



Monsters of Judaism

TORAH ON
TAP

6-10-23

RABBI LEWIS PRESENTS

Monsters abound in Jewish texts. We will learn about the Golem, and also the vampires, witches, werewolves, and demons in Jewish literature and lore. You might be surprised just how many there are!

WINE, BEER, SOFT
DRINKS, AND
LIGHT SNACKS
PROVIDED

7-9 PM IN
FEINSTEIN
SOCIAL HALL

PLEASE
RSVP BY
JUNE 6

423-267-9771

office@mizpahcongregation.org

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

MIZPAH ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 3:00 PM

Wine and Cheese reception

- ◇ D'var Torah by Rabbi Craig Lewis
- ◇ Election Officers/Board FY 2024
- ◇ Committee Reports
- ◇ Budget 2024

Robert's Rules of Order observed

Vicki Lewis, President

Beth Thomas, Board Secretary

Mizpah
est. 1866
CONGREGATION

MIZPAH'S

NOSH AROUND THE CLOCK

It is summertime in the parking lot
at Mizpah, June 24, 2023.

Join your friends at Mizpah for the
first-ever **Nosh Around the Clock**.

Enjoy a **Classic Car Show** while listening
to tunes from the 50's and 60's.

You can also order the greatest Greek
food cuisine from Chattanooga's
now – famous food truck

Go GYRO Go!

If you have musical talent (singing or
musical instruments) and want to
participate please contact:

50s60sOldiesDJ@gmail.com

COME CHECK OUT
**VERY COOL
CLASSIC CARS**

MIZPAH PARKING LOT

923 MCCALLIE AVE
ENTER ON OAK ST
CHATTANOOGA, TN

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

UJFJ * CAMP
COLEMAN

**FAMILY
CAMP 23'**



SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2023

GEARED FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN WHO ARE
INTERESTED IN EXPERIENCING CAMP!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

6 Sivan, 5783
May 26, 2023



Vicki Lewis

Dear Fellow Congregants,

Today is *Shavuot* and I am in Twinsburg, Ohio, visiting my son, **Aaron**, and his family. They had invited us to come up for *Pesach*, but we could not make it this year, so we chose to come up Memorial Day weekend which happens to coincide with *Shavuot*.

I read comments from **Danny Cohn**, Director of the Birmingham Jewish Federation. I love the way he expresses himself, and I am borrowing his words. "Shavuot is a holiday that highlights the importance of learning and education. The holiday serves as a reminder that we should strive to learn and grow, both intellectually and spiritually. Shavuot reminds us to keep studying and exploring. Our Shabbat morning Torah Study attracts a number of our congregants who continue to do just that. Shavuot is also a holiday that celebrates diversity and inclusivity. According to Jewish tradition, the Torah was given to the entire Jewish community, regardless of their background or social status." **Rabbi Lewis** as well as **Debra Dubow** and our Social Action committee represent Mizpah supporting those whose personal identities have been questioned or ridiculed by others.

Nature and the harvest are also commemorated on Shavuot. In today's world, where environmental issues such as climate change and pollution are major concerns, Shavuot reminds us of our responsibility to care for the planet and its resources. Little actions like recycling or gardening contribute to this responsibility.

Shavuot also emphasizes renewal and transformation. Judaism teaches that the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai marked a significant turning point in Jewish history, and it represented a new beginning for the Jewish people. Shavuot reminds us that we have the power to change and transform our lives, and we can embrace new beginnings with optimism and hope. **Rabbi Lewis and Susan Caminez** have retooled the First Friday Family Shabbat. If you have not attended one recently, I encourage you to join us in a celebratory event involving not only adults but also our youngest members.

I know everyone will want to attend the Temple Annual Meeting, which is Sunday, June 30 at 3:00 pm. As I complete my first year as your President, I want to share some thoughts with you, our wonderful congregation. This was the first year Mizpah operated free of Covid restrictions. B'nai Zion operated within our building, and our staff was able to accommodate their needs in addition to our own. Our Board and committee chairs have been dedicated to our mission, and we have had numerous religious, social action, security, and social action programs. **Rabbi Lewis** and our staff were agile and creative as they fielded unexpected challenges, and I am so appreciative to have witnessed their dedication and hard work.

As we enter fiscal year 2024, we will need your financial support. I look forward to a campaign to restore the windows in our sanctuary. **Gary Chazen** is chairing this committee; when you hear from someone on his committee, please say yes. Don't wait – call him! We also need your presence at one or more of the many activities we will be offering.

Being elected President of Mizpah has been a wonderful experience for me. The contributions of those who have been here for years are admirable. Most of all, I thank all of you, our Mizpah community for your advice, input, dedication, and exceptional support.

L'dor va dor - From generation to generation

Vicki Lewis

SAVE THE DATES: INTRIGUING CONVERSATIONS

July 19, 2023 For Fox Sake Animal Rescue, with Mizpah-member **Junniper Russo**. Share Junniper's personal story of courage and care.

August 16, 2023 **Deborah Levine**, author of "Untold: Stories of a WWII Liberator," a radio play. Hear excerpts from the show, and share in her stories.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RABBI...

In his recent Netflix comedy special, John Mulaney accidentally touched on an important Jewish value. While he was mining comedy from some very dark and absurd observations, he talked about what it was like, when he was a child, to lose a loved one during summer vacation. He noted the extra attention he might have received from teachers and classmates, attention he did not get. It was actually rather funny, but beneath the humor was tragedy. What he really noted was what it was like to feel relatively alone, without a community of support. We have arbitrarily constructed seasons in the year that bring us together: "the school year," "programming years," which tend to be constructed around the school calendars, and "times for vacations," which we all need. That said, when our communities of support are constructed around these calendars, it opens the possibility to be separated from our communities at times when we might most need them. Mulaney's joke highlighted how much he needed his teachers and school friends, in addition to his family, to help him in a difficult time; it called to mind this ever important, and ever true teaching from Rabbi Hillel in Pirke Avot (2:4), "*Al tifrosh min ha-tzibbur* - Do not separate yourself from the community." There are reasons not to isolate ourselves. We need people to share our joys, to celebrate with, whether Shabbat, holidays, or great simchas. And we need people to share our burdens, whether tragedy, illness, or loss. No season or program year ought to prevent us from having that support. By the way, it is not always about what *you* think you need, but also who might actually need *you* to be present. Sometimes we ask ourselves what we will get out of an experience, but Hillel also wants us to be thoughtful of what others might gain from our being there.



Rabbi Craig Lewis

And so here is my point: Mizpah is open year-round. Machanooga and Hebrew school have wound down. We may be in that holiday lull between Shavuot and Rosh Hashanah, but Mizpah is still very much a meeting point for community. Shabbat is every week. We gather for services and First Friday dinners. We will even experience a second *Shabbatery Lottery* on July 14th. We will have Torah study on Saturdays and services that follow. Torah on Tap continues on June 10 with "The Monsters of Judaism." Lunch and Learn is being relaunched on three Wednesdays in June (7, 14, and 21) studying the origins, tenets, and platforms of Reform Judaism. Mah Jongg continues as does the Book Club. There are many more opportunities to engage and stay close to our community. We want to make it easy as possible to heed Hillel's advice, not to separate from your community, so that, in the event you need them for highs, lows, or anything in between, a community, an extended family of congregation will be there for you. It will likewise be possible for you to be there for others. And yes, Zoom will be up and running for many of these events.

So, as we enter summertime, first and foremost, I hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer. For the students on break - going to camps, splashing in the pool, or just enjoying some time off; and for the adults who have the chance to go on vacation, have a wonderful time, and for heaven's sake, use lots of sunscreen. Also, enjoy the many different communities you may get to be a part of, wherever summer takes you. And make sure that your Jewish community remains part of your life.

To sum up the reasons to stay in community regardless of season, I share these words from **Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z"l**:

"We find God in community. We develop virtue, strength of character, and a commitment to the common good in community. Community is local. It is society with a human face."

Shalom,

Rabbi Lewis

Mizpah to Host Shabbatery Lottery on Friday, July 14, 2023

Back by popular demand, we will once again host our Friday Shabbatery Lottery on July 14, 2023. Please sign up as a HOST (adult and/or child-friendly) or as an ATTENDEE. Contact **Richard Zachary** at **ZacharyRA@gmail.com**. Last time, we "ran out of room" so let us know soon. You will enjoy Friday Shabbat dinner in the HOST home, get to know new friends, and share community. There will NOT be services held at Mizpah.

MIZPAH CONGREGATION YAHRZEITS - May - June

May 28—June 3

Helen Brody
Benjamin Katzman
Rita Russ Speer
Mary Traeger
David Brodsky
Milton Dropkin
Morris Fagenbaum
Minnie Roth
Marshal Shenkan
Harry Flagg
Dana Baxter
Leventhal
Kathryn Joyce
Temple
Samuel Hershey
Irwin Perlman
Shye Rubenstein
Donald M. Stein
Jeanne Tabakin
Anna A. Tepper
Norman Sam Abrams
Helen Nahari
Isadore Richelson
Barry Max Schulman
Jeff Breazeale
Ray S. Hasden
Wolfe K. Lefkoff
Lena Wassman

June 4—June 10

Marilyn Lips
Zuckerman
Eugene R. Dropkin
Sasha Harriman
Ted Kopkin
Sara Roth Gordon
Syble Mae Ruppe
Dora Janet Stock
Samuel George
Gabriel
Goldie Isaacson
Walter Adams
Renie Rutchick
Ben Susman
Morris Wolff
Harry Brandt
Louis Levine
Margot Birghenthal
Joe Prebul
Craig Woods
Suzanne Cohn
Allen Katzman
Ivey Katzman
Myron Kushner
Aaron Levine
Jay Sadow
Stanley R. Smith
Harry Wise, Jr.
Abe H. Borisky
Raymond Effron
Helen Landau
Sandra Lennard
Sidney Marks

June 11—June 17

Phyllis Lee Kirk
Rae Rawson Levin
Ann Poss
Linda Ronan
Robert Brener
Louis Fagenbaum
Rollea Follick
Edgar Sachsman
Bernard Herstik
Marjorie F. Cohn
Norman Etheridge
Nathan Herzfeld
Etta F. Prendergast
Sally Hershey
Sylvia Lorraine Cohen
Esther Mollie Marder
Harry Rawson
Henry Steiner

June 18-June 24

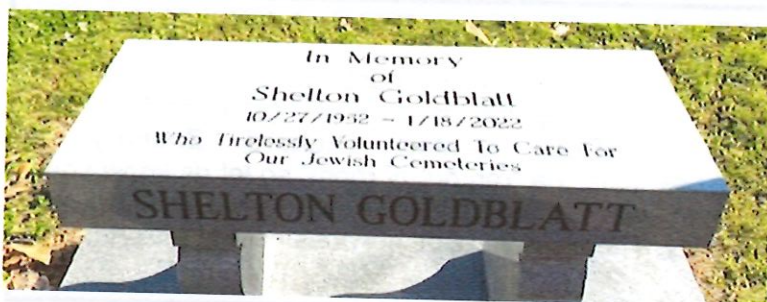
Annetta Hatcher
White
Joel Goler
Philip Isaacson
Jay Lewis Levine
Morris Greenblum
Lawrence Rubenstein
Henry Weill
Samuel Binder
Wendy Koplow
Kanter
Abe Levine
Flora Weber
Abram Lewis

June 25—July 1

Steven Potts
Judy Snyder
Florence M. Barack
Rebecca Greenblum
Pearl Lewis
Rita Soroko
Marcelle Weill
Anna Kopetovske
Mose Lebovitz
Saul Abish
Edward Berger
Howard Levine
Daniel Coleman
Weintraub
Marilyn Schulman
Rafal
Dina F. Solovey
Harry Monen

MIZPAH DEDICATES CEMETERY BENCH TO SHELTON GOLDBLATT

Shelton Goldblatt (z'l) spent decades dedicated to the care of our Cemetery, as well as serving faithfully B'nai Zion and the Chevra Kadisha Burial Society, Mizpah Cemetery Board lovingly placed an engraved, solid granite bench. Cemetery Board member **Ruth Longway**, pictured at right, hand sewed and created an all-purpose headstone and grave marker cover to be used during an unveiling. Also pictured are members of Shelton's family: his son **Ethan** and his sister **Debbie**. May his Memory Always Be for a Blessing.



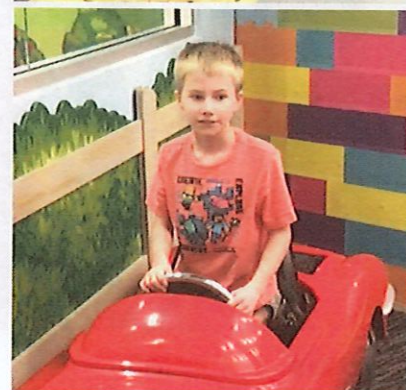
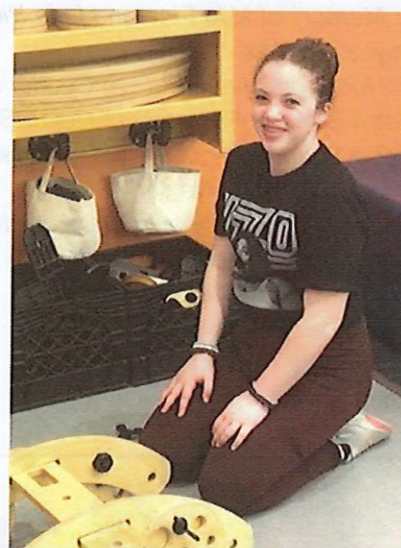
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDUCATION COORDINATOR...Susan Caminez

In May, we had an amazing Family Havdallah at the Creative Discovery Museum thanks in large part to CDM Director **Henry Schulson**! Thank you so much! It was a great time! As we step into the summer months, Family Shabbat and First Friday Dinners continue!



Join me JUNE 2, JULY 7, AUGUST 4 before we pick things up again come August 19 for our 2nd Annual 30-day Elul Challenge Event! Do you have a summer camper? If they'd like to share, we would love to hear about their experiences in our Newsletter!

Let me know at education@mizpahcongregation.org.
L'Shalom,
Susan



MIZPAH FUNDS: YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Donations received by the 15th of prior month \$18 - "chai" - minimum donation

Archives
Building
Capital Campaign
Cemetery
Educator
Endowment
Flower
Garden of Life
Goldman/Moses
Mary W. and Jacob L. Levine

Leadership Development
Library
Miller/Lefkoff
Marks Memorial
Mazon (Feed the Hungry)
Miller/Schwartz
Music
NFTY (Youth Group)
Operating
Oneg
Prayer Book

Physical Property
Religious Activities
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Rabbinic Endowment
Rita Russ Speer
Religious School
Social Action
Staff Support
Kindertransport Chapel

Operating

In Memory of David Allen Lips
Florence Abelson
In Memory of Mile Fine and Lula Pierce
Joyce Thomas
In Honor of Bev and Steve Coulter's 40th Anniversary
For A Speedy Recovery of Helen Smith
For a Speedy Recovery of Paula Israel
Dana & Richard Waxler
Thanking Rabbi for support of Jordana for her Bat Mitzvah
Aaron & Jen Lincove
In Honor of Coulter Anniversary
Sanford & Elaine Winer
In Memory of Gerry Sadow
Anita Levine

Garden of Life

In Memory of Joan Lyons
Debra Dubrow & Thomas Lyons

Music

In Memory of Julius Spector
Louise Spector

Kindertransport Chapel

In Memory of Margot Birghenthal
William and Deede Gram

Rabbi's Discretionary

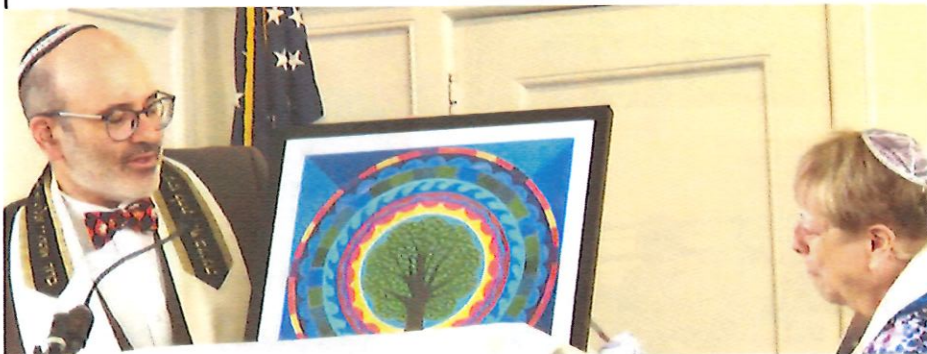
In Honor of Steve and Bev Coulter's 40th Anniversary
Flossie Weill



MIZPAH CELEBRATES B'NOT MITZVAH

On Saturday, May 27, Rabbi Craig Lewis officiated as seven Mizpah members celebrated their joint B'not Mitzvah. Pictured left to right: Lani Chastain, Tracie Gabelman, Betsy Temple, Christina Warner, Beth Thomas, Judy Sachsman. Pictured below: Rabbi Lewis and Carol Cohn, as she is presented a beautiful Tree of Life print from Rabbi Lewis, in token for her dedicated work in coaching the class

members.



MAZAL TOV TO...

...Bev and Steve Coulter on their May 40th wedding anniversary.

....Shelley Stein, daughter of Alan Richelson and Marjorie Goldberg, recently named Director of the Religious School, Temple Shalom, Succasunna, NJ.

A message from your Temple Administrator...Angela Rickert

As the administrator of Mizpah, I have witnessed the challenges and triumphs that come with maintaining and securing our synagogue. Today, I want to share some updates on our recent endeavors, including the unfortunate delay in our security upgrades, the progress made by **Steve Smith and Betsy Temple** in beautifying our grounds, and exciting upcoming events that you won't want to miss. Additionally, I'll touch upon some personal highlights, such as the celebration of Zaddik's first birthday, the completion of our garden work, and the joy of reconnecting with my Uncle Jr. So, let's delve into the latest happenings at our synagogue.



The safety and security of our Congregation have always been of paramount importance. With the rise in hate crimes and acts of violence targeting religious institutions, we recognized the need to enhance our security measures. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, our planned security upgrades have been put on a temporary hold. We still have all the security measures we have taken, but just the upgrades have been delayed. We recently discovered some small amounts of plaster bubbling in our sanctuary again. Recognizing the importance of preserving the spiritual ambiance of this sacred space, this is being addressed.

Steve and Betsy have done an amazing job at keeping the outside looking good. Steve began pressure washing one day at a time. It's a large space, inside and out.

Upcoming events to look forward to: **Jed Mescon** and Rabbi Lewis are doing an amazing job planning activities to keep us all connected. Be sure to read your emails and our weekly and weekend email blasts.

On a more personal note, we recently celebrated Zaddik's first birthday, a joyous milestone for our family. Additionally, the completion of our home garden work and witnessing the fruits of our labor has brought a sense of joy to me. I love seeing vegetables grow and produce. Lastly, I must share the news that my Uncle Jr. is again living with Karl and me. Those of you who know him or are acquainted with his colorful personality are probably as shocked as I am. It's a long story, but for now, let's just say it has added an unexpected twist to my life! More to come next time.

MIZPAH'S MOSES

As many things at Mizpah, the statue *Moses*, located in the lower foyer of our sanctuary, the Julius and Bertha Ochs Memorial Temple, has a story also. It was donated to the congregation by **George Washington Ochs-Oakes**, brother of **Adolph S. Ochs** and Chattanooga's second Jewish mayor (1893–1897), in 1929, the year after the Temple buildings were dedicated. The contemporary statue, made of Carrara marble, by Professor P. Passini, is a copy of Michelangelo's *Moses*. The Passini family had been sculptors in Florence since the 14th century and were contemporaries of Michelangelo.

Michelangelo's original *Moses*, finished in 1515, is located at the Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli (Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains) in the heart of Rome. This church is relatively small and unpretentious on the exterior - by Rome standards - but quite elaborate inside. It contains three things of significance:

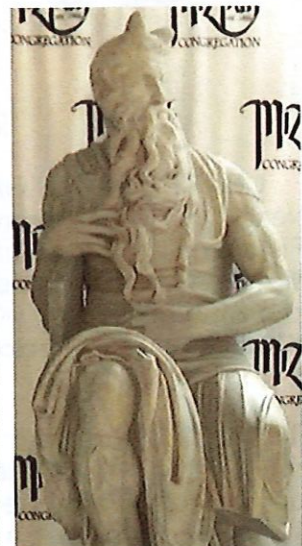
1. Most importantly, Michelangelo's *Moses*,
2. The chains that allegedly bound Jesus' disciple Peter (Saint Peter, the first pope) in Jerusalem and Rome,
3. The intended tomb of Pope Julius II, a very important pope, who was actually buried in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, as was Peter.

Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to do the statue *Moses* for his tomb to be in Saint Peter's Basilica. Due to a falling out with Pope Julius II, Michelangelo's *Moses* was placed in the Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains, the pope's family church. It is not known what the pope paid Michelangelo for the statue, but it certainly was not what it is currently worth on today's Euro!

The horns were due to a mistranslation of the Hebrew word "keren" into Latin from Exodus 34. The word could be translated as "rays of light" or "horns". As a kid growing up at Mizpah, when we were told that the scary gray man was Moses, we felt we were being misled as we knew the horned statue could only be the Devil himself!

The photograph of the original *Moses* is dark because I took it with available light as flash photography is prohibited at the church and because it is over 500 years old.

Max D. Brener





923 McCallie Ave., Chatt. TN 37403

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Mizpah is a Reform Jewish Congregation. We offer worship, learning and social action / social justice programs designed to enhance our lives and improve our world. Mizpah is a welcoming congregation as we embrace interfaith couples, those of all faith-traditions and culturally-diverse backgrounds as well as families in all forms.



www.MizpahCongregation.org
Office@mizpahcongregation.org
www.urj.org

Email: Office@mizpahcongregation.org
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Rabbi@mizpahcongregation.org

Vicki Lewis, President
President@mizpahcongregation.org
Angela Rickert, Administrator
Susan Caminez, Education Coordinator
Richard Zachary, Newsletter

TEMPLE OFFICERS AND BOARD

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Craig Lewis, Rabbi
Susan Caminez, Education Coordinator
Angela Rickert, Temple Administrator

OFFICERS:

President:	Vicki Lewis
VP-Administration	David Israel
VP-Programming:	Jed Mescon
VP-Annual Giving	Bev Coulter
Treasurer:	Steve Cohn
Board Secretary:	Beth Thomas
Immed. Past President:	Frank Miller

CEMETERY CONTROL BOARD

Dana Banks, Board Representative
Gary Chazen Donna White-Dropkin
David Israel Andy Stone Ruth Longway

TRUSTEES

Bob Berz, Board Representative
Flossie Weill Gary Chazen
Jim Levine Sandy Dittus

BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Birghenthal Rachael Ruiz
Austin Center Holly Schwartz
Gary Chazen Amy Cohen
Bob Marlowe Jacque Nodell



Mizpah Board: Top row, from left: Austin Center, Rabbi Lewis, Jacque Nodell, Frank Miller, Steve Cohn; Bottom row: Holly Schwartz, Rachael Ruiz, Vicki Lewis, Beth Thomas. Not pictured: Mike Birghenthal, Gary Chazen, Bob Marlowe

CHATTY YOUTH GAME DAY

Near right, Tyler Lincove

Picture on right: from left: Edén Lewis, Maddie Gabelman, Mollie Gabelman and Shaughan May (Knoxville)
Marissa Street, Director



BOOK CLUB to meet July 9th, 10:30 am. Contact Amy Cohen to join. Pot-luck brunch. We are reading *Florence Adler Swims Forever*, a novel.

BIRTHDAYS

June 1

Marilyn Center

Gary Lander

June 2

Angela Stone

Richard Zachary

June 4

Debra Dubow

Sherin Gottlieb

June 5

Lindsey Monen

June 6

Boris Belinskiy

Malcolm Brown

June 8

Lee Abelson

June 9

Charles Dupree

June 11

Jonathan Marrow

June 12

David Poss

Eden Lewis

Tyler Lincove

Rebecca Barukh

June 13

Kary Klein

Bonnie Stoloff

Kristen Joels

Art Lewis

June 15

Benjamin Jaenicke

Anita Levine

June 16

Vivian Hershey

Bonnie Black

June 17

Olivia Diamond

Charles Joels

June 19

Nicole Berger

June 20

Shoshana Rosenthal

Marilyn Goler

Sherie Lefton

June 21

Ival Goldstein

June 22

Judith Mackler

June 23

Kennedy London

Joyce Thomas

June 24

Louise Kushner

June 25

Harold Schwartz, III

June 26

Richard Waxler

June 27

Melanie Val

June 29

Donald Reising

June 30

Sandy Dittus

Jeffrey Geffer

Beverly Coulter

ANNIVERSARIES

June 2

Theodore & Cora Feintuch

June 7

Jonathan & Leigh Speal

Andrew & Chelsea London

June 10

Irvin & Judith Pressman

Robert & Nora Bernhardt

June 12

Ronni & Chaim Charyn

David & Judy Solovey

July 13

Bonnie Stoloff & Bruce Shaw

June 14

Sam & Dana Banks

Donald & Laura Reising

June 22

Jay Shaffer & Hope Flammer

June 23

Nikki & Wes Hasden

June 29

Ellen Hays & Ken Hays, Jr.

