

THE VOICE

הקול



Y. Wasserman



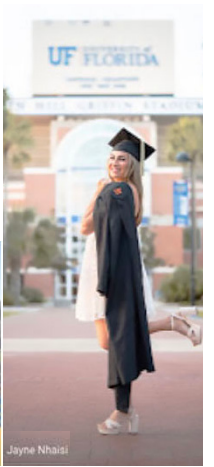
Dale Lazarovitch



Andrew Levey



Yehonatan Kottis



Jayne Nhaiisi



Congregation Agudath Israel



Marc Guine



Jacelyn Gluska



Heleno Artzi



Eli Gershen Cohen



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Leslie Tubul



Karen Goodman



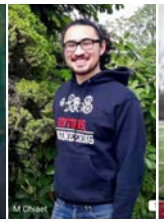
Marissa Levey



Daryl Epstein



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M. Chaiat



Marc Guine



Ami Talbot



Laura Rubenstein



Laura Rubenstein



Yehonatan Kottis



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Jessica Rosenbloom



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Andriel Weinberg



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Yehonatan Kottis



Yehonatan Kottis



Yehonatan Kottis



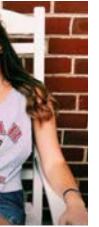
Congregation Agudath Israel



Blanche Jackson



New Rosenberg



New Rosenberg



Deborah Eckstein



Shannon Hershman



Miriam S. Shapira



Jennifer S. Shapira



Jennifer S. Shapira



Laura Knefel



Miriam Block



Sienna Jacobs



Sienna Jacobs



Deborah Eckstein



Jacqueline Hanes



Scott Winkler



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Lindsay Farkas



Gael Hamaid



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Deborah Eckstein

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This publication does not contain a full listing of CAI programs. Our schedule changes weekly; programs may be added, cancelled, or rescheduled. For current information, please visit our website, agudath.org.

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This above message placed over an ad means the advertiser is a member of Congregation Agudath Israel. Please thank them for supporting CAI by supporting them!

ON OUR COVER: Congratulations to the graduates of CAI's "Class of 2020" from ECC, Elementary and Middle School, High School, and College!

Special thanks to Abby Meth Kanter for her assistance in editing this publication



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June Candle Lighting Times

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Friday, June 5..... | 8:07 pm |
| Shabbat ends, Saturday, June 6 | 9:17 pm |
| Friday, June 12 | 8:11 pm |
| Shabbat ends, Saturday, June 13..... | 9:21 pm |
| Friday, June 19 | 8:14 pm |
| Shabbat ends, Saturday, June 20..... | 9:24 pm |
| Friday, June 26 | 8:14 pm |
| Shabbat ends, Saturday, June 27..... | 9:24 pm |

Personals

THROUGH MAY 19, 2020

MAVEL TOV TO

Anita Elfenbein on the marriage of her granddaughter, and Les and Linda Elfenbein's niece, Rachel Elfenbein, to Greg Zimmerman

Marilyn Labendz on the marriage of her son, Jacob, and Meg

Helaine and Richard French on the marriage of their daughter, Abby, to Rob

Israel and Linda Majzner on the naming of their granddaughter, and Evan and Lindsay's daughter, Nessa Jordan Majzner

Sherri and Allen Rosen on the birth of their grandson, Chase Robert Kuropatkin

Bea Taubenfeld on the birth of her great-grandson

SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF

Sam Adelberg, husband of Naomi Adelberg
Murray and Barbara Dobro

Gertrude Schneider

Bernard Greene

Leo Vine, father of Harry Vine (Abby), and grandfather of Benjamin and Jeremy

Sylvia Krones Gruber, mother of Kenneth Gruber, and grandmother of Eric and Lisa

Corinne Pressman Fleisher, mother of Jonathan Lautman (Karen Goodman), and grandmother of Sara and Adam Lautman

Lee Jacobson, father of Scott Jacobson (Lili), and grandfather of Reese and Drew Jacobson

Mayer Kass

Sara Katz-Zaroff, mother of Harvey Katz (Esther Surden), and grandmother of Deborah, Gregory (Paige), and Joshua (Kiara)

Janice Weisman, mother of David Weisman (Melissa), and grandmother of Hannah and Rachael

Ruth Resnick, mother of Gerry Resnick (Timothy Pedergrana), and grandmother of Elle and Maya Pedergrana

With profound gratitude, admiration, and love
for our rabbis, cantor, and education director; our early childhood, religious school,
and adult educators; our synagogue administrators and office and building staff;
and our lay leaders, volunteers, and all the mitzvah-doers
we know — and don't know — about:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! תודה רבה

For supporting us emotionally
For teaching and inspiring us
For holding us together as a community
For helping us to grow spiritually
For encouraging us to give of ourselves
and grow beyond these difficult days
For the endless hours you give and your boundless energy!



We pray that God bless you, as you continue to bless us:

מִי שְׁבִרְךָ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ
הוּא יְבִרְךָ אֶת כָּל מִי שֶׁעוֹסְקִים בְּצִרְכֵי צְבוּר בְּאַמוּנָה.

May the One who blessed our ancestors
Bless all who faithfully devote themselves to the needs of this community.
May the Holy One reward them,
Remove sickness from them,
Heal them,
And forgive their sins.
May God bless them by making all their worthy endeavors prosper,
As well as those of the entire people Israel, their sisters and brothers,
And let us say, "Amen"

[Click here to hear our prayer sung by Mira Davis](#)

(translation adapted from *Siddur Lev Shalem*, Rabbi Edward Feld, senior editor, 2016)

תודה רבה by riki rotemberg, downloaded May 14, 2020

thinglink.com/scene/621620721868603392

"Mi Sheberakh" sung by Mira Davis



From the Pulpit

RABBI ALAN SILVERSTEIN

An Invitation to Engage with the CAI Family

While we long to be together in person — without masks or social distancing, sharing hugs, handshakes, and kisses on the cheek — we acknowledge our responsibility to adhere to the necessary safety and health limitations imposed upon us by the corona pandemic.

Yet technology, employed with creativity and hard work by CAI lay leaders and professionals, has given us the blessing of manifold opportunities to remain engaged as a sacred community.

We know that dozens upon dozens of ECC and Religious School and day school households remain connected under the loving guidance of Susan Werk and Geula Zamist and their teams of educators.

We know that Rachel Davis, Shani Drogin, Debbie Lurie, Karen Frank, Andrea Malmud, and members of the Caring Committee, including many who have stepped up to make phone calls, are keeping our members who are isolated engaged. (If you or someone you know needs additional outreach, please send an email to me.)

We know that along with Cantor Caplan, I am witnessing dozens of folks saying Kaddish and participating in other ways in daily collective prayer, and myriad members are taking part in daily Torah study with Rabbi Lucas and me and being inspired by Susan Werk's Hallelujah Moments.

We know that hundreds are partaking of our Shabbat Zoom services with me, with Cantor Caplan, and with Rabbi Luas, and participating in the Reflect, Refresh, and Renew services with Erica Rabner and Susan Werk, along with the two rabbis.

We also know that several hundred adults participate in our ever-growing array of Zoom classes, book reviews, film discussions, guest speakers, concerts, meetings, as well as the Yiddish Club, Hebrew Ulpan, and Meditation and Wellness sessions, providing counseling to combat anxiety — and much more.

One obstacle is that some CAI folks are still unaware of the vast array of our offerings. We must do a better job of "spreading the word." Please share information about all aspects of the "CAI Broadcast Network" with your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances.

Please consult the weekly "Shabbat Shalom," on Friday, and "What's New at CAI," on Tuesday, as well as the CAI website. We want as many folks as possible to keep engaged with our CAI family. Each person is very important to us.

A congregation means "congregating" — even if it's done virtually, not physically. We are truly great blessings to one another.

—Rabbi Alan Silverstein

Teen Mitzvah Hero!

By Guy Rettig

Given the short supply and desperate need of PPE I have been using Livingston High School's 3D printers, 3D printer filament (ink for 3D printers) and some CAD (3D design software) along with 5 other students and teachers to produce PPE. These products are then donated to local medical facilities for the fight against Covid-19. The machines work by taking filament, which is plastic in a long strand wrapped around a spool, then heated up to 220° C. From the 3D design made in the CAD software, a



Ear Savers

computer program slices the object into different layers the printer can't. Eventually after 1 hour for 6 ear savers or 2 ½ hours for one face shield, we have a product. Since doctors and nurses are always wearing masks in the hospitals, the skin around their ears has been irritated. These ear savers act as ears by using hooks for the face masks to strap on to. Over the past 8 weeks I personally have made and donated 63 face masks, 64 face shields, and 1,676 ear savers to local medical facilities. To find out more please visit www.technologyforachange.weebly.com.



Cantor's Notes

CANTOR JOEL CAPLAN

To Be Seen, To Be Heard

Thanks to Rabbi Lucas for the title of this article.
Hmm... Maybe he's writing about the same thing...

In a recent Zoom meeting, he complimented me: "It was so nice that Cantor Caplan, at the end of davening, would look to see if anyone was joining by phone – that is, just hearing, but not seeing who was there. If so, he'd read the names of everyone present, so that the listener would know who was in the group. All of us want a chance to be seen and to be heard..."

Amidst all the videoconferencing, this comes up again and again.

1) Susan's "Hallelujah Moments" are all about giving a shout-out; recognizing achievements great and small. Calling out your name.

2) On Fridays, I do some singing with three- and four-year-olds and their families, again on-screen. Geula Zamist focuses in on specific children and talks about them: "It's Sarah's birthday today! And look – Ari made his own flag!"

3) We've been doing funerals via Zoom. That is, people gather together on-screen to talk about the deceased, before the body is buried. Doing the eulogy, speeches, psalms and Kaddish on-screen is reasonably satisfying for some, less so for others.

One bit of silver lining is that relatives and friends can click in from anywhere. Florida, California, Israel, South Africa... anywhere. This is especially good at this time when it's risky to travel. At a recent funeral, none of the children of the deceased could be present physically, but they were all able to click in, to see and to be seen.

To me, a lovely and poignant moment is right after the Zoom funeral ends. People stay on-screen, looking at others in the

various on-screen "cubicles," and there's a surge of chatter, just as there would be in the hallway and parking lot after an in-person funeral: "Marty? Is that you? I haven't seen you in years!" "Oh, Donna, I'm sorry this is what brings us together, but it's good to see you. And how is Jerry?"

4) Different synagogues (and churches, and schools, etc.) are using different approaches for their services and presentations, but I'm glad we've found a way to meet for davening by videoconferencing, rather than livestreaming.

Livestreaming, at least as far as I know, is like watching TV. You, in your home, see what's on camera. But if you spoke, no one would hear you.

With the videoconferencing, we can say, "Miriam, would you read aloud what's on page 212?" Or Ellen can say, "Rabbi, you should know that it's Jim's birthday today."

I love the spontaneity – it has a flavor of being back in our Sanctuary. Two Shabbeses ago, I said, "I've got wine here for Kiddush, but I don't have a challah. If anyone has one, you go ahead and say HaMotzi." Sure enough, Maida Richlin was on-screen with a challah within 15 seconds. What a personal, human touch.

And last Shabbes, we saw Jane and Art Adler, clicking in from Florida. "Art, would you please lead Kiddush?" Hearing his glorious tenor voice made everyone smile – there were grins in each little on-screen cubicle.

Rabbi Lucas, you're right. We do ache to be seen, to be heard. And we're trying to find all kinds of ways to do just that.

Strength and smiles to all of you

— Cantor Joel Caplan

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Education Matters

SUSAN WERK, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Grieving on a micro and a macro level

I have been reflecting on the story of Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, at the beginning of I Samuel in the Tanach.

Hannah is one of Elkanah's two wives. Although Hannah is barren, her husband favors her (a recurring theme in the Torah). How does Hannah deal with the grief, disappointment, frustration, and even fear at not having a child? We know from what her husband says when he tries to console her (1:8): "Hannah, why are you crying and why aren't you eating? Why are you so sad? Am I not more devoted to you than 10 sons?"

But clearly, Hannah needs to feel what she feels; she needs to sit in her sadness. Soon, she goes to the temple of the Lord, to the priest Eli, and there she utters a prayer while weeping and makes a vow to God (1:11): "O Lord of Hosts, if you will look upon the suffering of Your maidservant...and if you grant Your maidservant a male child, I will dedicate him to the Lord for all the days of his life...." In the midst of her grief, Hannah has a change of thinking, a decision regarding what it would mean to have a child. Instead of Plan A, she adopts a different approach, a Plan B, offering to dedicate her child's life to God if He will bless her with a son.

Why am I thinking about Hannah and how she deals with her grief by adjusting herself to a new plan?

Because of the summer of 2020.

This summer will be very different from any other summer any of us has experienced. I am sure most of you, of any age or stage, feel to some degree what I am feeling; sadness for plans we've had to cancel, disappointment that camp will not be welcoming eager kids, frustration over losing many opportunities for summer fun, and, above all, fear of the unknown. I am trying hard to balance those negative feelings with gratitude for each day, for my health, for our supportive community, and for simply being able to enjoy the natural beauty that is all around us. My mixed emotions made me remember Hannah, how she adjusted her expectations regarding the blessing of having a child, even, in her gratitude, vowing to give up raising that child.

Just a couple of weeks into the pandemic, I read in the "Harvard Business Review" an interview with David Kessler, the author of "That Discomfort You're Feeling Is Grief."

Kessler says what we're feeling is "a number of different griefs. We feel the world has changed, and it has. We know this is temporary, but it doesn't feel that way.... The loss of normalcy, the fear of the economic toll, the loss of connection — this is hitting us, and we're grieving. Collectively. We are not used to this kind of collective grief in the air."

He goes on to say we are "also feeling anticipatory grief..., that feeling we get about what the future holds when we're uncertain. Usually it centers on death. We feel it when someone gets a dire diagnosis or when we have the normal thought that we'll lose a parent someday. Anticipatory grief is also more broadly imagined futures.... There's something bad out there. With a virus, this kind of grief is so confusing for people. Our primitive mind knows something bad is happening, but you can't see it. This breaks our sense of safety.... [Before now], individually or as smaller groups, people have felt this. But now, all together, this is new. We are grieving on a micro and a macro level."

So how do we manage this collective grief? We can benefit so much by following the teachings of our sacred texts. We can and should weep when we are sad, like Hannah, and then, though we suffer losses, we can be grateful, like Hannah, for the blessings of life.

"The gift of grief is that it presents us with the opportunity to heal and grow."

"God is closest to those with broken hearts."

I myself am a person who derives great comfort from ritual, and I think the following ritual might be helpful to families at this time:

Pick a photo from a previous summer that depicts a wonderful time. Share the picture with your family, then recite: "May the summer of 2020..."

- bring us an appreciation of past summers and memories that will fill our soul.
- create new opportunities — the wonder of a new hobby, learning something new, aiming toward a new goal, working toward physical and spiritual growth.
- give us time to connect to family, friends, and community through the wonders of technology.
- open our hearts to help those who are in need.
- increase our appreciation of the beauty around us.
- bring us a strengthening of faith and gratitude that will be a treasured addition to our memory scrapbooks that we can cherish in the future. Amen

"Hinei mah tov umah na'im" — "How good and pleasant it is when brothers/sisters are together in harmony." Your CAI community provides so many ways to help all of us grow in resilience and compassion during the summer of 2020.

With love and a virtual hug,

— Susan Werk



Early Childhood Center

GEULA ZAMIST, EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DIRECTOR

Everyone Gets a Front Seat

Teaching and learning in our Early Childhood Center are always informed by best practice and by what we know about how young children develop.

Whether in the classroom at 20 Academy Road or in our own homes, constraints in the environment sometimes limit our ability to provide the best for every child. For instance, a teacher may be reading a high-quality book, with many literacy lessons embedded. As she reads and shows the pictures and asks appropriate questions, there is usually a cacophony of "I can't see," "Show me the picture," "I didn't hear." I have considered this scene often as I join our students in their Zoom classes. Everyone can see the picture clearly; everyone can hear the teacher's voice (thanks to the mute buttons). When the teacher asks a question, she can literally spotlight the student who wants to speak and share her ideas.

As one teacher shared, "Everyone gets a front seat!"

Although our current situation is not what we would have hoped for, it has certainly given us new ways to honor children and their learning. Every human being wants and needs to be heard and seen and valued. The intimacy of the face-time calls and virtual meetings has given teachers a new way to assure that each student is heard and seen and valued.

When children are in the classroom, teachers are charged with looking for evidence of learning. Teachers' observations of children in their play allow them to measure the transfer of learning and understanding. As we see children applying the lessons we have taught to their work, it serves as an indication that they have internalized the knowledge and made it their own.

While we are engaged in distance learning and bringing families into our greater classrooms, we have had more of a chance to see the evidence of learning in new ways. Teachers have been presenting challenges — mix blue and yellow together, trace your shadow outside, or find a cozy place in your house to calm down. In turn, through sharing photos and videos and bringing objects to Zoom classes, teachers have gotten more immediate evidence of learning and integration of knowledge.

As a school, we look forward to having more time to reflect on this experience and see how we will be able to use the lessons we have learned and integrate that knowledge into our teaching as we continue to move forward in the virtual domain, as well as back at 20 Academy Road as soon as possible.

Every child deserves a "Front Seat," and we are honored and humbled to be the people who provide that seat.

CAI Social Action Committee



Habitat for Humanity is planning to resume their building projects!

On Friday, July 24, CAI parents (no children) can volunteer with the Morris County Habitat for Humanity.

One team of 15 volunteers will work at a construction site within Morris County from 8:30 am to 4 pm.

Sign up is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you are interested in participating, please email Seth Fliegler at srfliegler@gmail.com.



Adult Education: June 2020

All programs are held on Zoom. Meeting details and links can be found at agudath.org/online_events

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

9:30 am: Contemporary Jewish Thinkers, Musicians and Artists with Rabbi Silverstein

10:30: am Jewish Pop Culture with Susan Werk

1 pm: Hebrew Language "Tachlis" Speaking Ulpan led by Or Adi of the World Zionist Organization

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

8:30 am: Sighing and Soaring in the Psalms, Part 2 with Rabbi Hammerman

10:30 am: Current Events with Max Kleinman

4 pm: Opening to Shabbat, a Meditation with Karen Frank

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

10 am: Reflect, Refresh and Renew! with Susan Werk and Erica Rabner

1:15 pm: International Interfaith Learning – the Journey Continues Chaired by CAI Interfaith Committee, Gail Kleinman, and Dr. Debby Miller

Two years ago, CAI had the privilege of hosting an interfaith learning weekend with Protestant guests from Germany. We baked hallah, celebrated Shabbat in CAI family homes, learned throughout Shabbat and Shavuot, and became friends. Now, our synagogue and our German friends are planning a reunion!

At 1:15 pm, our guests will join our CAI congregants for an Interfaith experience. We will begin with intercontinental

candle-lighting and continue with two learning sessions: In the wake of Shavuot, Dr. Ursula Rudnick, who led the delegation, will teach us about Pentecost, and what it means in Christian religious life. Susan Werk will teach aspects of The Book of Ruth. A brief question and answer session will be included.

6:30 pm: Parsha Class
Zoom Host: Susan Werk

MONDAY, JUNE 8

10-11:30 am: Family Dynamics in Chumash Deep Dive Continue with Rabbi Michael Jay
Our Forefathers and Foremothers were not just holy people. They were real people who were living real lives. This course will look at the relationships and family dynamics of our biblical families. Were the family units strong? Were they loving? Were they dysfunctional? Can we learn about ourselves by looking at them? We will read the Torah stories with which most of us are probably already familiar and view our biblical heroes (even our G-d) in human terms.

6:30 pm: Pirke Avot with Rabbi Cliff Miller

8 pm: Yiddish Club with Rita Silverstein

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

10-11 am: The Dead Sea Scrolls taught by Dr. Ari Finkelstein

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1946 has radically changed our understanding of Judaism

in the Greco-Roman period. Not only have the texts discovered in the caves behind Qumran shed light on Jewish history, theology, and customs, they also have provided a wealth of information on the Hebrew Bible, the Greek Bible, biblical interpretation and the development of the Hebrew language. Nonetheless, the Dead Sea Scrolls raise as many questions as they resolve. The fragmentary and allusive nature of many documents stimulates debates over interpretation of the basic meaning of these texts. Scholars disagree over the identity of the community of Qumran. Even the publication of the scrolls has been fraught with controversy. Join me as we discover together the secrets and wade in the controversies of these ancient scrolls.

6:30 pm: The Theology of Rav Soloveitchik with Rabbinic Intern Marge Wise

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

10 am: The Book of Ecclesiastes with Rabbi Silverstein

11 am: The Holocaust: Selected Issues with Rabbi Silverstein

1 pm: Hebrew Language "Tachlis" Speaking Ulpan led by Or Adi of the World Zionist Organization

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

9:30 am: Contemporary Jewish Thinkers, Musicians and Artists with Rabbi Silverstein

10:30: am Jewish Pop Culture with Susan Werk

1 pm: Hebrew Language "Tachlis" Speaking Ulpan led by Or Adi of the World Zionist Organization

8 pm: Midwives, Medicine, and Community in Jewish History with Jordan Katz; Chaired by Bonnie Rosenfeld

The Jewish biblical tradition recounts the story of the two Hebrew midwives, Shifra and Pu'ah, who assumed responsibility for saving Jewish baby boys from being cast into the Nile following Pharaoh's decree. Midwifery was a ubiquitous profession in the premodern world, but what is the legacy of midwifery in Jewish history? In this program, Jordan Katz will discuss her research on Jewish midwives in premodern Europe, with an eye toward midwives' unique communal roles as providers of obstetric care to Jewish women, and more broadly, how these women shaped various aspects of premodern Jewish life.

Jordan Katz is a Ph.D candidate in Jewish History and History of Science, with interests in Jewish cultural history, history of medicine, and women and gender in the early modern period. Her current work examines the role of Jewish midwives within communal and intellectual frameworks in the early modern Ashkenazic world. Jordan has received year-long fellowships from the Center for Jewish History, the Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, and the Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

Complete descriptions and Zoom links can be found at agudath.org/online_events

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

8:30 am: Sighing and Soaring in the Psalms, Part 2

with Rabbi Hammerman

4 pm: Opening to Shabbat, a Meditation
with Karen Frank

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

10 am: Reflect, Refresh and Renew! with Susan Werk and Erica Rabner

11 am: Journalist and Author Yona Jeremy Bob of the Jerusalem Post will discuss the book, "Israeli Courts Confront Security Issues in the West Bank"

6:30 pm: Parsha Class
Zoom Host: Susan Werk

MONDAY, JUNE 15

10-11:30 am: Family Dynamics in Chumash Deep Dive Continues
with Rabbi Michael Jay

6:30 pm: Pirke Avot
with Rabbi Cliff Miller

8 pm: Yiddish Club
with Rita Silverstein

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

10-11 am The Dead Sea Scrolls taught by Dr. Ari Finkelstein

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

10 am: The Book of Ecclesiastes
with Rabbi Silverstein

11 am: The Holocaust: Selected Issues
with Rabbi Silverstein

1 pm: Hebrew Language "Tachlis" Speaking Ulpan led by Or Adi of the World Zionist Organization

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

9:30 am: Contemporary Jewish Thinkers, Musicians and Artists with Rabbi Silverstein

10:30 am Jewish Pop Culture with Susan Werk

1 pm: Hebrew Language "Tachlis" Speaking Ulpan led by Or Adi of the World Zionist Organization

8 pm: Adam Shandler and his podcast

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

8:30 am: Sighing and Soaring in the Psalms, Part 2

with Rabbi Hammerman

10:30 am: Current Events
with Max Kleinman

4 pm: Opening to Shabbat, a Meditation
with Karen Frank

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

6:30 pm Parsha Class
Zoom Host: Susan Werk

MONDAY, JUNE 22

10-11:30 am: Family Dynamics in Chumash Deep Dive Continue
with Rabbi Michael Jay

6:30 pm: Pirke Avot
with Rabbi Cliff Miller

8 pm: Yiddish Club
with Rita Silverstein

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

10-11 am: The Dead Sea Scrolls taught by Dr. Ari Finkelstein

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

10 am: The Book of Ecclesiastes with Rabbi Silverstein

11 am: The Holocaust: Selected Issues
with Rabbi Silverstein

1 pm: Hebrew Language "Tachlis" Speaking Ulpan
led by Or Adi of the World Zionist Organization

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

9:30 am: Great Thinkers
with Rabbi Silverstein

10:30 am: Pop Culture
with Susan Werk

1 pm: Hebrew Language "Tachlis" Speaking Ulpan led by Or Adi of the World Zionist Organization

8 pm: Dr. Debby Miller Book Club Discussion
We will concentrate on the first and fourth stories, "Certain Distant Suns" and "The Jaws of the Dog"

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

8:30 am: Sighing and Soaring in the Psalms, Part 2
with Rabbi Hammerman

4 pm: Opening to Shabbat, a Meditation
with Karen Frank

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

6:30 pm: Parsha Class
Zoom Host: Susan Werk

MONDAY, JUNE 29

10-11:30 am Family Dynamics in Chumash Deep Dive Continue
with Rabbi Michael Jay

6:30 pm: Pirke Avot
with Rabbi Cliff Miller

8 pm: Yiddish Club
with Rita Silverstein

MOVIES AT 8 PM ON WEDNESDAYS!

JUNE 3: Michael and Barbara Erlichman Film Series: *The Resistance Banker (Not all Wars are Fought by Soldiers)*

Q&A Discussion; Netflix

The real-life accounts of Dutch Banker brothers. Walraven van Hall and Gijsbert van Hall. They bankrolled the Dutch struggle against the Nazis and saved hundreds of Jews, and others.

JUNE 10: Sam Hoffman's discussion on his film

Humor Me moderated by Rabbi Michael Jay;

Amazon Prime Starzz

Hoffman created the web series *Old Jews Telling Jokes*, viewed over 50 million times, released on DVD, broadcast on BBC. His book, based on the series, is in its sixth printing and the off-Broadway play derived from the series currently tours throughout North America.

JUNE 17: Rabbi Alan Silverstein: discussion on "Fouda" Netflix series

JUNE 24: Michael and Barbara Erlichman Film Series: *Sefarad*

Amazon Prime; The story of Artur Carlos de Barros Basto, an army Captain in 19th century Portugal. He converted to Judaism after discovering he had Jewish ancestors. The movie documents his attempt to build a community there, as he fights for the Jewish legitimacy of a Marrano population. In 2012, Barros Basto's granddaughter, Isabel, lobbied parliament to officially clear the captain's name; and, in 2015, the community opened a new museum devoted to Artur Carlos de Barros Basto.

Complete descriptions and Zoom links can be found at [agudath.org/online_events](https://www.agudath.org/online_events)



Social Worker: Resilience and Refuah

ANDREA MALMUD, LCSW, JFS ZELLER FAMILY CAI SOCIAL WORKER

The Covid Crisis: A Jigsaw Puzzle of Life

Dear Chaverim,

First I want to tell you how much I miss seeing you in person. Then I want to tell you how much joy you bring to me on the phone and on Zoom. From simchas to sorrow, I am blessed to be with you.

We're all doing our best to balance many stressors right now: emotional, mental, physical, financial, and, sadly, grief. During our Friday Coping With Quarantining Meetings we talk a great deal about our feelings and ways to manage them during these difficult and surreal times. I would like to share a little story about my own experience the other day.

After being indoors, a lot, I decided to go for a Walk/Run in my neighborhood (maybe more walk than run, but that's another story). As I traveled on the quiet streets past an inordinate number of chipmunks who were enjoying the absence of vehicles, I was thinking about how confusing and different life feels right now.

Mile Post 1: After about a mile, when our endorphins tend to kick in, I started imagining life as a jigsaw puzzle. (I love puzzling). This puzzle in my mind showed pieces that didn't match, were blurry, would move around on their own and not allow themselves to become interlocked, and so forth. And there it was: what seemed the perfect metaphor for these unruly times.

Mile Post 2: More endorphins, and the puzzle pieces began to come together in some semblance of order. I began to control them, rather than the other way around.

Mile Post 3: Home stretch. By this time, my thinking (pre-frontal cortex) began to challenge my feelings (amygdala) and I had a sense that even though our routines and habits have changed, we are adapting in many different ways to the loneliness, sorrow, fear, anger, disillusionment, and so forth because we are innately resilient.

As I'm writing this, the puzzle pieces are still going awry but I'm reminded that though the box they came in may look different, it remains a box. A box that will hold the pieces as we take control and rearrange them. A box that will hold put it's four sides around us and lovingly hold us in place.

As always, I look forward to continuing to work with our beloved CAI family to restore order while we put our lives back in place, together.

B'shalom,

— Andrea

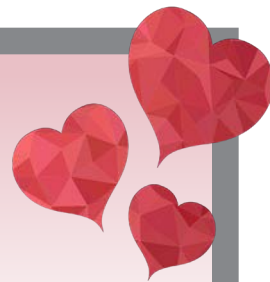
Andrea Malmud, LCSW
amalmud@agudath.org

A Meaningful Way to Volunteer

When a congregant needs help, you can make a difference! The CAI Caring Committee is seeking volunteers to help congregants in need. Services we offer include:

- Transportation to and from medical appointments and the synagogue
- Help with chores
- Provide meals
- Run errands
- Grocery shopping
- Home visits
- Find resources online

Our participation makes a difference. Please reach out to be added to our volunteer list. Requests for assistance will be mailed out as needed, and you can respond when you are available to help. Contact Rachel Davis or Karen Frank at Caringcommittee@agudath.org or 973-226-3600, ext. 142.



Development News

CAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STAFF

The 2019 – 20 Annual Fund: Year-End Honor Roll of Donors

A heartfelt thank you to those who give, plus a reminder of all their philanthropy makes possible.

Congregation Agudath Israel is proud to acknowledge those who have supported this year's Annual Fund campaign. The Annual Fund enables us to help sustain the important mission of our congregation during this time of crisis. This includes, allowing us to continue to invest in the religious, educational, cultural and social programs that make CAI a vibrant home for Jewish life.

If you haven't yet made your 2019 – 20 gift, there is still time! Give before our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2020!

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(continued on next page)

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Environmental Committee

Looking back, looking ahead

The work of the CAI Environmental Committee was publicized in "New Jersey Jewish News" and "The Progress" and recognized by Hazon: The Jewish Lab for Sustainability in its newsletters advancing education and action in support of sustaining our environment, work that continues even during the pandemic.

Environmental Committee accomplishments for 2019-20 included:

- Environmental Shabbat with Rabbi Michael Cohen of Israel's Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, in the Negev. Friday evening dinner was arranged by Randi Brokman with Nogah Revesz (with wonderful vegetarian, vegan, and fish options). Rabbi Cohen also spoke at Saturday morning Shabbat services and at the "Lunch 'n' Learn."
- Participation in the Green Fair at the Caldwell Public Library, sponsored by the West Essex Ministerial Association and facilitated by Janet and Bob Markman.
- Cosponsored screening of "Sustainable Nation," arranged by Anna Millstein with Susan Werk and CAI's Education Department and the Jewish National Fund.
- Tu B'Shvat seder, led by Debbie Arbit, using Hazon's new "Tu B'Shvat Haggadah" and including the Seven Species and delicious vegetarian foods.
- Provided a recycling bin at CAI for used ink cartridges and used batteries that was maintained by Gerry Buchoff.
- Open committee meeting with guest speaker Diane Edelson, sharing information about her visit to Israel's Arava Institute (inspired by the Environmental Shabbat speaker).
- Submitted new annual report and environmental audit for CAI, prepared by Ben Alter and Mark Lipsy; approved for renewal of Hazon's "Seal of Sustainability."
- Presented a draft proposal written by Morris Lewis, Mark Lipsy, and Harriet Sepinwall to CAI board of trustees for more sustainable practices at kiddushes and other CAI-sponsored programs where food is served. Next steps are in process.
- Submitted a proposal prepared by Mark Lipsy to Hazon and received a Hazon "mini-grant" to develop and adopt new sustainable food practices at CAI.
- "Protecting the Planet in a Pandemic: An Interfaith Community Program," CAI's 50th anniversary commemoration of Earth Day, was offered on Zoom with Mark Lipsy as host, planned by Harriet Sepinwall with Gail Kleinman and cosponsored by the CAI Interfaith Committee and the Caldwell Environmental Commission. Speakers included Rabbi Alan Silverstein, Rabbi Ari Lucas, Sister Honora Werner, O.P., Hakan Yesilova, Ann Marchioni, and Rabbi David Saltzman.
- Open committee meeting on Zoom, May 27, to begin planning for 2020-21. At the suggestion of Lee Gladstein, CAI member John Craig, president of Eliminate Poverty Now, spoke on "Climate-Smart Agriculture."

The Environmental Committee, which has 25 members, welcomes all those who wish to share ideas for educating ourselves and our community, developing initiatives for involving our youth, working with the interfaith and civic community, providing education about Jewish teachings related to caring for our environment, and taking actions in support of sustaining and protecting our environment.

During this pandemic, we wish that you will be safe and healthy. We also are determined to protect our environment, the only one we have.

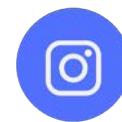
To join the Environmental Committee, please contact cochairs Harriet Sepinwall (hsepinwall@gmail.com) or Mark Lipsy (remark1@gmail.com). The next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 7:45 p.m.



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Men's Club

JONATHAN MEHL, PRESIDENT

Something new!

Men's Club has been following physical distance guidelines for COVID-19. We are eager to put our exciting programs and social events back on the calendar. Check the CAI website for new events, programs, and information, at www.agudath.org.

Speaking of exciting, new events, please join us for a very special Men's Club Happy Hour starring Rabbi Ari Lucas, with Bad to the Dad moderators Adam Shandler and Randy Nathan, on Thursday, June 11 at 8 pm, on Zoom!

—Jonathan Mehl

Join us for a special

MEN'S CLUB HAPPY HOUR

STARRING
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THURS, JUNE 11
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Everything you ever wanted
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Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/
CAIMensClubHappyHour](https://tinyurl.com/CAIMensClubHappyHour)

Need Help with Your Mitzvah Project?

If you are working on a project and would like to publicize it to gain support from the congregation, email a description of your project (in 50-75 words), and the type of support you need, to education@agudath.org.



marla cohen
PHOTOGRAPHY

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201.259.7784

Tributes & Donations

THROUGH MAY 19 2020

We gratefully acknowledge all who generously support Congregation Agudath Israel's many programs by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones. Donations can be made on our website, www.agudath.org, or by sending a check to the synagogue office. If you would like to send out a tribute card or have any questions, please contact Allison Robinson, member services assistant, at 973-226-3600, ext. 110, or arobinson@agudath.org.

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IN MEMORY OF Richard Caplan, father of Cantor Joel Caplan from the Executive Committee

IN MEMORY OF Fred Kann, husband of Margot Kann

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Is Your Contribution Missing?

Sometimes we receive contributions after deadline. Sometimes there is a clerical error. Please let us know if you are looking for a listing that is absent. We will make sure it appears the following month. And we apologize for any oversights.

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IN HONOR OF Marji Nydick's birthday: Lee and Seymour Stern

IN HONOR OF Create for a Cause: Barbara Sebiri

IN MEMORY OF Harry Vine's father, and Benjamin and Jeremy Vine's grandfather, Leo Vine: Hilary and Howard Rabner, Oliver and Debby Shapiro, Anita and Ed Finkel, Sue Grossbard, Deborah and Stuart Rabner, Linda and Israel Majzner, Judi Fabricant and Rabbi David Saltzman

IN MEMORY OF Terry Izraeli: Sue Grossbard

IN MEMORY OF Marsha Henry: Sue Grossbard, Linda Storfer, Neal and Melissa Dick, Susan and Harvey Nagler, Lee and Seymour Stern, Judi Fabricant and Rabbi David Saltzman

IN MEMORY OF Murray and Barbara Dobro: the Livongo team, Debbie Brander and family, Eileen and Bernard Brown, Sarah Doppelt, Peter Colford, Marilyn Samorodin

IN MEMORY OF Mayer Kass: Hilary and Howard Rabner

IN MEMORY OF David Weisman's mother, and Hannah and Rachael Weisman's grandmother, Janice Weisman: Gail and David Black, Alix Rubin and David Grossman

IN MEMORY OF Gerry Resnick's mother, and Elle and Maya Pedergrana's grandmother, Ruth Resnick: Lisa and Liad Amir

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IN MEMORY OF Larry Wieseneck's mother, and Jacob and Brahm Wieseneck's grandmother, Marilyn Wieseneck Levenberg: Larry and Gayle Wieseneck

IN MEMORY OF Mayer Kass: Joan Billig and family

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IN MEMORY OF Chuck Rettig's mother, and Breena and Guy Rettig's grandmother, Mary Sendik Rettig: Burt Henry

IN MEMORY OF his wife, Rosalie Fisher: Hyman Fisher

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IN MEMORY OF Mayer Kass: Arnold and Nina Wasserman

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IN HONOR OF the Caring Committee: Nogah and Bruce Revesz, Phyllis and Marvin Friedman

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IN HONOR OF Barbara Sebiri's birthday:
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IN HONOR OF Karen Frank: Rosanne and Ira Bornstein

IN HONOR OF the marriage of Helaine and Richard French's daughter, Abby, to Rob

IN MEMORY OF Harry Vine's father, and Benjamin and Jeremy Vine's grandfather, Leo Vine: Jean and Ben Alter, Nogah and Bruce Revesz, Karen and Ted Eisenberg, Nancy and Marvin Ruderman

IN MEMORY OF Terry Izraeli: Phyllis and Marvin Friedman

IN MEMORY OF Mayer Kass: Merrill Stern

IN MEMORY OF Linda Majzner's mother, Irene Goldberg:
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IN MEMORY OF Melanie Glass' father, and Annie, Alexander, and Lily Glass' grandfather, Martin Fass: the Felsen family

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IN MEMORY OF Mayer Kass: Esta Edelman

IN MEMORY OF Ellen Haber: Marjorie Nydick

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IN MEMORY OF Gertrude Schneier: Ruth Percely

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IN MEMORY OF her husband, and Josh's father, Kenneth Whitney: Lea Whitney

THE MARA GODFREY FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF Glenn Godfrey's son, Jordan, on his high school graduation and attending Brandeis University: Lori, Adam, and Lee Meyers

IN MEMORY OF Lori Fuchs-Meyers' mother, and Lee Meyers' grandmother, Sandra Goodman: Lisa and Jason Marx

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IN HONOR OF the birth of Linda and Israel Majzner's granddaughter, Nessa Jordan Majzner: Karen and Ted Eisenberg

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IN MEMORY OF Lori Fuchs-Meyers' mother, and Lee Meyers' grandmother, Sandra Goodman: Lori Fuchs-Meyers and Adam Meyers, Marc Rudoltz and Lisa Hochman

Tribute Cards

Custom-printed tribute cards can be sent out from our office. Donations can be in any denomination above \$10. We also offer the option of purchasing a packet of five cards for \$40, which you can send out yourself. Member services assistant Allison Robinson can assist you. Please contact her at arobinson@agudath.org, 973-226-3600, ext. 110.

IN MEMORY OF Melanie Glass' father, and Annie, Alexander, and Lily Glass' grandfather, Martin Fass: Marc Rudoltz and Lisa Hochman

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IN MEMORY OF Cory Lewis' grandmother, Ruth Levin: Estate of Eugene Levin

IN MEMORY OF David Weisman's mother, and Hannah and Rachael Weisman's grandmother, Janice Weisman: the extended Daniel and Davids families, Marc Rudoltz and Lisa Hochman, Mary and Andrew Messer

IN MEMORY OF Murray Dobro: the Dobro family

IN MEMORY OF his brother-in-law, Robert Joseph: Hyman Fisher

RABBI SILVERSTEIN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Larry and Collene Stout

IN HONOR OF the naming of their granddaughter: Linda and Israel Majzner

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IN MEMORY OF Eugene and Ruth Levin: the Mazen, Levin, and Chernin families

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Luisa Frey (left) with student and her mom at Yeshivat Frisch graduation

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Alan Greenfield from Rhoda Greenfield
Sylvia Gurian Hartman from Suzanne Jacobs
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Rabbi Silverstein, Rabbi Lucas, and Cantor Caplan would like to reach out to our community members in need. Please call Debbie Lurie, ext. 118, or Meryl Natter, ext. 115, if a loved one or friend is ill and/or hospitalized.

Cemetery Association

'If not now, when?'

By Rabbi Richard Hammerman

Hillel said: "If not now, when?" (Pirkei Avot) The sobering worldwide pandemic has reminded each of us that our lives are fragile. For over 90 years, the Agudath Israel Cemetery Association has assisted members of our congregation (even before its official founding), providing resources on affordable, nearby burial plots with a guarantee: "At any time, for whatever reason, we will purchase back the plot(s) you purchased, returning the full amount that you paid."

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Chesed

Chesed means “kindness” in Hebrew. The word can also be translated as “lovingkindness,” to convey the deep love that animates Jewish acts of kindness, done without thought of reward.

The Bible has numerous examples of *chesed*, such as Abraham and Sarah welcoming three strangers to their tent in the heat of the day; Abraham’s servant’s prayer for a wife for Isaac, answered by Rebecca who offers water to him and to his camels; and Ruth, who shows loyalty and kindness to Naomi, adopting her religion and peoplehood, after Naomi has experienced great loss. The rabbinic tradition enacted many laws to formalize our commitment to kindness, making *chesed* one of the three central pillars of Jewish life, as Shimon HaTzaddik taught: “The world rests on three things, on Torah, on service of God, and on deeds of kindness” (Pirkei Avot 1:2).

The 5780 (2019-2020) Torah Fund pin depicts a heart surrounded by three circles, one larger than the next. This symbolizes the heart of kindness, which Jews enact in ever-widening realms of generosity: from family, to community, to the larger world; from North America, to Israel, to the world; or from sisterhood, to region, to the larger world of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. And as it is said in Psalm 89, may we build a world of kindness.

For information, please contact your Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair, Sharon Hammerman, at sfhammerman@aol.com or 973-287-3455.

Torah Fund: Supporting Tomorrow’s Jewish leaders

Did you know that Rabbi Silverstein, Rabbi Lucas, Cantor Caplan, and Susan Werk all graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City? CAI boasts many other JTS graduates who have degrees from its Rabbinical School, H.L. Miller Cantorial School, William Davidson School of Education, and the List College undergraduate program, which confers dual degrees with Columbia University or Barnard College.

Donations to the Torah Fund through Agudath Israel Sisterhood provide scholarship assistance for the education of future leaders of the Jewish community. This year, as in many years past, members of Sisterhood and our synagogue have generously given to Torah Fund, which, in addition to supporting JTS, also provides much-needed funds to the other four prestigious Conservative/Masorti educational institutions: Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Los Angeles; Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires; Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem; and Zacharias Frankel School in Potsdam, Germany.

No one should have to choose between supporting our synagogue and making a donation to Torah Fund; donations in any amount are appreciated. We must support our own synagogue, especially during these difficult times.

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—Sharon Hammerman and
Cindy Schechter,
CAI Torah Fund cochairs

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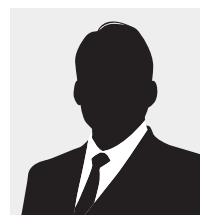
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