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

BARNERT The Magazine



**NEW YEAR.
NEW IDEAS.
NEW VOICES.**

2021

BARNERT

The Magazine

CONTENTS

A Message from Rabbi Steiner	3
A Message from Elizabeth Levitt Resnick	4
Lifelong Learning Committee	4
A Message from Sara Losch	5
Jewish Journey Project	6
Social Action	8
Book Club	9
Sisterhood	10
BarTY	11
Men's Club	11
Donations	12
Mount Nebo Cemetery	15

Please recycle this magazine.



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*

A Message From Rabbi Rachel Steiner

Here, There and Everywhere*



Beatles fans reading this are already singing the unmistakable “oohs” that begin this timeless Beatles love song, written by the brilliant John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The song begins, “To lead a better life, I need my love to be here...” Living is, indeed, better when we are surrounded by those who nourish and encourage a love-filled life. This kind of love can be felt, it turns out,

whether we are sitting shoulder-to-shoulder, or connecting via phone or digital outreach (email, text, FaceTime, Zoom, etc.). While we may prefer the human touch, we have known for a long while that relationships can be not only sustained, but also built and strengthened through connections of all kinds. After this past almost year-and-a-half, we can now say with confidence that the same is also true of connected Jewish living through Barnert Temple.

Before the pandemic, our gatherings were always in person, with a poor-quality option to live-stream. During the worst of the pandemic, our gatherings were only through the surprisingly intimate Zoom platform. Now that we are in this new place, not quite here and not quite there (which may be our new normal), we have the opportunity to embrace the “and,” to reimagine how we connect with each other, keeping the good from what we learned and physically embracing each other in person again, when each of us is ready.

For a while, we called this “and” space, “hybrid.” In most cases we meant that participation in a worship service was possible both online and in person. But hybrid as a concept is limiting, not quite capturing the opportunity that might be here for us to grab. The word is rather binary, and it draws our attention to how we connect; to the technologies, rather than with whom we connect; with other people. Earlier this spring, three thought leaders in the Reform movement invited our communities to instead embrace the idea of “multi-access” communities. Rabbi Esther L. Lederman, Cantor Rosalie Will, and Rabbi Leora Kaye write:

Multi-access opens up our imagination, giving us more than just two options for how we gather. While hybrid thinking leads to a fixed duality of synchronous programming (offering an in-person and virtual option for the same moment), multi-access reminds us that our experiences, learning, content, and gatherings can happen at different times, in different spaces, for different people, in different ways. Imagine the example of an adult education experience: one group gathers on a Sunday afternoon in a park, another group meets on

Zoom on a weekday afternoon, and another group is in the building during a weekday evening. This asynchronous approach gives us the flexibility to meet people in their actual lives, where they really are, creating different access points for the ways they want to engage. Unlike a hybrid model, we know we can be nimble and adjust as we learn more, as our people change and grow, finding new access points for gathering that may be imperfect but are dynamic and evolving.¹

With this frame, we can ask not only how we will connect, but also where and with whom. This is our time to continue to reimagine and try out new ways to learn, to pray, to socialize, to build community. You might already be noticing that multiple access points and places and modalities would work better with multiple people to facilitate and lead. If you’re excited to bring to life multi-access living at Barnert, please let me know. We need you!

As we head into our holiest of days, we revisit the Torah texts chosen for our study. On Yom Kippur, we will read words from Deuteronomy. The people are gathered, and Moses reminds them of the moment they received Torah, describing the scene. Everyone was there, from every place and stage in life. And then Moses reiterates these words from God: “I make this covenant not with you alone, but both with those who are standing here with us this day before Adonai our God and with those who are not with us here this day.” (Deuteronomy 29:13-14) It strikes me in this moment that, perhaps, the Israelites — us! — have been laying the foundation for multi-access living from the very beginning. In the case of the people at Sinai, the access was throughout time — the Jewish people, entering into the covenant, of the past, present, and future. That is where the “saw you at Sinai” idea originates. Each of us enters into this Jewish covenant; this experience transcends time!

Today, our multi-access Jewish living pushes this idea further, beyond different times to connect. Now we will use different modalities and find each other in different places. And, at the risk of overinflating this moment, we, too, have the opportunity to imagine and to build structures for Jewish living that illuminate the brilliance of our sacred tradition.

To slightly adapt the end of the Beatles beauty, “We will be there and everywhere. Here, there, and everywhere.” Join me as we create and re-create multi-access Jewish life at Barnert, finding each other, and finding the buttresses of Jewish living, here, there, and everywhere!

*An irrelevant note: I have a deep love for the Oxford comma, which is noticeably absent in the Beatles’ song title. So..., it is uncomfortably missing from my title here. Lest you worry that I have recklessly thrown grammar caution to the wind, rest assured that I have, instead, maintained the original form out of respect for the brilliant songwriters.

¹ <https://urj.org/blog/dont-call-it-hybrid-multi-access-future-jewish-communities>

A Message From the President



Dear friends,
Here we are once again, filled with hope, aspirations and dreams about what will make this new year joyful for each of us and ever more wonderful for our beloved Barnert community.

As I enter my third and final year as your president, I am filled with confidence regarding the upcoming transition of leadership, and

all that lies ahead of us that is new and exciting. And, if you will permit me to take a “30,000-foot view,” this is what I am most grateful for:

- We are alive, we are well, and we are together.
- In spite of challenging economic times, our Barnert Temple is fiscally healthy, with a balanced budget and increased membership. We are welcoming the largest number of new families in several years. We are prepared to experiment with new, more innovative ways of sharing our traditions.
- And, on a personal note, I have a new home back in my old ‘hood,’ (aka Ridgewood); I have a loving family; supportive, caring, and longstanding friends as well as some new ones in my new awesome neighborhood.

Back to our Barnert community. We have new marriages, infants, new babies- and grandbabies-to-be who will

ensure the future and resiliency of our congregation and our faith. I am deeply appreciative of our lay leaders who have stepped up to serve our community this year with vigor and dedication. I am also thankful for the bonds that endure with our Barnert congregants who have relocated yet remain very much a part of our community via our multi-access programming.

And, we are so fortunate to share our High Holy Days together — always an opportunity for assessment, growth and gratitude for the blessings of the past and for what lies ahead.

Now that you know what I’m grateful for, what are you grateful for? What were your priorities over the past year... and what will they be in 5782?

How will you make the most of your personal strengths and gifts, and how will you share them with your Barnert family? How will you make your “voice” heard?

My hope is that you will contact Rabbi Steiner, Sara Losch, me, or any of our lay leaders to discuss how you can best show your gratitude and contribute your talents to our community — be they in the form of fiscal support, volunteer engagement, or otherwise.

Thanks for the goodwill and gifts you’ve already bestowed upon our community. Your commitment to sustaining Barnert across the generations with grace, excitement, and an eye to a positive future, makes it joyful for me to serve as your president.

With love and gratitude,
Elizabeth

Lifelong Learning Committee

New Year, New Ideas, New Voices. Come Share Yours!

As we welcome the New Year 5782, your Lifelong Learning Committee (LLC) is working to support the innovation and experimentation devised by Sara Losch, Director of Lifelong Learning; Nan Sumner, Assistant Director, Preschool; Jennifer Katz-Goldstein, Assistant Director, Jewish Journey Project; Rabbi Rachel Steiner; and Rabbi Joel Soffin, as they move programming creatively into the post-pandemic “new normal.” In keeping with our LLC charge to help guide the introduction to new educational programming and to serve as a conduit for congregational feedback concerning the effectiveness of current programs, we are keenly focused on new ideas and new voices.

LLC members Julie Good, Benita Herman, Beth La Forgia, Haley Salomon, Janet Shapiro and Debbie Ungerleider have spent the past year planning a “listening campaign” whose activities, in this new year, will help to inform future iterations of Lifelong Learning.

As we move into the hybridization of some learning options and a structural change in JJP, the committee’s primary objective for 2021–2022 is to understand how current educational programming is working for you and your family, and what changes might make learning/programming more motivational, engaging, relevant and accessible. The qualitative data gleaned from our inquiry will be shared with our team of professional educators as they plan new courses and structures.

As mentioned above, our listening campaign has turned into a series of focus groups for adults whose children are in preschool or JJP. These groups will give them the opportunity to share new ideas about how to further enrich and develop these programs. Adult learners will also have the chance to express their thoughts about what programming they have enjoyed during the pandemic
(Continued on next page)

A Message From Sara Losch

New Year. New Ideas. New Voices.



B'ruchim ha baim, everyone. Welcome. B'ruchim ha baim, returning friends and brand-new friends. Welcome to those who give hugs and to those who need them, B'ruchim ha baim to our former pre-Covid selves and also to the new people we have become. I know I am not alone in saying, "Thank God, we are back where we belong! B'ruchim ha baim: Welcome!"

As you read this, we are approaching the High Holy Days, a time of reflection, of taking stock, of doing *teshuvah* (repentance). This is a time to ask ourselves the deep questions about the life we led over the past year: Was I a good enough friend? Was I present enough for those I love? Was I kind to myself? Did I step up to be the change I want to see in the world? If we wronged anyone, we ask for forgiveness and, if presented with the same opportunity, we resolve not to make the same choice. In this New Year, opportunities for betterment abound, for each one of us and for our institutions (schools, workplaces, houses of worship).

How will we, your Barnert community, work towards positive change?

Our preschool community is growing. We are thrilled to be welcoming more than 20 new families. (For perspective, a typical year sees five new families.) Each new adult provides us with an opportunity to listen to new thoughts, questions and voices. Our preschool is — and I am — beginning its 33rd year. Never comfortable sticking to what was, we continue to ask questions within the broader early childhood community to be sure that we are maintaining the highest professional standards for the growth and development of our youngest students. New and returning children and families guarantee that the future of our Barnert community is bright.

The Jewish Journey Project (JJP) also continues to grow. Calls are coming in almost daily from families who have heard about us from friends and neighbors. JJP is constantly changing with new courses created each year that allow our students to do deeper dives into Jewish holidays, texts and rituals. As the school year ended, we sent a survey to our 3rd–7th graders to see what they thought of JJP. One 5th-grade boy summed it up under the question: What would you do to make JJP better? "Nothing," he wrote, "it is already perfect!"

The Lifelong Learning Committee, chaired by Joan Lipkowitz, spent last year preparing for a series of focus groups to help us hear voices from all age groups

of Temple learning. We hope you might be willing to lend your voice by joining one of the sessions. You can help us define the paths we continue to create for learners of all ages. See Joan's article in the magazine for more information.

Finally, this past year, our Anti-Racism Campaign taught me so much and I am still learning how to step up as an advocate. At the same time, we as a community are looking at how to use our voices to support friends and members who identify as LGBTQ+. I am proud to be a part of a community that questions, grows, and changes when change is necessary. Here, too, your voices are needed. If you are interested in learning more — or teaching us — about these and other important issues, reach out to me or Rabbi Steiner.

May I wish you each a *shana tova u'mitukah* — a sweet and happy New Year.

Sara Losch

Lifelong Learning (From previous page)

year, as well as what they "need" from future programming.

In addition to convening focus groups, the LLC will develop and circulate an online questionnaire for our high school students, thereby offering them the opportunity to share what has kept them "glued" to learning at Barnert and inviting them to suggest topics for deeper exploration through a Jewish lens.

Key to all the committee's work is the hearing of your collective voices. We want to provide diverse opportunities to hear from our eternally articulate learners and also from those whose voices we don't get to hear enough.

Our commitment to greater listening will entail the expansion of our committee membership to include several new voices representing both young preschool families and families of students in JJP. We also look forward to collaborating with Craig Solomon and his Membership Committee to enhance the onboarding of new families, many of whom enter Barnert via the preschool or JJP.

The success of our committee work depends in large measure on open dialogue and your commitment to a robust exchange of ideas. The LLC looks forward to hearing your voices and listening as it gives thoughtful attention to what you share. Through your voices, you will help pave the way to appealing and impactful future learning.

Warm wishes from your LLC for a healthy, happy and educationally fulfilling 5782!

Joan Lipkowitz
Chair of the Lifelong Learning Committee

JEWISH JOURNEY PROJECT (JJP)

JJP will be back in the building for the fall 2021–22 year!

Registration is coming out by the end of July. If you are not yet a Temple member, remember that the High Holy Days are on Labor Day! Now is the time to come to Barnert for an in-person tour and to hear all about our amazing community and wonderful programs. Contact Sara Losch at schooloffice@barnerttemple.org.

The Jewish Journey Project (JJP) is NOTHING like “religious school”

Bruchim Haba'im! Welcome! We are thrilled to introduce you to the Jewish Journey Project Barnert Temple!

Our Barnert community has always been at the forefront of Jewish innovation.

In the past years, we have seen the needs of our families shift significantly. In response to these changes, we identified a unique opportunity to bring the cutting edge, New York City-based Jewish Journey Project, to Barnert. Jewish Journey Project Barnert Temple (JJP) is a revolutionary response to these shifting needs, making quality, engaging, flexible Jewish education at Barnert more accessible.

What makes JJP so innovative and unique is that there are multiple ways to create your family's Jewish journey. JJP participants plan and build personalized journeys, choosing courses and workshops that match their passions and curiosities as well as preferred learning style. The JJP model is based on flexibility, creativity, and experiential learning. Participants work collaboratively with inspiring educators from diverse professional backgrounds.

JJP is a two-semester-per-year program (fall, winter/spring).

Hebrew instruction is offered on Sunday morning and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Judaic courses are offered on the same three days, allowing families to choose to do both courses on the same day of the week, or splitting them and doing one on one day, the other on a different day.

Courses engage students in ideas that are relevant to their lives and are taught using modalities that are exciting to them. Students learn about Judaism through cooking, woodworking, photography, music, art, yoga and discussion.

We could not be more excited to begin this new Journey together.

Please share JJP with any friends who may be interested in learning more about it and about joining our Barnert community. As always, we are here to answer any questions.

Kadima! Let's go!

Sara Losch, Director of Lifelong Learning
Rabbi Rachel Steiner
Jennifer Katz-Goldstein, Administrator

JEWISH JOURNEY PROJECT (JJP)

JJP schedule choices

See choices for grade-by-grade offerings. Remember: you can have your 3rd–6th grader do both courses on the same day, or split the days — one Hebrew and one Judaic course.

Sundays

Kindergarten–2nd grade

9:30–11 am

3rd–6th grade

9:30–11 am (Judaic)

11 am–12:30 pm (Hebrew)

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Kindergarten–2nd grade

4–5:30 pm (Wednesdays)

3rd–6th grade

4–5:30 pm (Hebrew)

5:30–6 pm (dinner)

6–7:30 pm (Judaic)

Tuesdays

7th–10th grade

5:30–6 pm (dinner)

6–7:30 pm (class)



JEWISH *journey* PROJECT
BARNERT TEMPLE

Social Action

There are three basic core values in our Jewish spiritual practice that stand out to me in our work at Barnert: *chesed* (loving kindness), *tzedek* (justice) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Practicing these values more often leads to actions that can take us outside ourselves, giving us the opportunity to notice and nurture what is calling within us and what is needed around us.

When I think about all that we were able to achieve over this last year, my heart swells with gratitude and love for our community. During a collectively tumultuous time in our lives, we got to work and we got creative. We stayed socially connected while physically distanced and found ways to rise together to tend to one another within and outside our own community. We called to check on our neighbors, we delivered food to those who were in need, we mourned together, we cried together, we prayed together, we learned together. We held space for one another the best way we could and while at times this was not easy, we persevered. Intuitively, we wove our Jewish spiritual values throughout our efforts. This, is Barnert.

As Social Action chair, my wish for this upcoming new year is to find those within our community who might not feel as connected or seen. As a community, we cannot be whole until all the parts feel united, in whatever way that may look. If these Jewish values of *chesed*, *tzedek* and *tikkun olam* echo in your mind and body or you know someone who might be hesitant in reaching out but wants to be a part of something meaningful, purposeful, and yes, fun, please feel free to call, email, text, or FB/Instagram message me. We want to meet you!

Together, let's grow our capacity to cultivate awareness to see what needs to be healed within and around us.

With love and gratitude for our community,
Marni

201-669-7126

marnineuburger@yahoo.com

To meet the current leaders within our Social Action Committee please visit our Barnert Temple website and click on Social Action.

A few notes on our work in Social Action

Our Caring Community team worked tirelessly this past year, keeping in touch with those who were ill, needed meals or a phone call to stay connected. We would like to expand the team sharing in acts of kindness to help those in our community who need a helping hand.

Our ARC team worked double time helping us to understand ourselves within the socio-political events of this past year. We continue to be hard-at-work, creating new and inclusive programming for our community.

Join us as a team member or a participant as we learn about our legislative system, how to notice our somatic responses in our implicit biases, how to use our collective voice for those who are at greater risk than us to live a full life in this country, and more.

Our Food and Shelter team has also been working energetically throughout the year, creating innovative ways to collect food, toiletries and clothing for those in need, and our community heard that call to action. Together this past year we collected and donated over:

- 553 bags of food and clothing
- 245 bags of toiletries
- 37 packs of diapers
- 767 tote bags
- 213 winter coats
- 183 hats
- 180 pairs of gloves/mittens
- 26 pieces of jewelry
- 25 backpacks for back to school (more are flowing in)

Collections went to CUMAC, Center for Hope and Safety, etc.

If you were unaware, we at Barnert have a very special relationship with CUMAC. They are more than a food bank. Their mission is to "fight hunger and its root causes through a holistic, trauma-informed approach." Please consider volunteering to help those experiencing food insecurity shop for their groceries and other basic necessities. This is also a wonderful and purposeful *B'nai Mitzvah* project for those who are accompanied by an adult. Ages 17 and up can attend on their own. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/83c7ed90fa0c9e8c17-cumacopportunities1>.



Another organization with whom we nurture a relationship is St Paul's Men's Shelter. We are calling on all temple members and religious school students and their parents who want a meaningful experience. Please, join us in making meat loaves, veggies and brownies for the Men's Shelter in Paterson. While at this time we are unsure when we can re-enter the shelter to serve the men, it will happen. In the meantime, we can all take the time to cook and bake for these men who have only the shelter to call home.

This is only some of what we do in Social Action. For more information about these or any of our other programs please contact Marni at marnineuburger@yahoo.com or 201-669-7126.

An Introduction to Social Action for Young Families

We have begun to create a list of ideas for families who want to introduce the values of *chesed*, *tzedek* and *tikkun olam* to their young children.

Books to consider to help introduce your children to *chesed*, *tzedek* and *tikkun olam*:

- *Bagels from Benny* - a book on *tzedakah* (Aubrey Davis)
- *Bone Button Borscht* (Aubrey Davis)
- *How Dalia Put a Big Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Box and Other Wonders of Tzedakah* (Linda Heller)
- *Today is the Birthday of the World* (Linda Heller)

Actions:

- On alternate months (for now), congregants make meat loaves for the Men's Shelter in Paterson. Parents can cook with their children and then together drive to drop it off at someone's home for delivery to the shelter.
- Together with your child, rifle through your children's toys/books/clothes to choose gently used items to donate. Share with them why we do this. (Items will go to CUMAC, Center for Hope and Safety, Oasis, etc.).
- Children (and adults) can make cards to send to seniors.

All you need is paper and a few crayons or colored pencils. We can collect them to send or you can send/deliver them to the Jewish Home at Rockleigh (or any senior-living home).

- There is a birthday project for CUMAC that is run through the Barnert Preschool. While this was the first year, it was quite a success. You can also do this on your own and then contact us regarding delivery.
- Engage in a conversation about food insecurity with your children. Prompt: if children are not getting food to eat, then most likely the children are unable to have any birthday celebrations. Ask: what sort of items would be needed to throw a fun birthday party? For example: streamers, balloons, paper plates, hats, M&Ms, etc. The children can decorate paper bags and then fill those bags with the party items. You can add ShopRite gift cards and a handmade birthday card from the kids.

Do you have more ideas or books to add to the list? Please email me with your creative thoughts.

marnineuburger@yahoo.com

Book Club

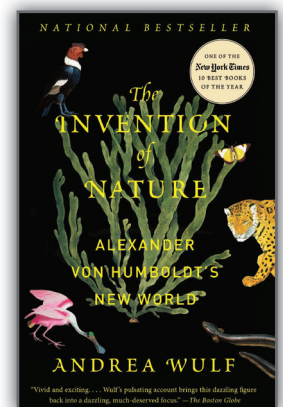
This pandemic year brought so much growth and change to our steadfast group of dedicated readers. We organized our meetings and ourselves, with dates and books all the way through this August, and we will continue to do this. We learned how to Zoom, and found there were advantages to staying safe at home and yet meeting and discussing and sharing ideas. The only thing we couldn't share was the homemade pie and the comforting tea and coffee. But Zoom allows us to open up our group to people at any location. Cipora and Dottie moved to Cedar Crest, senior living at its finest, and can Zoom in; Sue moved to California and watches her time change carefully; Rosa is now a New Yorker and can attend, as can Gail when she is in Florida; and Susan from Missoula, Montana, etc. We even have had in attendance a gentleman or two. We love that male point of view.

And, we learned so much about the world from our selections. *Say Nothing*, by Patrick Radden Keefe, is about the continuing Troubles that exist still, in Ireland. The judicial system in Alabama is indeed in need of reform. By reading *Just Mercy* we can understand the importance of the work of Bryan Stevenson in order to help our African-Americans, especially those on death row, without legal representation and often innocent men sent to their deaths. *Apeirogon*, by Colum McCann, helped us understand the complex relations between Israelis and Palestinians, after two fathers whose teenage daughters

were killed by stray Israeli fire, decided to find peace through discussing the situation and traveling in Israel and beyond. *Half a Yellow Sun*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, hides no grim detail about the Nigerian internal war and struggles. Brutally honest it was, but it did help understand the two divided areas of Nigeria. *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett, was a beautifully written account of the American Dream, and a complex family narrative.

To end our organized season we will read *The Invention of Nature*, by Andrea Wulf, taking us back some 220 years to the real life adventurer of all times, Alexander Von Humbolt, and his discoveries of nature and the world. I can't wait to read it for our August 16 Zoom meeting. It's easy to Zoom in and see what keeps us going and it might be something that fascinates you. I even possess the link to that meeting, and any Temple member can come, and give it a try. Send me an email at bennie10kherman@gmail.com. And read on, gentle member.

Benita Herman



Sisterhood

New Year. New Ideas. New Voices. *New Pressure!* New Opportunities!

You know the “glass half full, glass half empty” analogy used to describe optimistic versus pessimistic individuals? Well, I’m one of those people who doesn’t fall into either bucket. I stand with one foot in each bucket, and the day of the week — or even the hour of the day — determines which personality emerges. Today is the deadline for this article. Life is crazy. I’m behind on every project. I just had an argument with my spouse, and I’m sure one of my kids is about to unleash on me about some injustice I have perpetrated. My foot feels deeply stuck in the “glass half empty” bucket. However, I’m going to take a deep breath and attempt to squeeze both feet into the “glass half full” bucket, so here it goes!

Last year was my first year as Sisterhood president. I was the “reluctant president,” and taking on this role during a pandemic...well, that just added a layer of anxiety to the mix. I have always been the Jew who felt “one step outside the circle.” I was never part of the Jewish community growing up. My Jewish father died when I was five months old, leaving my non-Jewish mother to raise me on her

own (not common in 1972 Pikesville, MD). My amazing mother worked long hours as a nurse (once again,

not that common where I grew up). We didn’t belong to a synagogue or a country club. I didn’t go to sleep-away camp. We didn’t “vacation” with other families. I dropped out of Hebrew school. We didn’t have a pool. Our name wasn’t on the wall of any hospital or public building. I had no deep connection to Sisterhood culture or history. How does someone like me become a Sisterhood president? Old insecurities and stereotypes can be hard to kick.

I found Barnert approximately 17 years ago, literally by accident. I walked into the building, a class was taking place, and the rabbi and class members said, “Welcome. Have a seat.” My random idea to “check out the building off of 208” turned out to be one of the most meaningful accidental discoveries of my life. I became the guest who never left and has been volunteering ever since. Why? Because it’s how I connect to people. It’s how I learn about a community, an organization, its people, and its culture. It’s what allows someone like me — the girl standing “one step outside the circle,” to feel like she has

at least one foot firmly planted inside the circle.

I joined the Sisterhood board a few years ago because some of my good friends were very involved. In short, I joined for them. What could be bad about working with people you like? I discovered that I really love Sisterhood at Barnert. It’s not what I had imagined; it’s much better.

Sisterhood has the unbelievably challenging job of inspiring and connecting women in their 20s through their 90s. We have women with strong connections to Judaism, and others who consider themselves secular Jews. We have women who are looking for purely social connections and others who want serious learning and intellectually challenging programs. Sisterhood’s task is big. It also presents amazing opportunities for many women with wide-ranging talents and interests.

If you ask me what Sisterhood has planned for the coming year, I can’t answer you in detail. (Remember me telling you that I’m behind on everything?) We’re still in the process of putting our calendar together. However, you

can be sure it will contain a range of opportunities to connect, laugh, and learn with other women at Barnert. It will include discussions, cooking, and outings. The

fact that our calendar is not finalized also means that there are plenty of opportunities for YOU to have a say in what we do this year. Remember: New Year. New Ideas. New Voice. New Opportunities! My motto this year; if you are willing to make it happen, I’m game!

On the flip side, I hope you will give Sisterhood the opportunity to get to know you in the new year. While there are “perks” to being a Sisterhood Annual Sustainer, our programs are open to all. Come. Call me. We’ll talk, or meet for coffee/tea. Email me. I’ll email you back and probably call you, too! I love a good conversation! You never know how a chance meeting may impact your life and your experience at Barnert.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very sweet New Year filled with new experiences and opportunities. *Shanah Tovah Umetukah.*

Rebecca Rund,
Your humble and grateful Sisterhood President



BARNERT TEMPLE
Sisterhood
Networking – Education – Social Action – Socializing

BarTY Newsletter

Throughout the 2020–2021 school year, many were still advised to stay at home. As a response, BarTY was able to hold successful, interactive virtual programming through Zoom, such as *Jeopardy* and *Trivia*. As the spread of the virus became more contained later on into this year, we were able to hold two successful in-person events, Lawn Games and BarTY prom. Whether we were on Zoom or sitting in the parking lot, everyone who participated had a great time!



The BarTY board for the 2021–2022 school year is moving full steam ahead and looking forward to planning fun and engaging events that will get all 8–12 graders at Barnert involved. We need help; please encourage your child and/or teen to attend BarTY events and to share ideas for possible activities. Keep an eye out in your email inboxes for more information. We hope to see all 8–12 graders at our first event in September!

The new BarTY board for the 2021–2022 school year:

- President: Mollie Good
- Programming Vice President: Gabe Pincus
- Social Action Vice President: Joshua Fishkin
- Membership and Outreach Vice President: Benjamin Good
- Communications and Media Vice President: Hannah Nussbaum

Mollie Good
BarTY President

Men's Club

A reinvigorated Men's Club welcomes preschool dads, religious school dads, new Temple members, long-time Men's Club members, and Barnert men of all descriptions for a year filled with interesting things to do for everyone. We're planning a paintball outing, a throwdown at "Stumpy's" Hatchet House, a Kentucky Derby gourmet dinner, and maybe some special events for preschool dads and kids. We're still hatching ideas, so join us for our first Sunday meeting in September.

The monthly Sunday breakfasts are great. In the past, we've heard from fascinating speakers, including a Temple member who was a former *Mossad* spy, sports doctors who focus on injuries to pro athletes, and a college professor who writes about the Beatles. We're happy to get your input on speakers and events.

The past year-and-a-half presented a new challenge for us: how to become a virtual organization. We had a lot of provocative discussions from home about film, books, and the latest must-binge TV shows. There was our Family Feud Zoom game show friendly competition with Sisterhood, and finally a virtual wine and

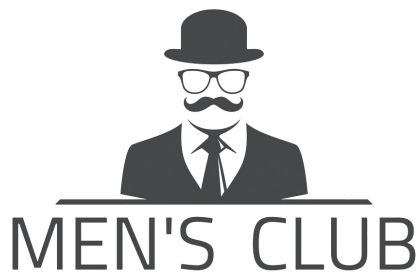
cheese tasting with a great dinner from a local spot. If you missed that, you lost out on getting introduced to some great *vino* and *fromage*, not to mention a pretty terrific local scratch kitchen eatery. We stretched our muscles in new ways, and want to continue doing that by throwing open our doors to you.

All this is on top of our traditional events, like running the barbecue for many events, and running a yearly *Shabbat* service and other gatherings, many of which allow us to show off our kitchen chops.

What it all does is to create community for the men of Barnert. When I joined the temple more than a dozen years ago, I wasn't necessarily looking for community. But I found it here. I invite you to become part of it. You owe it to yourself and the friendships you could make.

So, come meet us, help us cook, help us plan, help us run some fun events, and discover this great way to get woven into the Barnert fabric.

Bob Males
Men's Club President



March–June 2021 Donations

Barnert Garden Fund

Mary Barnabei
Susan Goodstadt-Levin
and Robert Levin
Beth and Joe Valenti

In Memory of
Isabelle Barnabei

Rose Goodstadt
Jeanette Valenti

Barnert Temple Men's Club

Pam and Jeff Himeles

Elizabeth Levitt Resnick

In Memory of
Ruth Schack

Barnert Temple Sisterhood

Lois and Bob Schneider

In Memory of
Ruth Schack

David Nalven Memorial Youth Education Fund

Joel Bauer

Elsie and Howard Kahan Memorial Holocaust Fund

Barbara and Les Friedman

In Honor of
Louise Birnberg's
milestone birthday

Free Will

Amy and George Samala

Jodi and Barry Brover
Sara Levine
Janet Shapiro

In Memory of
Elyse Hecht
Elyse Hecht
Herman Shapiro
Eleanor Shapiro
Lena Shapiro
Bertha Gaspari
Charles Gaspari

Danielle and Harrison
Rosenberg

In Honor of
Lucas' Bar Mitzvah

Helen Lee Caring Committee Fund

Barnert Kindergarten class
Jeffrey Lee

In Memory of
Howard Silver
Bertha Cohn Lefkowitz
Bernard Goldstein
Betty Goldstein
Irving Lefkowitz
Terese Bauer

In Honor of

Karen and Todd Galinko

Jill Gordon-Layton's
speedy recovery

Jed Haubenstock BarTY Fund

Joel Bauer

In Honor of

Enid and Paul Avenius

Jared Packman's high school
graduation

Jane Triglia

Molly Good's Confirmation
In gratitude for Jessie Losch

Kathie F. Williams' TAG Scholarship Challenge

Ellen and Reid Fader

In Honor of

Marriage of Olivia and
Jake von Halle

Lifelong Learning Fund

Sharon Berman

Vicki z"l and Richard Edelman

Losch family

Julie and Joshua Lurie

Rappaport/Solomon family

In Memory of

Grandpa Bob Yeshion
Howard Silver
Edna "Memee" Charles
Ellen Rappaport

In Honor of

Barnert Board

Maya Klein's birth

In Appreciation of Intro to Judaism Class

Sherri and Rob Berman

Jackie Byrne

Iris Gersh

Lauren and Seth Krauss

Catherine and Bill Krame

Carole Mauro

Cheryl and Justin Moss

Joanne Siegel

Mt. Nebo Cemetery Beautification Fund

Robert Kwartler

Dr. Neil Share and Jenn

In Memory of

Harry Kwartler

Elisse Share

Mildred Share

Allen Baisuck

(Continued on next page)

March–June 2021 Donations *(From previous page)*

President's Discretionary Fund

	In Memory of
Sue and Rolf Klein	Elyse Hecht
Debbie Zlotowitz and Rick Greenberg	Elyse Hecht

Rabbi Martin Freedman URJ Camp Scholarship Fund

Anne Marie and David Schwartz

	In Memory of
Enid and Paul Avenius	Bert Wagner
Sara and Jorge Losch	Elyse Hecht

	In Honor of
Sheryl Thailer	Rabbi Joel Soffin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Anonymous
Vicki z"l and Richard Edelman
Robin and David Kroll
Florette and Ron Lynn
Gail and Morris Yamner
Dr. Neil Share

	In Memory of
Adler family	Christopher Johnston
Enid and Paul Avenius	Ruth Schack
Sheryl Benjamin, Paul Howard, and family	Beatrice Howard
Beverly and Michael Blum	Aaron Jaffee
Carol Cassell	Sara Dunn
	Jeremy Cobin
Diane and Ed Curland	Phyllis Curland
Carole and Peter Brodie	Edwin Levine
Judith and Gary Farber	Madeline Klein
Reggie Gross	Fay Gittlin
Roberta and Peter Hong	James Gock Choy Hong
	Arthur Schiller
Norma Hurwitz	Eva Borson
Rita and Marty Kron	Yetta Folkman
	Charles Folkman
Jaclyn and Jonathan Leitner	Lillian Buckweitz
Lowy family	Joan A. Schwartz
Julie and Joshua Lurie	John Schulties
Meyer family	Carolyn Mandelbaum
Helen Neidell	Saul Neidell
Andrea Placer	Evelyn Greenspan

Ronnie and Bob Powers	Roy Powers
Lenni Puritz and family	Sara Dunn
Patricia and Alexandra Puritz	Robert Puritz
Rattner family	Joseph Rattner
Elizabeth Levitt Resnick	Freyda Sanders
Rivlin, Kinney, and Mandelbaum families	Carolyn Mandelbaum
Beth and Charles Shulman	Phyllis Curland
Marilyn Schotz	Margaret "Peggy" Verhoof

In Memory of Vicki Edelman

Carol Cassell
Richard Edelman
Barbara and Steven Kiel

In Memory of Elyse Hecht

Carol Cassell
Marlene Diamond
Roberta and Peter Hong
Susan and Ed Levey
Julie and Joshua Lurie

In Memory of Bert Wagner

Helena Friedman
Roberta and Peter Hong
Kagan family

In Honor of

Jenna and Josh Bronstein	Their wedding
Ellen and Reid Fader	Charlie's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
Goodstadt family	Brooke and Emme's <i>B'not Mitzvah</i>
Pam and Jeff Himeles	Jake and Jackie Himeles' wedding
Anne and Andrew Kanter	Rabbi Rachel Steiner
Alexa and Jeffrey Laniado	Harley Eden Laniado's naming
Cantor Vladimir Lapin	Rabbi Rachel Steiner
Shari Redan and Bill Faivus	Jordyn Favius' <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
Elizabeth Levitt Resnick, Amanda and Greg	Jared Packman's high school graduation
Thalia Halpert-Rodis and Tristan Hearn	Rabbi Frishman, for officiating at their wedding

(Continued on next page)

March–June 2021 Donations (From previous page)

Joan Rosenthal
Cece Rund
Sheryl Thailer

Rabbi Rachel Steiner and staff
Sage Placer's Confirmation
Rabbi Elyse Frishman, for her
Kabbalah class
Rabbi Michael Lotker

Enid and Paul Avenius, in memory of Vicki Edelman
Enid and Paul Avenius, in memory of Margaret "Peggy"
Verhoof
Ellen and Stan Brand, in memory of Herbert Brand
Norma and Seymour Hurwitz, in memory of Barbara Kleinberg
Barbara and Steven Kiel, in memory of Elyse Hecht
Jill McGovern and family, in memory of William Shaffro

Sanctuary Enhancements Fund

	In Memory of
Jennifer and Andrew Charles	Elyse Hecht
Barbara and Steven Kiel	Sylvia Lauber
	Harry Mandel
Susan and Richard Kuller	Carol Fenster
	Jay Kuller
	Ruth Kuller-Fettman
Gail White	Hannah Chestnov

	In Honor of
Kathy Hecht and Len Diamond	Rabbi Steiner, for leading <i>Shiva</i> and guiding Rebecca through the graveside service process

Social Action Fund

Joel Bauer, for the Passover food drive

	In Memory of
Anonymous	Bert Wagner
Barbara Bressler	Philip Starr
Barbara and Barry Kessler	Leon Kessler
	Birdie Stave
Susan Nashel	Judith Zeiger
Friends of Schulties family	John Schulties
John H. Wessling, III	Bert Wagner

In Memory of Elyse Hecht

Enid and Paul Avenius
Trish and Mitchell Hausman
Susan and Richard Kuller
Cipora Schwartz

	In Honor of
Mireille Schuck	Her grandson Leo's <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>

For COVID-19 Food Relief

Anonymous, in memory of Elyse Hecht
Enid and Paul Avenius, in memory of Freyda Sanders

Yahrzeit Donations

	In Memory of
Nicky and Paul Anderson	Evelyn Meier
Dr. Lee Berger and family	Murry Berger
Sherri and Rob Berman	Marcia Kaiserman
Patti and Michael Cantor	Rose Villa
	Joseph Villa
Family of Laura Levy	Eli Levy Utterback
Ellen and Stan Brand	Robert Salzberg
	Sara Dunn

Lisa and Jeffrey Dugal	Elyse Hecht
Ellen and Reid Fader	Arthur Kaplan
Gayle and Mel Gerstein	Frank Gerstein
Susan Goodstadt-Levin and Bob Levin	Harry Goodstadt
Reggie Gross and family	Peter Gross
Pam and Jeff Himeles	Martin Himeles, Sr.
Barbara and Steven Kiel	Sara Jean Kiel

Sue and Rolf Klein	Richard Kiel
	Bert Wagner
	Frank Perlin
	Carol Konowitz
	Joseph Walukiewicz
Julie Powers-Lurie	Roy Powers
Michele and Rick Marker	Bob Gene Strigo
Rattner family	Russell Chapman
	Sandra Rattner Pelican
Elizabeth Levitt Resnick	Marion Schleikorn
	Bert Wagner

Danielle and Harrison Rosenberg	Lawrence Grundleger
Rebecca Rund	Stephen George Rund
Joanne Siegel	Richard Siegel
Dorothy and Harvey Starr	Nathan and Elsie Schwartz
	Beatrice and Jacob Starr
Ruth Summers	Selma Sorkin
Nan Sumner	Matthew Sumner
Florence Teich	Max Cohen
Susan and Jeffrey Wild	Stanley Wild



Mount Nebo Cemetery

A Tranquil Final Resting Place in Totowa, NJ

Jewish tradition holds that a cemetery is a sacred place for a Jewish community to consecrate and maintain. For this reason, the founders of Barnert Temple established Mount Nebo Cemetery.

Owned and run by Barnert Temple since 1867, Mount Nebo Cemetery occupies 22 acres in a quiet, residential section of Totowa. The surrounding woods, wildlife, and stream that traverse the property provide a uniquely serene and rustic setting for sacred burial ground. A stroll through the cemetery marks a journey through our synagogue's rich history, as it is the final resting place of Barnert Temple's namesakes, Nathan and Miriam Barnert, as well as clergy, lay leaders and generations of congregants.

Schedule a tour to see and experience the beauty and tranquility of Mount Nebo.



Burial details are far more difficult to deal with during an emergency or health crisis. Don't burden children and loved ones with this important decision. Have peace of mind knowing your final resting place has been secured.

- Individual & family plots are available.
- Plots are available for non-Jewish spouses/significant others.
- Plots are available for non-members.

Member Price: \$1,600*

Non-Member Price: \$2,750*

**There will be a substantial price increase in Sept. 2021*



To schedule a tour or for additional information, contact Pam & Jeff Himeles at mtnebo@barnerttemple.org.

Mount Nebo Cemetery: 195 Totowa Rd, Totowa, NJ | Barnert Temple: 747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Nathan Barnert Memorial Temple
747 Route 208 South, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

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