I strive to give our students Jewish tools to help them confidently navigate life, at different ages, with distinctly different challenges.

From what I see in my time with our students, Jewish teachings and committed, great teachers teaming with great parents, are doing a pretty great job!

Sara Losch

Come Home to Barnert and Learn with Your Community! Barnert Temple 5779 Adult Education

Shabbat Learning Opportunities



Torah Study. Rabbi Rachel Steiner. Saturdays, April 13 and May 11, at 9 am. Enjoy a highly engaging exploration of the *Torah* portion of the week. We will begin our study and discussion at 9 am. Discover the relevance

of *Torah* as we interpret it and bring it to life. On the weeks when we are holding a *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* service, Rabbi Steiner will leave *Torah* Study at 10 am, and the group may choose to continue the discussion. New friends are always welcome, and no prior study is necessary. Coffee, tea, and a nosh will be provided.



Rosh Chodesh. Sara Losch, Director of Lifelong Learning. Saturdays, April 6 and May 4, at 9:30 am.

Experience the rituals and spirituality of *Rosh Chodesh*, which marks the beginning of

the new month. A monthly Barnert experience just for women, when we celebrate and learn together, sharing joy, wisdom and camaraderie. *Rosh Chodesh* takes place most months at Sara Losch's Wyckoff home in "the cabin." We take turns bringing breakfast.



Shabbat Yoga. Rachel Dewan. Saturdays, April 27, May 18

and June 15, at 9:30 am. In *Shabbat* Yoga the physical and the spiritual meet in exhilaration. Every level of experience is welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and bring your own mat.

Ongoing Adult Education Classes



Talmud Study. Rabbi Joel Soffin. Thursdays, April 11, May 2 and 16, and June 6, 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* Study classes, no prior study or knowledge is necessary.



Sunday Mornings with Rabbi Rachel Steiner. Sunday, May 5, at 9:30 am. So many topics; so little time! Rabbi Steiner is excited to explore a variety of subjects in her Sunday Adult Education classes this year. Some topics being considered:

- Jewish views on death and the afterlife
- Caring for an aged or infirm loved one while taking care of yourself
- God: for believers, non-believers and everyone in between
- Jewish Holiday Happenings
- Parenting with a Jewish voice
- Jewish Lifecycles
- Prayer: what do our prayers mean, and to whom or what are they directed?

Do you have a topic you'd like to explore with Rabbi Steiner? Please let her know! Join for every class or just the ones you're drawn to!

Shabbat Worship with 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! On the first Friday of each month, the 7 pm service is followed by a potluck supper. (Please note that Friday-evening services that were at 8 pm in the past are now at 7:30 pm and the Saturday morning services are now at 10:30 am.)

Friday, April 5 7 pm Service and Potluck Supper

Saturday, April 6 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh 10:30 am Service, Bar Mitzvah of Noah Kochman

Friday, April 12 7:30 pm Service

Saturday, April 13 9:30 am Torah Study, Parshat M'tzora 10:30 am Service, Bat Mitzvah of Emily Bernstein

Friday, April 26 7 pm *Shabbat* Service with *Yizkor*

Saturday, April 27 9:30 am *Shabbat* Yoga

Friday, May 3 7 pm Service and Potluck Supper Saturday, May 4 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh 10:30 am Service, Bat Mitzvah of Morgan Wickwire

Friday, May 10 5 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Israel Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 11 9:30 am Torah Study, Parshat K'doshim 10:30 am Service, Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Schack

Friday, May 17 7:30 pm Service led by Sisterhood and Men's Club

Saturday, May 18 9:30 am *Shabbat* Yoga 10:30 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah* of Krystal Mason

Friday, May 24 7:30 pm Service Friday, May 31 7:30 pm Service

Saturday, June 1 10:30 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah* of Mia Kaplan

Friday, June 7 7 pm Service and Potluck Supper

Saturday, June 8 10:30 am Service, *Bat Mitzvah* of Alyson Yeshion

Friday, June 14 7:30 pm Service

Saturday, June 15 9:30 am *Shabbat* Yoga

Friday, June 21 7 pm First Summer Service

Friday, June 28 7 pm Service

Barnert Tempos Performance in Paramus

On February 14, our very own Barnert Tempos (Jr. Choir) performed a concert of love songs for the residents of Harmony Village, an assisted-living community in Paramus. Residents listened and sang along to familiar songs such as "Stand by Me," "Can't Help Falling in Love," and "What a Wonderful World." Our performance was very well received!

If you are interested in learning more about our Junior Choir, please contact Marina at mezzomarina@gmail.com.



Passover 2019

Friday, April 19: 1st seder (no Shabbat Service that evening)
Saturday, April 20: 2nd seder
Friday, April 26, 7 pm: Shabbat Service with Yizkor

As each of us begins to plan for our first *seder* on Friday, April 19, please take a moment

Preparing for Passover

Passover is one of the major festivals of the Jewish year which is primarily observed in the home. Preparations for Passover are based on our tradition and the decisions we make as Reform Jews. While challenging, these preparations can also offer time for reflection. Here are some thoughts on how to prepare your home for Passover in a meaningful way.

During Passover, we refrain from *chametz*, otherwise known as leavened foods. This is based on the Israelites fleeing their homes and not having time to properly bake bread. Traditionally, homes are cleaned of anything containing *chametz*. It's a great time to clean out cabinets, pantries, refrigerators and freezers. Toss what's old, donate what's current.

What is *chametz*? *Chametz* is food prepared from any of the five species of grain — wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye — that have been allowed to leaven. Customarily, we understand this to be bread,

pasta, baked goods. Additionally, there are two views of what *chametz* is: Ashkenazi (Eastern European origin) and Sephardic (Mediterranean origin). Ashkenazi Jews also consider rice, millet, corn and legumes, known as *kitniyot*, to be *chametz* as these food items could be confused with grain. Sephardic practice does not include *kitniyot* in its definition and is more the norm in Israel.

Once your house is cleared of *chametz*, the cabinets, counters, refrigerators, oven, dishwasher and all rooms are scrubbed as well. Passover preparations are probably the basis for a terrific spring cleaning! Traditionally, dishes and

to consider participating in our annual *Seder* Match-Up.

If you would like to join another family for the first *seder*, or can host another family for the first seder, please contact Lori in the Temple

seder, please contact Lori in the Temple Office at (201) 848-1800 or loris1847@barnerttemple.org.

utensils are changed for dedicated Passover items or they are cleaned in such a way that rids the *chametz* that may have stuck to them. As Reform Jews, we determine after learning about our traditions which observances we feel have meaning and connect us to our Jewish identity.

There is an alternate observance many use. Rather than cleaning the cabinets, they are tied shut and not used during Passover. You can make "Not For Passover" stickers for your cabinet doors.

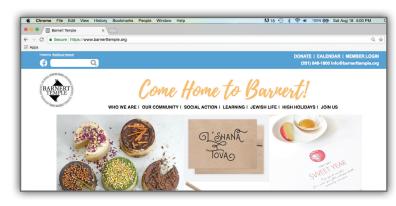


Bedikat chametz is a lovely custom, especially fun to share with children, which is performed after sundown on the night before Passover. A formal search for leaven is done using a candlelight or flashlight, a small bag to hold crumbs, and a feather sweep them up. A blessing is said, and the following morning, the leaven is burned (*biur chametz*). No *chametz* is eaten after this

ritual until the end of Passover.

Of course, the *seder*, which takes place at home, is the central ritual of Passover. While the *seder(s)* occur at the beginning of Passover, we continue the observance of a *chametz*-free home and diet through the full seven days. We eat *matzah* for seven days. What a beautiful reminder that we were once slaves, but were freed and now choose what to accomplish with our many freedoms.

For more information on preparing for Passover, including rituals, family activities, and articles, please check out Reform Judaism's Passover page.



A New Website

A new year. A new rabbi. A newly designed atrium. New families joining us. And now, to help keep us all informed and connected... A NEW WEBSITE!

The new and engaging website was officially launched after the High Holidays. You can take a look at its design and elements now!

www.BarnertTemple.org



Order Your Haggadah Now!

The first Passover *seder* is Friday, April 19. We know you will want to have *haggadot* for your *seder*. We'll make it easy for you. We'll have available for purchase two types of *haggadot*.

A Passover Haggadah. This is the adult version that is easy to use.

A Children's Haggadah. This is a children's version. It is especially designed to be accessible by youngsters and to be meaningful as well.

Please use the form below to order. Make your checks payable to Barnert Temple, and send your form to the Temple Office by April 5.

Haggadah Order Form

Name	

PASSOVER

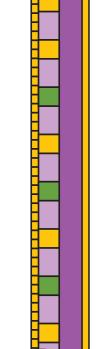
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Address_

Phone Number_

Type of Haggadah	Quantity Ordered	Price	Cost
A Passover Haggadah		@ \$17 each	\$
A Children's Haggadah		@ \$17 each	\$
Total Cost			\$





Spring Social Action Squad Events

Mark your calendars!



APRIL Sunday, April 14, 9:30 am to 2 pm Spring Blood Drive

Give the gift of life! Donate blood! Go to https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/sponsor_code and use group code 68257 or contact Amy Lynn at amymlynn@optonline.net.

Sunday, April 21, 11 am Wake up the Barnert Garden!

Join Seth Haubenstock and Eileen Roman to wake up our garden and prepare for spring planting! No experience necessary; just bring your green thumbs.

MAY Sunday, May 5, 1:30 pm Toiletry-Packing Event

AMPDOO

From March through early May, we are collecting toiletries and toiletry bags for the women at Center for Hope & Safety, a charitable organization that supports victims of domestic abuse. On May 5, following the Social Action Brunch, we will gather together with Toby Robinson and fill the toiletry bags for the women, who really appreciate them. We had a great turnout last year!



Friday eve, May 31 Iftar and Potluck

Please join us as we invite our Muslim friends to share a potluck supper for *Iftar*, the meal eaten by Muslims after sunset during *Ramadan*. At previous gatherings, the meals have been absolutely delicious, and the company engaging and friendly.

JUNE

Wednesday June 12, 2 to 3 pm Calling All Cooks!



CUMAC is holding cooking sessions every Wednesday afternoon to teach how to cook healthy dishes. They provide the recipes, but they need volunteers to

lead people through the steps. Nothing complicated!



Barnert Temple Advocacy in Action Speakers Spark Interest to Learn More about Refugees, Immigrants, and How to Help

by Sue Klein, Chair Social Action Advocacy, Education, Inspiration and Action

Immigrating to the United States can be complicated. Headlines spark fear and misunderstanding. It's hard to know what to believe and how to help.

Over the last year, the number of refugees and displaced people across the world has grown to more than 68 million — the worst refugee crisis in history. Judaism teaches us we must respond.

On February 10, Social Action, Sisterhood, and the Men's Club brought in experts to illuminate the challenges faced by immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world who are seeking legal entry and resettlement in America.

The morning began with an informative program about the legal pathways for "Coming to America," presented by David Nachman, Esq, a U.S. and Canadian immigration and nationality law specialist and one of the managing attorneys at the Nachman Phulwani Zimovcak (NPZ) Law Group, P.C., an international immigration law firm.



David Nachman, Esq, a recognized authority on business and corporate immigration law, provided an in-depth look at the immigration system — its history and progression, and the current twists and turns on the "Road to the Green Card" faced by those who wish to come to America.



Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer, Director of Education for Community Engagement at HIAS, engaged participants in discussion about Jewish texts that explore the meanings of ger (stranger), the Jewish imperative to welcome the stranger, and how to reconcile fear of the other.

Next, attendees addressed the "Global Refugee Crisis" with Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer, Director of Education for Community Engagement at HIAS. HIAS, which was founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in 1881 to aid Jewish refugees, is now one of nine refugeeresettlement agencies helping people from all religions and nationalities. At their height, they resettled 110,000 refugees in one year. This year, the refugee admissions ceiling set by the Presidential Determination is 30,000, the lowest since the 1980s.

Last year, the ceiling was 45,000, with only half that number actually resettled. "As we close the ceiling, the number of refugees gets larger," says Rabbi Grant Meyer. "We need to get past

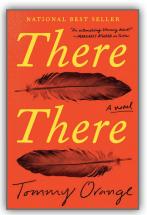
the policies and look at who the people are. It's not an 'us versus them' situation. The Jewish refugee story hasn't ended. The story has shifted."

In her role as a community organizer, she encourages people to start telling their stories, personalizing their family journeys as immigrants, and focusing on the contributions immigrants have made to society.

(Continued on next page)

Book Club

Our meeting on March 4 was cancelled because of bad weather. We are having a rescheduling of that important book on March 26. That book, "The Chosen Wars," is by



Steven R. Weisman. It is a fascinating history of the Jews in America and how the religion has changed, adapting to the New World, and the conflicts between Orthodoxy and Reform. You hardly realize you are reading non-fiction since the story is so fascinating. We will be at Eileen Manheimer's home in Allendale.

Our next book is "There There" by Tommy Orange. This is his first book and he, a Native American, has come crashing onto the literary scene. His novel, about a powwow in

Oakland, California, describes the people who are drawn there: Jacquie Red Feather is newly sober and wants to be accepted again into her family; Dene Oxedrene is pulling his life together and wants to honor his dead uncle; Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield has come to watch her nephew, Orvil Red Feather, dance. He learned Indian dance via YouTube videos and has never performed in public before. Unfortunately, someone came to cause trouble, and that will affect the lives of all in attendance. This powerful story is full of violence, identity loss, dislocation, anger, communion, beauty and despair. Perhaps this is an unforgettable debut. We will see for ourselves. The book is much in demand at BCCLS. It's also available electronically through the library.

We will gather at my home in Wyckoff, from 8 to 10 pm on Monday evening, April 8th. Please call Benita at 201-891-2509 or e mail her at bherman@dt.com. All temple members are welcome. Coffee, dessert, and discussion and other people who love books. Perfect! Everyone has a chance to share his or her thoughts. The meeting date may change. If you are interested in attending contact Benita. The group is small. The ideas are huge.

Barnert Temple Advocacy in Action (From previous page)

Stamping Out Despair

The program concluded with a project for immigrants and asylum seekers detained in Northern New Jersey, coordinated by Barnert Temple member Fran Kaufmann. Both Fran and event co-chair Lisa Summers volunteer with First Friends of NJ/NY, a non-profit organization located in Kearney, NJ, that provides hope and compassion for detainees at the Elizabeth Detention Center, the Essex County Correctional Facility, the Bergen County Jail, and the Hudson County Correction & Rehabilitation Center. First Friends trains volunteers to visit individual immigrants



Our work has just begun. Thanks to (l. to r.) Susan Esserman-Schack, Fran Kaufmann, David Nachman, Esq., Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer, Rabbi Rachel Steiner, Sue Klein and Lisa Summers for starting the conversation. We will continue to learn more about the challenges facing refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers and how to advocate for them. and asylum seekers, advocates for detainees, and helps with post-release services. Twice a year they give each detainee a "Stamp Out Despair" folder filled with paper, envelopes and greeting cards for contacting family members, friends and lawyers. An enthusiastic Barnert group assembled 50 folders, adding a personal note of support and hope in each one.

Attendees also purchased \$285 worth of gift cards from Sisterhood that will help those released from detention purchase food and other necessities as they make a new start in life.

Up Next: Social Action Community Brunch, May 5, 9–11 am

Leaders from the newly formed New Jersey Jewish Coalition for Refugees will engage us in activities focused on advocating and acting for refugees in need in our communities. We'll begin with an internationally inspired meal at 9 am, followed by a brief advocacy training, information about additional social action activities, and a drive to benefit Welcome Home Jersey City, a volunteer organization devoted to helping newly arrived refugees and asylees beginning their lives in the greater Jersey City area.

For more information on Advocacy and Action at Barnert Temple, contact Sue Klein at sueklein0319@gmail.com.

BarTY by Elz Hexter



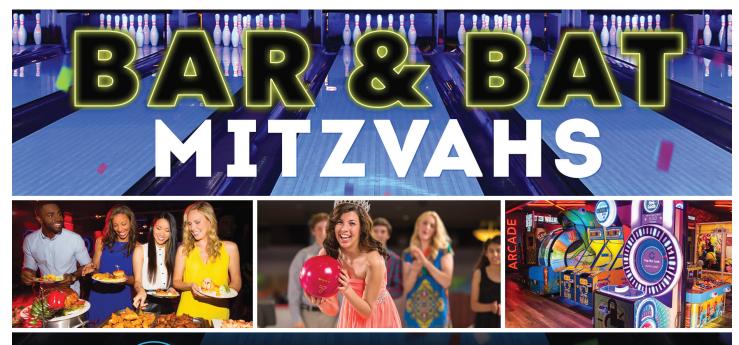
Hi my name is Elz Hexter. BarTY, Barnert Temple's youth group, is a great haven for teens in our Jewish community to get together, be themselves, and stay connected to their Jewish roots. I speak from experience. Growing up in Oakland, my friends and classmates were all very Christian so I didn't have many friends that were Jewish. All my Jewish friends were the

ones that I had from Hebrew school, and they didn't all live locally so it was difficult to get together and hang out. Through BarTY, however, the exciting events brought us all together and helped strengthen our bond. For example, the upcoming Shul-In on April 6-7, where we all get together to have a sleepover at the temple. It gets crazy wild every year because it is just such a good time.

Being the membership vice president gives me the opportunity to bring others into BarTY and make them feel welcome in the Jewish community. I've had so many opportunities to give back to my community, meet new people, and strengthen the bond between my friends. BarTY has taught me to never forget who I am as a person in my Jewish community, and in life. I am my own individual. I'm empowered. I'm capable. I can give back. Because of BarTY, I have a better understanding of the world around me, and I'd wish that upon any teen coming into their own.



Elz Hexter BarTY Membership Vice President



Bowlero

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A New Jersey Blood Services

A Division of New York Blood Center

Some things you need to know about...

DONATING BLOOD

Basic Eligibility

To give blood, you must be in generally good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years of age or 16 years of age with parental consent..

Medication	Piercings/ Tattoos
Waiting time for:	You may be accepted as a blood donor if you have had a
 Antibiotics—treatment complete. 	body piercing, as long as it was done under sterile
Accutane, Proscar, Propecia—1 month.	conditions.
 Avodart—6 months. 	
 Soriatane—3 years. 	Donors who received a tattoo within the past 12 months may
 Tegisonpermanent deferral 	donate if the procedure was performed in New Jersey in a
 Most people on medications other than 	New Jersey licensed establishment using single use
these are eligible to donate.	disposable equipment under aseptic conditions.
	Notes

- Most people with diabetes, and most people on medications other than those noted above, are eligible to donate blood. For specific medical eligibility guidelines, call us at 1-800-688-0900.
- Federal guidelines may exclude people who have lived in or traveled to or from certain countries outside of the United States.

Before Donating

-Time Needed Plan to spend at least an hour for registration, donation and a rest period after the donation.

-Eat Well Please eat and drink something substantial within three hours prior to donating.

-Check Medications If you are taking prescription medications, call 800-933-Blood to make certain it is OK to donate.

-Assess Your Health If you have any cold or flu symptoms, you will be unable to donate—you will need those blood cells to help fight off any infection that may be present. If you have any questions about other medical conditions and how they affect your status as an eligible blood donor you may call 800-933-Blood to ask specific questions about your health.

-Just Relax If you feel a little nervous about donating, that is natural. Try to focus on the patients your donation will be helping. Remember, donating blood is relatively painless, and may help save lives.

What to Expect When Donating

-Registration You must use your current address and phone number. If you are a student who lives at school, please use your school address.

-Health Interview To protect you and the patients receiving your blood, a trained professional will check your blood pressure, pulse and hemoglobin level and ask you some questions in a confidential manner about your health history.

-Donation While you can expect to be at the blood drive a little more than an hour, the actual donation takes about ten minutes.

-Refreshments You will be given something to eat and drink after donating, and asked to relax while visiting with fellow donors.

After Donation

-Drink Fluids Make sure you drink plenty of <u>non-alcoholic</u> fluids in the hours immediately following your blood donation—at least four eight-ounce glasses. Increase fluid intake for the next 48 hours.

-Avoid Strenuous Activity Plan to curtail strenuous exercise for the six hours immediately following your donation, especially any heavy use of the arm from which your blood was drawn.

-Leave Bandage On Keep your bandage on and dry for six hours after donating.

-Feel Good About Yourself Your donation may save up to three lives. Be very proud of your simple act of kindness!

-Share the Good Feeling Let friends and family members know how good it feels to help save a life and how simple donating blood is. Normally, donors can give blood every 56 days; plan to bring a friend when you give again.

Contact us or learn more at

www.nybloodcenter.org

or call 800-933-Blood

▲ New Jersey Blood Services A Division of New York Blood Center

December 2018-February 2019 Donations

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Eileen and Wally Manheimer Wallace P. Manheimer Stacey Rappaport and Craig Solomon Gail White

In memory of

Lawrence Solomon Carol Kovall

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Rabbi Martin Freedman URJ Camp Scholarship Fund

In memory of Michael Alan Cohen (Continued on next page)

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In memory of Bertram I. Cohen

In memory of Trude Ortenau Stanley Wild

In honor of Daniel's Bar Mitzvah

Aufruf of Becky and Jared Landsman Levna's Bat Mitzvah

Noah's Bar Mitzvah Eli's Bar Mitzvah

In memory of Leon Howard Joseph Dorfman Carol Kovall

In memory of Bertram Irving Cohen

Renee Rakow's first yahrzeit

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In honor of

Daniel's Bar Mitzvah Leyna's Bat Mitzvah

Noah's Bar Mitzvah

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In honor of

L'Taken In appreciation of Rabbi Steiner Bari Hopkins' speedy recovery Thanks to the Temple Community Bari Hopkins' speedy recovery Alexandra Howard and Frank Fawzi's wedding

Isabelle and Emmie's baby-naming

In memory of Richard Cowlan Adele Lauber

Sylvia Troyanovski

In memory of

Murray Elman Samuel Temkin Kenneth and Burton Edelson

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Alice Solomon

In honor of

Karen Levine Jan Mason Eileen Roman Gilbert Dorfman

In honor of

Noah's Bar Mitzvah (Continued on next page)

Donations (From previous page)

Women of Barnert

Barbara Sacks

Yahrzeit Donations

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We Welcome These New Friends!

Elizabeth Gaeta, residing in Oakland Jill, Scott, Samantha, and Joshua Markowitz, residing in Ringwood Rebecca and Taylor Newman, residing in Mahwah



Your Barnert Magazine

The Barnert Magazine is published four times a year, and its success depends on the literary contributions of all Barnert members.

If you wish to submit a piece — whether a personal story or an article that you think will be of interest to other members — you are always welcome to send it in for consideration.

Submissions for the September/October issue of the magazine are due by August 10. Please email your articles or pieces to jorge26.2@optonline.net. If you are submitting a text-only document, please make sure it has been created in Word, Text Edit, or any other word-processing application except Publisher. If you wish to keep a specific format or style (bullets, indents, italics, etc.), please send the article along with a PDF, so that we can best match the style you want to keep.

When sending images, please follow these specs: minimum 150 dpi, preferably 300 dpi. If you go by file size, a minimum of 1.5 MB is recommended.

Any format is fine (tiff, ipg, eps, PDF). Please do not embed an image into a Word document, as it will be unusable. (The photo should come as an independent file, not as part of another document.) If you are taking photos using your iPhone or smartphone, make sure to set it to the highest resolution possible.



	April 2013		611C UNSINT C7 -611C II JUNE C7	SINI C7 -61	KIIC UN	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 JJPBT 8 th /9 th Grade Ma ² ayan Confirmation 7:30 pm Executive Committee	3 JJPBT	4 7 pm Sisterhood Knit Night (off-site) Gala (off-site)	5 7 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Potluck Supper	6 Tazria Lev. 12:1-13:59 Celebrate <i>Shabbat</i> with us! 9:30 am <i>Rosh Chodesh</i> 10:30 am Noah Kochman B/M 6 pm BarTY <i>Shui-In</i> till April 7
7 JJPBT 9 am Sisterhood Brunch 12:15 pm Junior Choir	8 No Preschool	9 No Preschool 7:30 pm Board of Trustees	10 No Preschool	11 No Preschool 7:30 pm <i>Talmud</i> Study	12 No Preschool 7:30 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service	13 <i>M'tçora</i> Lev. 14:1-15:33 Cekbrate Shabbat with us! 9 am <i>Torah</i> Study 10:30 am Emily Bernstein B/M
14 JJPBT LEV Class - Passover 8:30 am Men's Club Annual Pancake Breakfast 9:30 am Berd Holiday U - Digging Into The Passover Seder 11:30 am BarTY Board 12:15 pm Junior Choir 12:30 pm Men's Club BASA Rocketry Program	15 Post Confirmation	16 JJPBT 8 th 0 th Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation	17 JJPBT	18	19 No Preschool Office Closed Passover Begins 1 ^ª Seder No <i>Shabbat</i> Service	20 PASSOVER
21 PASSOVER	22 PASSOVER 6:30 Networking: Alex Freund	23 PASSOVER JJPBT 8 th 9 th Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation Men's Shelter	24 PASSOVER JJPBT Post Confirmation	25 passover	26 PASSOVER No Preschool Office Closed 7:30 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service with <i>Yizkor</i>	27 Acharei Mot I Lev. 16:1-17:16 Cekbrate <i>Shabbat</i> with us! 9:30 am <i>Shabbat</i> Yoga
28 JJPBT 9 am Men's Club 11 am Big Challah Bake-In 12:15 pm Junior Choir	29	30 JJPBT 8 th)9 th Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation				

25 Nisan 5779 25 Adar II 5779-**Anril 2019**

7:30 pm Ritual

7 pm Israeli Movie Night

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 JJPBT	2 УОМ НАЅНОАН	3	 A Acharei Mot II Lev. 18:1-30 Ceebrate Shabbat with us! 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh 10:30 am Morgan Wickwire B/M
				7:30 pm <i>Talmud</i> Study	7 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Potluck Supper	
5 Last Sunday JJPBT 9:30 am Class: Sunday Mornings with Rabbi Steiner: Ethical Wills 11 am Social Action	9	7 Last Tuesday JJPBT Last 8 th 9 th Grade Ma'ayan Confirmation	8 <i>YOM HAZIKARON</i> Last Wednesday JJPBT Post Confirmation	9 YOM HAATZMAUT	10 Preschool Special Guest <i>Shabbat</i> 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal	11 K'doshim Lev. 19:1-20-27 Cebrate Shabbat with us! 9 am Torah Study 10:30 am Sophia Schack BM
"All Hands" Noon BarTY Color War 12:15 pm Junior Choir	Fun with Flowers	7:30 pm Executive Committee		7 pm Sisterhood Knit Night (off-site)	5 pm Tot <i>Shabbat</i> Israel <i>Shabbat</i> 7:30 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service	
12 MOTHER'S DAY	13	14 Confirmation	15	16	17	18 Emor Lev. 21:1-24:23 Celebrate Shabbar with us! 9:30 am Shabbar Yoga
		7:30 pm Board of Trustees		7:30 pm <i>Taimud</i> Study	7:30 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service led by Sisterhood and Men's Club	10:30 am Krystal Mason <i>B/</i> M
19 9 am Men's Club 11 am Men's Club BASA Rocketry Program	20 Preschool Teacher Appreciation Lunch 6:30 Networking	21 Confirmation	22	23 LAGBAYOMER	24	25 B'har Lev. 25:1-26:2
					7:30 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service	
26	27 MEMORIAL DAY No Preschool Office Closed	28 Confirmation	29	30	31	
7 pm Israeli Movie Night		Men's Shelter 7:30 pm Member Relations			7:30 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service With Iftar With Peace Island	

26 Nisan 5779 - 26 Iyar 5779 **May 2019** June 2019 27 Iyar 5779 – 27 Sivan 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						 B'chukotai Lev. 26:3-27:34 Lev. 26:3-27:34 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 10:30 am Mia Kaplan B/M
2 Congregational Meeting	£	4 Confirmation 7:30 pm Executive Committee	Ś	б 7:30 рш <i>Talmud</i> Study	7 Last Olam Baby Class Last ShabbaT ot Last Day <i>ShabbaT</i> in the Forest <i>ShabbaT</i> in the Forest <i>ShabbaT</i> in the Forest <i>open</i> House 7 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service Honoring High School Graduates and Potluck Supper	8 B'midbar Num. 1:14:20 Celebrate Shabbat with us! 10:30 am Alyson Yeshion B/M 10:30 am Alyson Yeshion B/M 10:30 am Alyson Yeshion B/M 10:30 am Alyson Yeshion B/M 10:30 am Alyson Yeshion B/M
9 <i>SHAVUOT</i> 11:30 am Confirmation Ceremony	10	11 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal 7 pm Sisterhood Year End Celebration	12 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal	13 12:30 pm Preschool Dismissal	14 9 am Fantastics Graduation 10:30 am 10:30 am Rising Stars Moving-Up 10:30 am Big Shots Moving-Up Big Shots Moving-Up Big Shots Moving-Up	15 <i>Naso</i> Num. 4:21-7:89 Celebrate <i>Shabbat</i> with us! 9:30 am <i>Shabbat</i> Yoga
16 FATHER'S DAY	17 Club Vacation	18 Club Vacation	19 Club Vacation	20 Club Vacation 7 pm Sisterhood Knit Night (off-site)	21 Club Vacation 7 pm First Summer <i>Shabbat</i> Service	22 B'haalot'cha Num. 8:1-12:16
23	24 First Day of Camp Barnert 6:30 Networking	25 Men's Shelter	26	27	28 7 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service	29 <i>Sh'lach L'cha</i> Num. 13:1-15:41
30						

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EDITORS Rachel Steiner and Sara Losch **DESIGN/PRODUCTION** Jorge Losch

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DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING Sara Losch

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ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Alyssa Blendy Nate Frank Noah Frank Justin Giberson Benita Herman Elz Hexter Rebecca Holland Elly Kaplan Sue Klein Amy Lynn Olivia Pincus Elizabeth Resnick Corinne Robak Ben Schack Marina Voronina