

**The World Is Different.
Our Commitment Is the Same.**



Barnert Is Always Here For You.

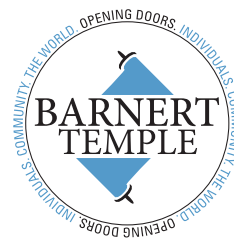
BARNERT

The Magazine

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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

Invisible Ties, Palpable Connection



Dear Barnert friends,

The internet is a mystery to me. Really. How do we write things on personal computers — for that matter how do we write things on computers?! — and have them arrive on the screens of friends, family, colleagues, congregants? Yes, I know I could spend a little bit of time reading about the webs and wires that connect

us, but I choose not to. I am comfortable with the mystery of digital communication remaining just that.

Over the past few months I have been so deeply grateful for this inexplicable, connective magic that has allowed us to be face to face and together through so much sadness, so much happiness, and so much growth. Your voices and your faces have been lights for me and for each other during an otherwise very dark time.

The last day I worked in my office in mid-March, I remember choosing must-have books, packing up my guitar, grabbing a *tallit*, and heading home. I had no idea what was to come, how we'd connect, who we'd lose. And in true Barnert style, everyone stepped up. The COVID Task Force, led by Len Diamond, helped guide our decision-making. Our IT wizards identified a platform upon which we could gather. And the unflappable Rebecca Rund graciously accepted and improved upon all of the ideas I

sent her way for how to create and share our Barnert digital home outside of our physical home. Practically overnight we had our Barnert Virtual Community.

The past months have been heartbreaking. We remember the frequency with which we

had to share sad news. So many of our loved ones have died during this pandemic. Your parents, your friends, your partners. Our Barnert members — long-standing and brand new — here and then suddenly gone. You have mourned alone. Yes, Zoom funerals and *shiva* offer a particular kind of intimate gathering. And yes, it is better than nothing. But there is nothing like a hug when we are sad. Please know that we continue to walk with you and to love you. And I am keeping a very long list of IOUs for hugs. I hope this offers some light amidst darkness.

These past months have been regenerative; we have gathered each week for our Zoom *Shabbat* experience.

Regularly there are between 80–120 devices at our service. My best guess is that we are praying each week with at least 250 people; many weeks even more. I visualize us, filling not only the sanctuary but also the many, many rows of chairs we would need beyond the movable back wall to accommodate all of us together. This makes me feel even more connected with you. And Marina and Janet have worked to ensure that we continue to enjoy multi-vocal music with new recordings to share and enjoy together. Our *Shabbat* gatherings have illuminated long weeks at home for so many of us.

These past months we have made new connections. We have spoken with temple members we didn't know but with whom we now regularly check in. We have welcomed old friends who had moved out of the area, back into our living rooms, to *Shabbat* worship, and to our classes. The digital platform doesn't care if you don't live in NJ. It has been great to be together.

These past months have taught us that we don't lose the core of Jewish living in a time when we can't share physical spaces. We still stand on *Torah*, *Avodah*, and *Gemilut Chasadim*.

- We have engaged in deep learning: weekly *Torah* study, *Musar*, *Kabbalah*, *Talmud*, and of course JJP and preschool. The radiance of learning.
- We have creatively connected through *avodah*; our service and ritual observances: *Shabbat*, *Havdalah*, *Passover Seder*; our *Shavuot* digital *Torah* pass; *Yizkor*. The flames of so many candles locate us in time and memory.
- We support others; our Social Action team has provided innumerable opportunities to give assistance, whether it be our time, food donations, gift cards, money, or "stuff," to those weathering this pandemic with insecurity around food and shelter. We are called by our prophetic tradition to live as lights where there is darkness.

And even though there is so much that has worked well, I want you to know that I miss you. Deeply. I miss greeting you at the door each *Shabbat*. I miss singing with you in the sanctuary. I miss catching your eye and having that moment of knowing how you *really* are faring on any given day. I miss eating pizza with our kids and talking about God and our broken world with our teens. I miss you.

There is a beautiful *midrash* about light that I'd like to share with you. In the book of Numbers there is a description of how the Israelites will not only build but also light the *Menorah* that is to stand in the Temple. The *Torah* instructs the priests about the lighting using the Hebrew word *b'haalot'cha*. The word comes from the Hebrew root
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A Message From the President

Drawing Strength From the Barnert Community



As the anniversary of my first year as president of Barnert approaches, and I reflect upon the past year, what stands out for me is our extraordinary community of doers and thinkers, all with such generous hearts. We are not ones to be daunted by challenge; we are not ones to hide our heads in the sand. Immediately upon recognition of a fearful virus, we took

steps to close the building, move services and programs online, take care of our congregants young and old, and use our vast network of hearts and brains to keep our community strong and supportive.

Without a doubt, I have amazing shoulders to stand upon, as part of a smart and committed group of past presidents. And our congregation today rests on the shoulders of our Barnert history and I find that so impactful. I celebrate our ability to pivot on a dime, pull a COVID task force together, learn and teach others how to use Zoom — all due to our amazing people who have vast expertise in different areas.

And then there are the wrenching moments I've had to observe — the lone person at a graveside, a *shiva* done virtually, the long list of names read out on *Shabbat* for *Mi Sheberach*, the Zoom chat admissions of loneliness... And then there are the supremely uplifting moments like that virtual *shiva* where people from all over the country were able to attend who wouldn't

have normally; the huge number of participants, still to this moment, in *Shabbat* services, with families in kitchens lighting candles; and the incredible words from congregants in those same Zoom chats, such as "Somehow during the COVID time, I have felt an unusual sense of contentment and peace; Barnert keeps me whole by keeping me connected to Jewish values that keep me balanced."

I've had a lot of leadership positions in my life, and this opportunity as a leader of a significantly volunteer-run organization has enriched my life and offered challenges, especially during these unprecedented last few months.

I draw strength from our community, from our beloved rabbi who has led us so strenuously, valiantly, compassionately. From the highly attended classes (we've had four times as many as who usually attend, ranging from Rabbi Frishman's *Kabbalah* to Rabbi Steiner's *Torah* Study to Suzanne Feldman's Movement class) to the uplifting services (who knew how much we would all come to love *havdalah* with the Steiner family?), it's clear that what stands out is the understanding that we need each other now more than ever. We are our source of comfort, social connection, spiritual solace.

And on a very personal note, despite all the challenges, I feel strongly that our future is more important than ever. Barnert is the foundation of bringing up our children, and we must nourish that foundation. I am the human being I am largely because of Barnert Temple.

Barnert, you are my people. Thank you.

— Elizabeth Resnick

A Message From Rabbi Rachel Steiner (From previous page)

which means to ascend. The rabbis are puzzled by this choice of language — why the choice of this verb? What is it about lighting the *Menorah* that is connected with going up? In an imagined conversation with God, the narrator of this *midrash* asks, "Do You, God, who gives light to the whole world, do You really need *us* to give You light?" God responds, "Just as my light elevates you, so your light elevates Me. When you light the *Menorah*, and you lift yourself up, you ascend to a radiant relationship with Me."

God introduces light to create day — the beginning of creation. God reminds the people that they are not alone with a pillar of light that burns through the night during long nights in the wilderness. We arise and ascend and illumine; the *ner tamid*, eternal light that hangs above the ark, and the *Menorah* meant to stand in the Temple.

In our post-priest Jewish living, we are lighters of lamps. We ascend and bring light, elevating ourselves, our particular relationship with God, and our sacred commitment to one another. It is in these brilliant partnerships that we continue to shape our families, our neighborhoods, our communities, our country, our world, into ones of justice for all and abounding love.

Our Barnert community has been the light, in sadness, in joy, in the mundane every day. This is a living tribute to our proud 173 years of Jewish living at Barnert Temple. May we continue to elevate one another. May this love shine brightly, illuminating both the blessings for which we are grateful, and the brokenness that needs our attention. Together, it is not so dark, and we are never alone.

A Message From Sara Losch

Preschool Didn't Miss a Beat!



Learning everything on Zoom is the best, m'right? Yeah, me neither.

But when you "Barnertize" the learning, create a Barnert list of things to learn, adapt your schedule to make attendance more convenient, have one-to-ones for the things that need them and finally, most importantly, add Barnert people, we get a pretty strong "yes" to success.

On March 11, we were tossed out of our beloved building. With very little time to think about it, our teaching staff went into creative mode. We knew a few things and worked around them:

1. We could not be in the building, nor could we go back into the building for supplies.
2. Our older children were going to be on screens for elementary, middle and high school. We needed to work around their schedules and be sensitive to the changes in their lives.
3. Our preschoolers, though we did not encourage screen time, were going to need to learn to be with their friends on screen.
4. For many teachers, this was a totally new skill. And they had less than a week to jump in.
5. As I was caring for my mom, Nan Sumner and Jennifer Katz-Goldstein, our Assistant Directors of the preschool and JJP respectively, had to create a fully online curriculum without me.

I've had a lot of feedback, from older students (who asked us to continue courses when classes were officially over on May) and parents. I can say with pride that our teaching staff rose to the occasion. JJP students were able to maintain their valued relationships with teachers and friends. Hebrew students increased their skills and really loved their one-to-one lessons with their teachers. (Jennifer taught all of the grade-by-grade Hebrew classes.) They participated in online cooking classes and ethics through music. The 8th graders and I met each week to discuss hope and responsibility in this scary time. Jewish life went on and more of our families started to join in *Shabbat* services online. So much good came out of being challenged.

Our preschoolers, too, figured it out — some more quickly than their parents. ("Unmute myself? No problem!") Our youngest Barnert learners spent meaningful time with their classmates EVERY DAY, continuing familiar routines that helped them feel rooted, safe and loved. Their teachers were heroes, and parents, well, I can't say enough about how you had to adapt your lives. We've always considered

our home-school partnership to be strong, but it is clear that the trust you placed in us and we in you is the sign of a truly sacred partnership. We are grateful.

We've only just begun.

This summer, we'll be offering online classes for children ages 3-15 in a camp program called Summer Fun, Something's Begun at Barnert. Every child will be encouraged to spend a lot of time outdoors, exploring nature and being with families. But for 1-3 hours a day, they will have their Barnert friends with whom to enjoy new ideas. From sign language to cooking, runner training to upcycling art activities, we'll make summer a bit brighter.

On a personal note, I can't thank you enough, my Barnert community, for the outpouring of love and support this past year. Having lost my mother-in-law in November and my mother in April, it's been a challenging time. Yet, I have never felt more blessed. You have held my family up, fed us, checked in on us, shopped for us, and never let us forget that we are not alone.

From Jorge, Jessie, Gabby and my father, Rick, we thank you.

Have a wonderful summer, and until we are together for hugs, consider this a big one from me.

— Sara Losch



We would like to dedicate this issue of the Barnert Temple Magazine to Rebecca Rund. Rebecca beautifully and gracefully built the platform for our Barnert Virtual Community, allowing us to gather for services, classes, and connections. We have all benefitted from the ease, helpful support, and solace that Rebecca and her team have brought during these last few months.

Book Club

A Lively Book Discussion

As we retreated to the insides of our houses, the Barnert Book Club was intrepid, and decided to hold their next discussion via Zoom. With help from our tech experts, a Zoom invitation went out for May 18. Says organizer, Benita Herman, after the discussion: "WOW. Our founding member, over 20 years ago, who now lives in California, said it was the best Zoom meeting she was ever on! And many of you came — 13 to be exact."

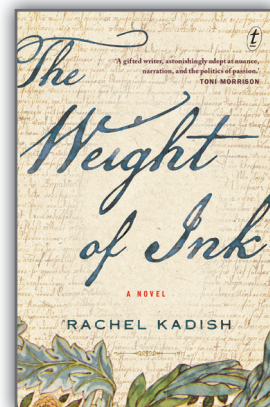
The discussion was lively, and most agreed it was well done and most timely and worthwhile read, especially getting close to a presidential election.



Benita invites you to their next meeting, which will also be via Zoom, on Monday, July 13, from 3 to 5pm. Just contact Benita to let her know you will be joining.

The book they have chosen to discuss is *The Weight of Ink*, by Rachel Kadish. If you want to borrow a digital version from a local library and you have a library card, you can download either of these two apps: Libby, by OverDrive, or HOOPLA. It's also available as an audio book, on Audible. It's 500 pages, but a fascinating read, so get started and we look forward to "seeing" you!

— Benita Herman



Men's Club

Rallying 'Round the Screen

Like all our members and all of Barnert's internal organizations, Men's Club has experienced a lot of learning and adjusting over the past several months, and I'm going to tell you about some of it now.

Although we miss seeing each other at our regular in-person gatherings, our members have begun to connect to one another in unexpectedly meaningful ways for interesting interaction.

For instance, a visitor to our Facebook page would see that several members frequently post elaborate, colorful, and always creative pictures of some of the dinners they're cooking now that they have the time to do a little something special in the kitchen or on the grill. I recommend you take a look.

We've also had several interesting online meetings. In one, we shared the TV programs, especially on the premium channels, that we've been bingeing on. Some of us have found that getting reviews and recommendations from friends is more valuable than those from the critics. A lively discussion of the film *Everything is Illuminated* followed. It was another new kind of discussion for Men's Club, different from anything we did pre-quarantine.

In mid-May, we had an opportunity to share our favorite photos from vacation. There were some great landscapes, and the close-up shots of apes were really compelling. (Ya hadda be there!)

In June, the Men's Club was planning to crown its first Trivia King, an event occurring just after deadline, so I can't share the winner with you quite yet.

So, we've taken a rather dramatic time in our lives and made the most of it with video meeting technology.

— Bob Males

Ritual Committee

A Silver Lining for Ritual

Oh, how ritual has changed... and yet stayed the same. While COVID quarantine has kept us out of the building, it certainly hasn't kept us from each other. A big silver lining for us was the ability to connect with, and reach people that may have been less involved previously. From *Shabbat to Shabbat*, we have found many ways to translate Ritual to a virtual experience, even a virtual passing of the *Torah* for *Shavuot*. Watch the Digital *Torah*-passing video [here](#).

— Diane Kaplan

Renaissance Group

A Time to Slow Down

During the last couple of months I have spoken with most of our Renaissance Group members and thankfully, all have remained healthy and creatively active, staying at home, or safe temporarily living at another location. Benita Herman's essay below captures much of the feelings and thoughts of our membership.

Little did I know that on March 12, after I left the office for a long lunch to celebrate a dear friend's milestone birthday, I would not return to that office for two to three months, or more. After the unthinkable happened, we were staying home, and at home I still am. But everything seems so different now. I suspect many of us have adapted to a new fact of life, the virus, the pandemic.

We have learned to live with sorrow and fear, to pray for the patients and to be thankful for the ones that saved us. And then we learned all of the rules on how to stay safe.

There was also plenty of time to look inward, and I discovered so much about myself, my family, my husband and my colleagues, and about some of you. I guess that means I've adapted. And see what I discovered.

Here is the beautiful flowering cherry tree just outside our kitchen window. I watched it start to flower and delighted daily in its beauty. Not only that, but there is a robin sitting in her nest, on her eggs, on a limb right near that window.

This photo shows the tree at its peak of color. I've never had the chance to appreciate the beauty that was right there, right under my nose. I had been working in the office five days a week and never had the time to fully take in the beauty of our own backyard. I'd been missing a lot of wonderful things and leading a frenetic life. It is time to slow down.

—Joan Cowlan



BarTY

Being There for Each Other

BarTY has always been here for you. Now, we are figuring out how to be "here" through Zoom calls, texts, Instagram stories. Here, emotionally when we can't be there physically. Whether it's through a screen or in our lounge, we will ALWAYS be your home, your community, your BarTY. — Jessie Losch, BarTY leader



During the pandemic, BARTY has been a safe place to discuss the worries that we have or the troubles that we are experiencing during these difficult times, and it comforts me to know that there is a community of people that I love and trust, and that we will support each other through this. — Ethan Bernstein

Notes from Preschool Parents

The Barnert Preschool teaching staff has not missed a beat with the very quick transformation of online learning. From building birds' nests to online scavenger hunts and outdoor live Instagram nature feeds, they have kept our children engaged and learning. Although it has definitely been a challenge at times, I cherish the fact that my son has been laughing and enjoying seeing one another during Zoom and chat times. Even though his recent practicing of their graduation song "All My Life's a Circle" has brought tears to my eyes, the Barnert preschool staff has helped me in so many ways to stay positive and to continue to find joy in these difficult days. — Jodi Fader

Through this unusual life transition for so many families, the preschool and JJP of Barnert have held our hands day by day. My children have been able to be comforted from seeing their teachers through all this distance learning. Jane and Bernadette, the Big Shots' superstars, have guided the children to explore nature, share stories from home, and create art that has allowed the children to explore learning in a whole new way. Thank you for keeping us connected. Barnert has been our constant. — Emily Adler

Social Action

Social Action in a Pandemic

The Social Action Committee, in concert with the COVID Task Force, has been busy these last few months. Thanks to all our congregants for the generosity you have shown to those in need.

- Generous contributions to Barnert-supported charities (CUMAC, CFA, Center for Hope and Safety)
- Forty-two \$25 ShopRite gift cards for CUMAC
- Over 40 bags of food collected in our first-ever food pick-up drive
- Making masks for individuals and front-line workers
- Continuation of monthly meals to the St. Paul's Men's Shelter
- Home-cooked meals, and comforting calls, to those who have suffered loss
- Opportunities for legislative action; support to local Jewish organizations

As Donna Meyer, Sue Klein, and I step down from co-leadership of Social Action, and we embrace our new leaders, we want to thank everyone for this last year of increasing volunteerism and participation in Social Action at Barnert. As a parting inspiration, we give you the words of a dear rabbi and expert in social action and social justice.

— Rebecca Holland

A Conversation with Rabbi Joel Soffin



The needs are everywhere. The suggestions flood in. The feelings of helplessness and worry abound. We can feel restless and inactive. So, the Barnert Temple Social Action Committee decided to contact an expert on Social Action, Rabbi Joel Soffin, who, 14 years ago, was our Sabbatical rabbi and who, for 14 years since, has taught a

twice-a-month *Talmud* class at Barnert.

Social Action: You have dedicated your life to your work on Social Action. You teach all ages your thought that we are all born with a *mitzvah* tattooed on our foreheads. What do you mean by this and, in the current pandemic, where it feels like our *mitzvah*-doing abilities are limited, how do you see this as a guide for us?

Rabbi Joel Soffin (RJS): The "*mitzvah*" on your forehead is what you do best. Are you a carpenter, a cook, a Zoom master? When you wake up in the middle of the night, if you were asked, what do you do best?, what would be your answer? Then you turn that ability into a way to help others. Organize a Zoom dinner with friends. Put lyrics up to your favorite songs to sing with others and cheer them up. Are you a movie buff? Recommend a few titles to friends. Host a book club. Call five people you haven't heard from in a while and check on them. Volunteer to read stories to children. Drop off seedlings at someone's

door for planting. Once you are sharing things that you are good at, you get out of yourself. Suddenly you are a giver and not a taker. Don't ever do more than you want to do; people are grateful for whatever you do.

SA: Most organizations want and need money at this time, but how much can I give? And is it enough to just give money?

RJS: The world has changed in terms of donations; some just want \$3. Give \$3 to 12 organizations that interest you. Or, get onto their websites. There are always ways to help: sign petitions, send letters, send emails, send gift cards. As we are taught: It's not incumbent for you to finish the job, but you cannot turn away from it.

SA: We are approached from the national level to the community level for help. How do we balance our time, energy, and money?

RJS: Make it a family project. Decide on a budget, have everyone contribute to the pot, and grow your *tzedakah* collection. Then, decide on your values: are you helping relatives, congregants, people in a particular town or facility? Next, do research. Where is the need, where does small money make a big difference? If four people come back with four proposals, discuss and decide on a plan. Make it a teachable moment.

SA: What do you say to those who are home and feeling helpless, fighting worry, anxiety and fear, via the lens of social action?

Acknowledge; don't deny that we have anxiety.

Meditation, yoga, calm, deep breaths. Laugh.

Learn. Study. Read psalms (they're not always happy).

Listen to Jewish music.

Find the *mitzvah* tattooed on your forehead.

A Conversation with Jennifer Katz-Goldstein, Assistant Director of the Jewish Journey Project (JJP) at Barnert

We asked Mora Jennifer: has any moment, program, interaction, reaction, or benchmark stood out for you during this time of Zoom online-schooling with your students?

Yes. Where to begin?

I have been overwhelmed in every way regarding our transition to online JJP. First, Rebecca Rund's endless efforts to support JJP's transition to online: making herself available, helping teachers and me to Zoom/teach effectively. I was touched and impressed by her willingness to take the lead on this and to be there for me and our program. I felt so much support as I really needed to make these changes and quickly.

I was so touched and happy to receive text messages and videos from preschool parents sharing their children singing and dancing along with me during our "Music with Jennifer" time. It made me think, how can I do more for them? How can I make this even better?

It was such a joy and relief to see the faces of our JJP students come to life online. We had missed them. That they were okay, they were adjusting. They were just as happy to see me and our teachers. JJP became a constant for them during a difficult and unsteady time.

Our attendance rate was almost unexpected. Our parents as well were so grateful and happy to not only have their children's Jewish education continue seamlessly, but to know there were other trusted adults

online talking to and teaching them. (I received many emails telling me this.) They needed us and we were able to be there for our students and families.

I am thrilled to include there that we are now in the midst of offering our MINI-TAG June edition program. During the month of June, 29 students will be FaceTiming with JJP teachers and "tagging" with them. They will discuss how the students have been and how they can continue to engage with *Torah* (study), *Avodah* (worship) and *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of kindness) while in quarantine and social distancing. Students who participate will receive TAG awards in the form of *tzedakah* to donate to one of five organizations they have learned about. Again, parents have been so thankful to have this program available for their children and to have the special time with our JJP teachers. I received an email just this week from a parent telling one of our teachers, "Thank you so much. Our daughter loved speaking with you today. Your talk brightened her mood." This is what we strive for!

I am proud and honored to be a staff member and congregant of a place that supported me in being able to create what our families needed during a time of crisis, and of being a family who is experiencing it.

Adjusting at the Preschool: A Note from Nan Sumner, Assistant Director, Preschool

The pandemic hit, Barnert was closing its doors, and teaching staff went into overdrive to connect digitally with the children in their classes. Parents became the on-site educators and teachers were spending their days and nights learning how to transfer their knowledge of emergent curriculum into online learning for preschool. Everything they knew about early childhood education had to be relearned to accommodate online learning. Teachers had to change their way of thinking and they had to do it fast. They needed to engage children through a screen knowing "screen time" was inappropriate for early childhood. Teachers opened their homes (online) to every family in the preschool and became accessible 24/7. They had to squash their own fears and anxieties to be positive and supportive for their preschool children and families. They, too, had to adjust to all the "quarantine" changes, and adjust they did. They taught with laughter, engagement failures and mistakes. They found their joy and strengthened their relationships while nurturing

connections with their class. They changed up expectations and embraced this new learning. Preschool teaching staff met every day with their teams and with their fellow colleagues. They reached out to families, did class drive-bys, and tirelessly created weekly YouTube video content to post to the preschool channel. It is through their dedication and love for our families that we were able to launch and succeed in our preschool learning from home. Thank you to Ilene Kandler, Lisa Margolis, Pam Fishman, Susan Wild, Lynne Birrer, Jane Triglia, Bernadette Raguso, Sharon Ramsey, Jorge Losch, and Eve Lehrer for your love of teaching and your commitment to our preschool community.



Messages of Connection and Gratitude Via Zoom

Zoom has become our new “way of connection.” Whether through services or study, our community has flocked in large numbers to their computer screens to join with each other. The Chat function of Zoom tells its own story. Below are various comments that we thought worth sharing.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting window with a title bar "Zoom Meeting ID: [redacted]". In the top right corner, there is a "Speaker View" button. The main area of the window displays a grid of 16 messages, arranged in 4 rows and 4 columns. At the bottom of the window is a toolbar with various icons: Mute, Stop Video, Invite, Manage Participants (showing 16 participants), Polling, Share Screen, Chat, Record, Breakout Rooms, and More. An "End Meeting" button is located in the bottom right corner.

I love being with the Barnert community in worship and study and everything we do.	I thank Rabbi Steiner for her sincerity and compassion and her sense of community, honesty, and love during this uncertain time.	Best part of this mess is being with our amazing community.	I love being in touch consistently, the steady comforting presence, the excellent teaching; love havdalah!
One of the gifts of this unbelievable period is I have gotten to interact with and know people I don't normally cross paths with. It has been really wonderful.	I never thought being trapped at home and using Zoom would help me meet new people and make real connections, but that's exactly what's happened. This is the gift I never expected from a pandemic.	The sense of community that you've cultivated feels stronger than ever.	Our video connection has opened new opportunities... and an intimacy in being together from home on Shabbat. I love being able to "talk during services" to send personal and group chats. Rabbi Steiner has done an amazing job of keeping a warm and personal touch during services.
As the face of the Barnert Temple, Rabbi Steiner is demonstrating heroic, relentless and humble leadership, but clearly there is a well-coordinated organization supporting her. I've never felt prouder to be a Barnert member.	The feeling of community at Shabbat services — which we normally don't attend on a regular basis, has been very comforting. The music is beautiful and Rabbi Steiner is so inclusive and reassuring.	Love the movement in Suzanne Feldman's class. Simple and energizing. She gets you to a place where you feel good, serene, and energized.	Thank you for providing so many opportunities to connect with the Barnert community, such that I don't feel so alone and isolated.
I've been so grateful for the many connections the temple has provided, and have gotten to know some members with whom I'd had minimal contact before these months. The presence of so many at services and study groups has shown me how important Barnert is in so many lives and how it's meeting a great need.	The Barnert Virtual Community is my lifeline to connection and keeps me from feeling alone.	I received a weekly check-in from a congregant which has made a more beautiful connection and a new friendship.	I feel even more connected! Love it!

Music in the Time of COVID

The power of music has always been a vital and spiritually enhancing part of our services and our practice. And during this time of quarantine, Rabbi Steiner and others have organized some beautiful pieces sung and played during our services over Zoom. Here are some of the pieces that have been featured; you will recognize most of the performers! Listen to them [here](#).

Hodu L'adonai

Vocals: Rabbi Steiner and Marina Voronina
Piano: Janet Montroy
Written by Debbie Friedman

Al Kol Eleh

Vocals: Mia Lowy and Marina Voronina
Piano: Janet Montroy
Written by Naomi Shemer

L'dor Vador

Vocals: Mia Lowy and Marina Voronina
Piano: Janet Montroy
Written by Josh Nelson

If Not Now

Vocals: Mia Lowy
Written by Sheldon Low

Val Kulam

Vocals: Rabbi Steiner and Marina Voronina
Piano: Janet Montroy
Written by Meir Finkelstein

Ahavat Olam

Performed by the Platt Brothers

Heal Us Now

Performed by Hazamir Hasharon
Written by Leon Sher

Y'varech'cha

Vocals: Rabbi Rachel Steiner and Marina Voronina
Piano: Janet Montroy
Music by David Kates

Nachamu

Vocals: Rabbi Rachel Steiner and Mia Lowy
Piano: Janet Montroy
Music by Elana Arian

Broken Hearted

Vocals: Rabbi Rachel Steiner and Marina Voronina
Piano: Janet Montroy
Music by Shir Yaakov

In Memoriam

Members of Barnert Temple

Tom Dorsett, husband of Jacqui Dorsett
Mark Falow, husband of Kimberly Falow
Ruth Greenberg
Peter Gross, husband of Reggie Gross
Jim Judd, husband of Ellen Benson
Joe Rattner, loved one of Amy Rattner

Loved ones of Barnert members

Barry Barovick, father of Allison Norwalk
Russell Chapman, father of Amy Rattner
Hesh Feldman, Uncle of Harvey Feldman
Bernie Freedman, father of Barbara Starr (Office Manager)
Jack Goldberg, grandfather of Ariele Hecht
Alan Golub, partner of Sandi Pleeter
Edna Kanter, mother of Andy Kanter
Barbara Kleinberg, sister of Seymour Hurwitz
Carol Konowitz, mother of Sue Klein
Marilyn Laber, mother of Rick Greenberg
Lily Lanin, mother of Sara Losch
Gary Louzides, husband of Liz Louzides
Barry Mascari, loved one of Aviva Sanders
Evelyn Meier, mother of Nicky Anderson
Geraldine Melinger, grandmother of Ben Melinger
Brenda Millman, stepmother of Natasha Fitterman
Martin Millman, father of Natasha Fitterman
Irene Ruth Mohel, mother of Hillary Kulick
Captain Stuart Lawrence Nestampower, father of Mindy Nestampower Mason
Barbara Pam, mother of Iris Gersh

Harriet Blatt Reiser, mother of Stuart Reiser and grandmother of Eric Reiser
William Shaffro, father of Jill McGovern
David Siegal (Barnert Past President)
Constantine Soukas, father of Bill Soukas
Maria Soukas, mother of Bill Soukas
Miriam Springer, grandmother of Jessica Abuliak
Rimma Tesker, mother of Ben Tesker
Marilyn Wieseneck Levenberg, mother of Lori Solomon (Rabbi's Assistant)

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Mazal tov to

B'nai Mitzvah students with assigned dates since we closed our building

Jake Arenstein
Sophie Bergman
Kiran Dewan*
Sophia Erichsen*
Noah Fintzy*
Logan Harmer*
Jordyn Kolstein
Evangeline LoGiudice
Samantha Marker
David Ramsey
Claire Rosenfeld
Ben Tomaskovic

*Will celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvah at a later date

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Barnert Garden Fund

Nicky and Paul Anderson

In Memory of
Evelyn Meier

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Alan Blumberg
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Faina Menzul
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Ruth Slater
Betty Weisenfeld
Doris Lobsenz
Meyer Lobsenz
Arthur Lobsenz
Philip Dimond
Minnie Dimond
Albert Slater
Becky Slater
Lester Males
Rose Steinberg
Wallace P. Manheimer
Antoinette Manheimer

Males family
Eileen and Wally Manheimer

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Alan, Nathan, and
Jessica Blumberg
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Joyce Unger

In Memory of
David Siegal
Jim Judd
Louis Lappin

Barnert Temple Sisterhood

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In Memory of
Carol Konowitz

Rebecca Rund and Roger Placer

In Honor of
Eden's 14th birthday
Cecilia Rund

Campaign Contributions

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Jim Judd

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Lily Lanin
Susan Sauer, with thanks
to Jennifer for her help
Frieda Nalven

Elsie and Howard Kahan Memorial Holocaust Fund

In Memory of

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Charles Troyanovski

Moshe Troyanovski

Free Will

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Aileen and Walter Stranzl

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In Honor of
Mollie Good's
Confirmation

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Ida Lemelson

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In Memory of
Herbert Harrison
Joyce Harrison
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Gutenstein

Alice Heffner, Alan,
Mitch, and Claire Lieber

Eva Heffner
(Continued on next page)

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Irving Lefkowitz
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In Honor of
Caring Committee and
Rabbi Steiner

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In Memory of
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In Honor of
Benjamin Good's
acceptance to the
Bergen County Academies

Kathie F. Williams' TAG Scholarship Challenge

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Roberta and Peter Hong

Lifelong Learning Fund

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In Memory of
Eunice Berman
Samuel Chalfin
Bertram Cowlan
Dolly Hajtman
Carol Konowitz
Barbara Pam
Mollie Victoria Meyers

Mark Falow
Eleanor Shapiro
Lena Shapiro
Bertha Gaspari
Charles Gaspari
Devra Frelander as we
approach her first *yahrzeit*

In Memory of Lily Lanin

Karen and Alan Adler
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Soukas/Shafon family
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Marcie and Jeff Zage

Moss family

Schulties family

In Honor of

2020 Fantastics teachers
(Nan, Sharon, Eve, and
Jorge), and ALL of
the amazing preschool
teachers and staff
The incredible Fantastics
teachers of 2020 and
preschool leadership
and staff

Mount Nebo Cemetery Beautification Fund

Eckstein family
Howard Feltman and
Elinor Sanders

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In Memory of Frank Eckstein

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Stephen Wener
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In Honor of

Jake Arenstein
Sophie's Bat Mitzvah
(Continued on next page)

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Catherine Courtney and
Scott Fintzy
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Noah's *Bar Mitzvah*
Sophia's *Bat Mitzvah*
Sienna's *Bat Mitzvah*
Samantha's *Bat Mitzvah*

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Claire Rosenfeld's
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Sophia's *Bat Mitzvah*

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Edna Yamner
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(Continued on next page)

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In Honor of

Lily Dolores Alter's birth

Renewing their vows
Lauren Kroll and Brandon
Neuburger's marriage

In appreciation for
everything Rabbi Steiner
is doing to hold us together
during this difficult time

David Ramsey's *Bar Mitzvah*

Alan Lieber
Brett McChesney's
Bar Mitzvah

Cecilia Rund's
appointment as vice
president of the Jewish
Women's Federation of
Maryland

David Ramsey's *Bar Mitzvah*

In appreciation for our
amazing rabbi and
Sara Losch

Sanctuary Enhancements Fund

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In Memory of

Monroe Lauber
Sara Jean Kiel
Richard Kiel
Marilyn Laber
Marilyn Wieseneck
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Sylvia Troyanovski

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Helen L. Mayer

In Honor of

Cipora Schwartz
Thalia Halpert Rodis'
Ordination as a rabbi
Clergy and everyone who
put together our Virtual
Community
(Continued on next page)

December 2019-May 2020 Donations (From previous page)

For COVID-19 Food Relief

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 Bertha Gaspari, and Lena Shapiro
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 Elyse and Arthur Zucker in memory of Jim Judd

Tree of Life

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Sophie's *Bat Mitzvah*

Natalie and Scott Erichsen
 Rita and Marty Kron
 Debra and Evan Tomaskovic

Sophia's *Bat Mitzvah*
 Jackson Wohl's birth
 Ben's *Bar Mitzvah*

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Gail White

Wild family
 Barbara Zdziarski

Shabbat Hello and Challah Giveaway

Cars streamed into the Barnert parking lot on the afternoon of June 26 to wave hello to Rabbi Steiner, Sara Losch, and others, and receive free *challahs*! It was wonderful to see people outside of a Zoom box! Watch the video [here](#).

The Confirmands

#barnertproud

On *Shabbat*, May 29, Rabbi Steiner and our community offered a special blessing for this year's Confirmation class. The Confirmation Class of 5780 has decided to continue for a second year of study and to be formally confirmed next spring when we can (hopefully) celebrate on our *bima* in person. So that we didn't let this date pass, we offered these six students — Ethan Bernstein, Mollie Good, Jayson Harmer, Jennifer Mason, Sarah Miller, and Ezra Shafron — a special blessing on Friday evening, the day of their originally scheduled Confirmation service. It was a wonderful opportunity to join together to note this milestone and lift them up!



Ethan Bernstein



Mollie Good



Jayson Harmer



Jennifer Mason



Sarah Miller



Ezra Shafron

Sisterhood

Meaningful Connections

Who knew a knitting circle via Zoom would become an opportunity to meet new people and connect in meaningful ways? Some brought knitting. Others brought crochet or macramé. Sometimes, people joined with nothing other than a desire to catch up and take a break from the day. In many ways, our projects are the backdrop for discussions about everything and anything from books, movies, current events, policy, family issues — anything goes!

We're so excited for our end-of-year Cocktail/Mocktail

Party, where we'll share summer drink recipes, honor our outgoing and incoming boards, and unveil the new Sisterhood Signature Beverage, which pays homage to our past leaders and celebrates our future. We'd certainly prefer to be celebrating in person on Jennifer Sauer's new amazing deck. However, we're so happy to have found ways to connect and support one another online. Come celebrate, learn, and connect with Sisterhood. We're here for you!

— Rebecca Rund and Susan Esserman-Schack

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

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

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rabbisteiner@barnerttemple.org

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

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

Mt. Nebo Cemetery (973) 373-0144
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DESIGN/PRODUCTION Jorge Losch

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