

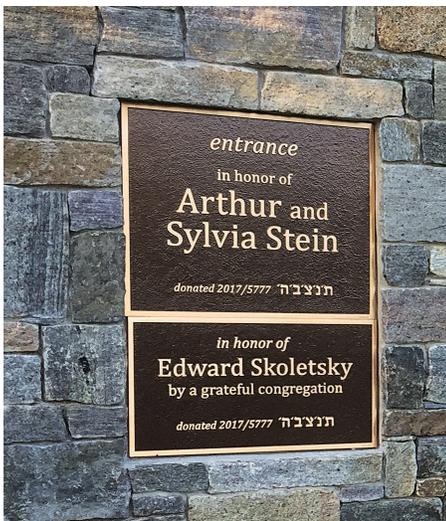
Kol K.L.

learn. inspire. grow. together.

November 2019 | Cheshvan 5780



16 Colt Road | Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201 | 413.445.4872 | knesetisrael.org • Rabbi David Weiner | Richard Simons, President



Cemetery Entrance

Dedication ceremony recognizes major donors and their loved ones

Kneset Israel's annual pre-Rosh Hashanah memorial service, and dedication of the new Kneset Israel Cemetery entrance, was held on September 22. A sense of community, a roster of moving speeches, and a spirit of thankfulness and generosity greeted the group that gathered. It was a warm, sunny day that was reflected in the overall mood.

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Memorial Service.

The memorial service was, as always, meaningful. Rabbi Weiner began with prayers of dedication which included this inspiring and appropriate passage:

“Let us keep in mind that it is only the dust that returns to dust—the soul is G_d’s. The *Kadosh Baruch Hu* has planted eternity within our hearts and souls, granting us a share in unending life. So strong is the Jewish love of life that we maintain that death itself can have no dominion over us. Standing as we always do, within G_d’s sacred presence,

we dedicate this place where two worlds meet in silent embrace and make of it a House of Life for us all.”

History.

“One of the first things a group of Jews does in establishing a community is to acquire a cemetery. This goes all the way back to Biblical times when Abraham was beginning to establish roots in the land of Canaan. Before any land was acquired, Abraham negotiated the purchase of a burial lot for Sarah. Like Abraham, the founders of Kneset Israel had the foresight to purchase a beautiful

parcel on a hill overlooking Onota Lake to be the final resting place of our Jewish community.”

With that introduction, K.I. President Richard Simons reminded us that Kneset Israel is one of the few synagogues in the country that owns and maintains its own cemetery. We do this—along with accompanying the dead and their loved ones through the process of death and Jewish burial—entirely with volunteers from our own community. Our Cemetery Committee oversees funeral logistics

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K.I. Staff

OFFICE PHONE 413-445-4872

RABBI DAVID WEINER Ext. 10
rabbiweiner@knessetisrael.org

DIANA MACFARLANE Ext. 10
Office Manager
office@knessetisrael.org

ED ROBINSON
bookkeeper@knessetisrael.org

MYRNA HAMMERLING Ext. 16
Director of Adult Education
and Programming
mhammerling@knessetisrael.org

CHRIS GOETZE Ext. 20
Facilities Director/Head Custodian
facilitiesman@knessetisrael.org

JUDITH WEINER Ext. 15
Director of Families Together, and
Hebrew School Administrator
jweiner@knessetisrael.org

ELISA SNOWISE
B'Nai Mitzvah Teacher /Coordinator
elisasatki@gmail.com

LIZ DEMARCO, Web Administrator,
liz@bookmarccreative.com

KNESSET ISRAEL

16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-445-4872
413-496-9378 (fax)
knessetisrael.org

Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

■ Mazel Tov to **Margo Golos**, now living in New York City. Her daughter, **Joy Reines**, became engaged to **Craig Zimmerman** of St. Louis, Missouri.

■ **Cindy** and **Ed Helitzer** have endless smiles since their first grandchild has arrived. Their daughter, **Kayla** gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on October 18. Mazel Tov!

■ K.I. had some very impressive athletes who competed in the Josh Billings Run-Aground, aka "The Josh." The Josh is a triathlon composed of biking, paddling around Stockbridge Bowl, and running, finishing at the main gate of Tanglewood.

Lara Denmark, competed as an Iron-woman, doing all three events herself. She called herself "Ironmom", and placed second in her category. She completed the triathlon in three hours and 24 minutes. The Ironwoman finish was exhilarating as the top three competitors completed the race within 25 seconds of each other. Way to go Lara!

We must also mention the participating team, "When the Schvitz Hits the Fan," comprised of **Richie Simons**, **Jeff Siegel**, and **Fred Landes**. Jeff feels that his team came in first in the category of "Middle Aged Men Who Are K.I. Members!" Jeff stated, "We came in just about 55 minutes after Lara, just to give you an indication how good she is and how old we are!"

Heidi Ferren completed the tin man (paddling and running) and **Jenny Gitlitz** paddled! Excellent!

Anniversaries

- **Patricia & James Fingeroth** Nov. 7
- **Beth & Roger Kruvant**..... Nov. 8
- **Carol & Alan Cohen**Nov. 11
- **Bonnie & Richard Hyken**Nov. 11
- **Bobbi & Michael Cohn**.....Nov. 17
- **Cindy & Edwin Helitzer**Nov. 21

Birthdays

- **Pilot Wright**.....November 1
- **Martin Perlmutter**November 2
- **Elaine Lipton**November 3
- **Judith Nishman**.....November 4
- **Judith Cook**.....November 4
- **Rose Louise May**November 4
- **Ari Yantovsky**November 4
- **Regina Karas**.....November 6
- **Alice Jonas**.....November 7
- **Viktor Rashkes**.....November 8
- **Marjorie Safran**November 8
- **Alexandra Warshaw**November 9
- **Patricia Fingeroth**.....November 9
- **Anna Lotto**November 9
- **Miriam Cohen**November 12
- **Murray Akrish**November 12
- **Judy Seaman**.....November 12
- **Maxine Frank**November 12
- **Hannah Weeks**.....November 12
- **Rochelle Leinwand**November 13
- **Ken Amron**November 15
- **David Finck**November 16
- **Georgia Raser**November 16
- **Jeffrey Leppo**November 17
- **Kara Thornton**.....November 17
- **Ariel Weinder**November 17
- **Florence Winter**November 18
- **Jeffrey Cohen**November 21
- **Judith Monachina**November 21
- **Mark Lipton**November 21
- **Jonathan Denmark**.....November 21
- **Joyce Glaberson**.....November 22
- **Michael Cohn**November 23
- **Michael Akresh**.....November 23
- **Nina Rone**November 25
- **Hunter Wallace**November 25
- **Carrie Wright**November 27
- **Adam M. Goodman**November 27
- **Frederic Rutberg**.....November 29

From the Rabbi

Journey into Judaism

Classes offered to learn the basics, expand your skills, engage in lively discussions. . .

This year November coincides with the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, a month entirely without special Jewish holidays and observances. This quiet of this month gives us the time to begin this year's Jewish journey in earnest. Below please find some information about this year's schedule of classes I am intending to teach for adults at K.I.



Rabbi David Weiner

Knesset Israel's Introduction to Judaism classes will each have a particular theme, encompassing themes of Jewish identity, sacred books, Jewish time, Jews in America, ethics and values, life-cycle and medieval and modern Jewish history. This accessible course is designed for interfaith couples looking for understanding, individuals

considering conversion and inquisitive people who have not participated in Jewish education in a while. The class assumes that most participants will be new to Jewish education and welcomes all who are interested in broadening their Jewish experience as adults.

Taught by a team of professional Jewish educators and qualified lay leaders of Knesset Israel, classes will incorporate dynamic activities to pique participants' interest and maximize their learning. Nearly every class also includes the study of at least one text—perhaps from the siddur, the Torah, the Mishna or the Talmud—that is indispensable for understanding Judaism in a sophisticated way. Five history classes incorporate screening and discussion of Simon Schama's documentary, "The Story of the Jews."

Though topics are subject to change, classes in November and December are scheduled for:

November 3

Introductions & Jewish Perspectives on God

November 10

Tanakh Part 1

November 17

Tanakh Part 2 & the Second Temple Period

November 24

The Story of the Jews, Episode 1: Beginnings

December 8

Early Rabbinic Judaism

December 15

Shabbat—A Palace in Time

Jewish Studies

Introduction to Judaism

Sunday mornings from 10–11:30 am

This course starts November 3 with approximately 20 sessions. We suggest a donation of \$10 per session or \$100 for the series. You may attend single classes or the entire series, however we ask that you register in advance with the K.I. office. Babysitting may be available. Please call the front office to make the appropriate arrangements.

What is essential to understanding Judaism as an adult? Are there particular concepts, values, facts and events? Are there particular books an educated Jew ought to know of, to have read in part or in their entirety? How does an individual become comfortable in synagogue services? At a seder table? At a celebration of Israeli culture?

KOL K.I. Publication Notes

Editor: Susan Miller • Production: Liz DeMarco • Photo Editor: Nan Bookless • Printer: Aldam Press

DEADLINE: THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH

We welcome submissions. Publication will be at the discretion of the editorial staff, and may be subject to editing for clarity, facts, and length.

Submit articles & photographs VIA EMAIL to: Susan Miller at sunpath2@gmail.com

Beyond Dispute

Most Thursdays from 10:45 am–Noon
Beginning November 7

No fee. To be informed by email of specific course information and schedule changes, please contact the K.I. office.

Although publication of the JTS curriculum that sets our course of study has been delayed to later this winter, I am preparing a series of discussions on arguments of consequence among sages in different eras: Which is more important: truth or peace? The ideal or the real? Justice or survival? Tradition or engagement? All texts will be presented in English translation, and I promise that spirited conversation will ensue.

November classes are scheduled for:

November 7

November 14

November 21

continued on page 5

Cemetery Entrance

(continued from page 1)



and upkeep. A few years ago, it became undeniably apparent that the aging, crumbling cemetery entrance was in need of a serious upgrade—not only to properly honor our ancestors, but for basic safety and accommodation of modern maintenance vehicles.

The committee stepped up to the task. Monthly meetings became lively debates around style, meaning, and aesthetics, along with the practical tasks of securing vendors, choosing materials, and raising money. We agreed that the design symbol would be the Tree of Life—reflected in our logo and our ark—and echoed in the rabbi's memorial service prayer...a House of Life.

Generosity.

The column on the next page gratefully acknowledges all who gave their time and skills to this project.

Our most heartfelt gratitude is extended to those who looked into their hearts and chose this way to remember their loved ones. They are the foundation on which the success of this project stands. On each stone entrance column, bronze plaques are engraved with names of those they honor.

Major donors **Maxine Stein** (representing the Stein sisters), **Lauren Spitz**, and **Leonard and Ilene Cohen** were in atten-

dance—all of whom addressed those present with heartwarming stories and tributes. What can illustrate the cohesiveness of a community more than sharing tears, laughter, and embraces, and recalling fond memories of those who will live on in our memories as a part of that same community? As Lauren Spitz so eloquently reflects, "It is so comforting to know that the K.I. community wraps me and my family with the same spirit, kindness and warmth in life, and beyond."

Additionally, hundreds of contributions from K.I. members assured that the name Ed Skoletsky, our long-serving, beloved, former cemetery committee chairman would be on its' gates. Ed's son Barry offered his heartfelt appreciation that K.I. would honor his father in such an enduring way.

Thank You.

Judy Cook is correct when she says, "It is a tribute to our congregants who made it a priority, raised the money, and maintained the dignity of this sacred space. We should all be proud of this accomplishment, and especially thank those who made it financially possible."

And so, to Maxine, Mindy, and Joyce (OBM), Lauren, Leonard and Ilene, and all who gave—we offer this passage from the rabbi's remarks:

"During our brief visit on this earth, [we are given] opportunities to cherish hopes, and perform deeds which time cannot destroy. The goodness we grant others, the love we share, the mercy and faith that guide our lives, the righteousness we pursue endures from age to age, helping to transform this world into a sacred domain."

Remember.

During the memorial service, Rabbi Weiner gave us the opportunity to say the names of our departed loved ones aloud. It is always a powerful moment. As you approach this new entry way, and make your way through the Tree of Life gates, take a moment to read the names on the pillars and remember those whose honored lives make your path both beautiful and holy.

Arthur and Sylvia Stein.

Jerry Spitz, MD.

Debra Cohen deRothschild.

Rachel & Harry Smith.

Ester and Samuel Cohen.

Edward Skoletsky.

There are stars who's light reaches the earth only after they themselves have disintegrated. And there are individuals whose memory lights the world after they have passed from it. These lights shine in the darkest night and illuminate our path. — Hannah Senesh

From the Rabbi *continued from page 3*

Saturday Evening Study Group

Many Saturday evenings, about 30 minutes before sundown. See calendar for times.

The schedule is set by polling those who attend regularly. Typically the group meets two or three afternoons each month between September and Pesah.

This intimate group gathers many Saturday afternoons to daven, study and recite havdala together. Themes will vary over the course of the year. This fall we

are looking at the facets and perils of nationalism from a Jewish perspective.

Synagogue Skills

Advanced Hebrew Reading for Torah Readers & Shlihei Tzibbur

Many Tuesday evenings, 7:15–8:30 pm after minyan

This class meets November through January, beginning November 5. Materials

from Rabbi Miles Cohen. Class facilitated by Rabbi David Weiner. Please register with the synagogue office.

Do you occasionally find your tongue twisting around a difficult Hebrew word that doesn't seem to follow the rules? Are you struggling to find the rhythm of Hebrew in the siddur or in the Aliyah you've prepared to read? There are details that, once you know about and attend to them, will build your fluency and confidence. Open to people who read Hebrew and are comfortable seeking greater precision.

Classes are scheduled for:

- November 5
- November 12
- November 26
- December 3
- December 10
- December 17.

Chanting Torah for Adults

Many Tuesday evenings, 7:15–8:30 pm after minyan

This class meets February through May, start date TBD. Please register with the synagogue office.

Come and learn the ancient skill of chanting—and therefore interpreting—the words of Torah for the congregation. There's no better way to make Torah a part of you than to start singing it on a regular basis. Students will learn the symbols ('trop'), the associated melodies and how to apply them to words. One-on-one sessions with experienced Torah readers will supplement class sessions. Open to good Hebrew readers. If you're not there yet, perhaps you want to try the Advanced Hebrew Reading for Torah Readers & Shlihei Tzibbur class.

Cemetery Entrance Project Acknowledgments

Major Donors

In honor of Arthur and Sylvia Stein
Maxine, Mindy, and Joyce (OBM) Stein

In memory of Jerry Spitz, MD
Lauren Spitz

In honor of
Debra Cohen deRothschild
Rachel and Harry Smith
Esther and Samuel Cohen
Ileen and Lenny Cohen

In honor of Edward Skoletsky,
by a grateful congregation

Major, incremental donations to cover
unforeseen project expenses
Anonymous donor

and Numerous individual donations
to the Cemetery Gate Fund

Entrance Sub-Committee

Nan Bookless
Maxine Bookless
Judy Cook
Dave Pill
Don Sugarman

Contractors

Pillars
Ben Cortis Construction: Ben Cortis
Pillar Capstones
A&A Cemetery Service: Rich Atwood
Gate Fabrication—Black Iron Welding:
Pat Shepardson and Matt Gendron
Dedication plaques—W&E Baum
Berkshire Fence
DJ Condron Construction

Cemetery Committee

Don Sugarman, Chair • Bernie Abramson • Michael Albert • Maxine Bookless
Nan Bookless • Alan Cohen • Judy Cook • Jonathan Denmark • Michael Ende
Dan Kaplan • Ofer Kaufman • Lawrence Klein • Charles Mandel • Irwin Moiseff
Dave Pill • Tom Sebestyen • Albert Stern • Ben Srauss
Bob Waldheim • David Weiner

From the President

The Year in Review—Rosh Hashana 2019

How individuals create community



Richard Simons

The following is Richard's address to the congregation from the first day of Rosh Hashanah. We felt it deserved to be printed. Some may see it as a list of names, but we read it as a roster of a vibrant community. Richard takes us from a point of peril for Jews in today's America to recognizing the individuals who give of themselves to make Knesset Israel a safe haven of community and worship.—Ed.

Time is a funny thing. We go from day to day accomplishing what needs to get done and then look forward to the next obligation or opportunity that awaits us. All of a sudden when there is a milestone or holiday, we look back and marvel at all that has happened. To an extent I feel that way as I stand before you this Rosh Hashana reflecting upon the events of this past year.

Nearly a year ago, on Shabbat morning, October 27th, we were singing the concluding hymn, Adon Olam, when someone passed some information along to Rabbi Weiner. He then whispered to me that there had been a bombing at a shul in Pittsburgh and we were going to lock our doors. A couple of days later, I attended my first security committee meeting and sat there shell shocked as we reviewed the events of the week and the manner in which we, as a Jewish institution, would be forced to respond.

This was also the year that we had literally thousands of people from all over Berkshire County attend a vigil in this room in an effort to show solidarity with the Jewish community. The support and love offered by our neighbors and the comfort of just being together was cathartic. We continue to work on the issue of security. Under the leadership of **Stephanie Ilberg-Lamm**, our security committee regularly meets in order to confront the complex security issues we face while maintaining an open and welcoming atmosphere that we love and value.

This past year, we also marked the 125th anniversary of the founding of this shul. **Bobbi Cohn** chaired a memorable Gala event marking the occasion. **Susan Frisch-Lehrer** tapped into her curatorial skills and developed a wonderful slide show chronicling the growth of this community. We have continued to grow and adapt with the times and we're looking forward to the next 125 years.

Two congregants took it upon themselves to do something about the tired covers that adorned our Torah scrolls. **Susan Miller** and **Naomi Schwartz** believed that our treasured scrolls deserved to be dressed in beautiful covers. They secured an artist and raised funds and lo and behold, we have gorgeous Torah covers that greatly enhance the beauty of our bimah.

Another group of women led by **Ev Bastow**, **Jan Zimble** and **Maxine Bookless** have begun a project to rehabilitate the Bobby Braun Memorial Garden on the east side of the building. Their hard work has already yielded beautiful results. I would encourage you to take some reflection time to spend in the Garden over the holidays.

We rejoiced during the holidays this past year. Once again, **Cindy Helitzer** with baker extraordinaire, **Susan Gordon**, organized the Hamantaschen project, which raised significant funds, tickled our palate and allowed us all to wish our neighbors a happy Purim. We were then bedazzled by our talented band for our annual Purim concert.

This summer we had another banner year for our Jewish Film Festival. **Judy Seaman** and her dedicated crew of volunteers did an outstanding job. Their efforts created visibility for K.I. and raised significant funds for our Hebrew School. The Film Festival has grown to be an important component of our budget and an integral part of the Berkshire summer Jewish experience.

Over the summer, our sanctuary was overflowing with guests and seasonal residents. With the generosity of the Kiddush Fund, a catered lunch prepared by our own **Chris Goetz**, was provided after each Shabbat service. It was such a wonderful opportunity to extend Shabbat celebration in community.

These are just some of the highlights of what happened this past year. This was in addition to the regular programming of adult education classes, lunch and learns, evening lectures, Shirei Shabbat services, Families Together programs, Rosh Chodesh gatherings, and our Hebrew School program.

Two new committees have been strengthened this past year. First, under **Fran Wolk's** leadership, K.I. Cares has been empowered to assist with pastoral visits. **Nancy Cook** has assumed the leadership of our Social Action Committee and has developed a core of committed people to give voice and develop action plan on issues of social justice.



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From the President

Our day-to-day committees meet and ensure the smooth functioning of our shul. It takes a lot of people to run this place and we are grateful to the many volunteers who perform kiddish duty, act as shomrim, read Torah, prepare con-

low, our Caretaker. Please don't hesitate to approach and thank them for all of their work when you see them over these next few days. Of course, the professional that holds all of this together is our rabbi, **David Weiner**. He is a man whose intel-

town living. My grandparents are buried in a large cemetery in Paramus, New Jersey. Though it's meaningful for me to spend time at my grandparents' graves, there is no connection to the place. It feels as though their graves are placed in a sea of tombstones bearing Jewish names. When you enter the KI cemetery however, you see familiar names. You walk past the graves of loved ones, neighbors, teachers, classmates and friends. As much as a cemetery can create a warm and intimate feeling, the KI cemetery does that.

This one gathering highlighted...the K.I. value of honoring those who give of their time in the same manner as those who give of their funds.

solation meals, collect dues, oversee our investments, work on our budget, lead services, read Megilah, send out mailings, and attend and support our minyan.

Don Sugarman makes sure are facilities are accessible and comfortable. He also leads the committed Cemetery Committee to insure that we as a community meet the needs of our congregational families who endure a loss. **Alan Metzger** with his devoted Torah Assignment Committee insures that we have Torah readers and service leaders for each service. **Phil Coleman** and his music committee has enriched and enhanced our services. **Heidi Ferren** and **Carole Siegel** steward and welcome new members. **Susan Miller**, **Nan Bookless**, **Kara Thorton**, and **Liz DeMarco** work to make sure our Kol K.I. is informative, designed well, and sustainable. And **Marcie Greenfield Simons** works with our Hebrew School and Families Together program to meet the needs of this very important constituency. The **Board of Directors**, whose names are too many to mention at this point, make my work so much easier.

In addition to the lay leadership, we have a wonderful and dedicated staff. **Myrna Hammerling**, our Director of Adult Education and Programming, **Judith Weiner**, Director of Families Together and Administrator of our Hebrew School, **Elisa Snowise**, B'Nai Mitzvah Coordinator, **Diana McFarlane**, Office Manager, **Chris Goetz**, Facilities Director and **Ken Car-**

lectual prowess continues to challenge us; whose insight continues to guide us; whose compassion continues to care for us; and whose menshlikite continues to inspire us. Rabbi Weiner, thank you for another year of your leadership and we look forward to continuing on along this journey with you.

This past summer while Rabbi Weiner was on sabbatical so many people stepped up to the plate to fill in with delivering d'vrei Torah and acting as service leaders. Two people deserve special mention as really being indispensable: **Rabbi Yaacov Rone** was a "go to Rabbi" and **Marcie Greenfield Simons** expertly conducted a funeral and guided a grieving family through the mourning process.

So in reviewing the year, we have much for which to be grateful. I'll conclude by sharing a recent K.I. event that illustrates what makes this community unique. On September 22nd, a group gathered at our cemetery on Pecks Road to dedicate the new gate erected at the entrance and to take part in the annual memorial service. This one gathering highlighted the virtues of a small community, the commitment of selfless volunteers, the generosity of financial donors and the KI value of honoring those who give of their time in the same manner as those who give of their funds.

We are a small community and the manner in which we operate our cemetery draws attention to the beauty of small

The dedication of the gates was made possible by generous donors. **The families of Jerry Spitz, Debra Cohen de Rothschild, Samuel and Esther Cohen, Rachel and Harry Smith, and Art and Sylvia Stein** all shared some remembrances of these extraordinary people. We would not be here in this beautiful sanctuary and offer the educational, spiritual and social programs we do without the generosity of so many congregants and friends.

In addition to honoring the donors by inscribing their names on the gates, the congregation chose to honor a tireless volunteer who committed so much of his life to the maintenance and preservation of our cemetery. It was all of you who then contributed to a fund so that the name **Edward Skoletsky** could be carved on the gates along with the other donors with a note that says, "In memory of Edward Skoletsky From A Grateful Congregation."

With that, I'll end here with the love of a grateful President. Wishing you all a Shana Tova. May you all be inscribed in the Book of Life.



Key Contacts

CEMETERY

Don Sugarman 413-499-4478
 cemetery@knessetisrael.org

DEVELOPMENT FUNDRAISING

Bobbi Cohn 413-443-6128

FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT

Don Sugarman 413-499-4478

MEMBERSHIP

Jan Zimble 413-448-8443

MARKETING

Kara Thornton 413-684-2298

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Phil Coleman 413-329-9224

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sherri Buxton 413-243-2709

ADMINISTRATION

Diane Weinstein 413-442-7143

PROGRAMMING

Stuart Masters 413-443-4386

RITUAL, GABBAIM, MINYAN

Alan Metzger 413-443-4217

TREASURY, FINANCE AND BUDGET

Edwin Helitzer 413-499-1202

YOUTH

Marcie Greenfield Simons... 413-464-1162

Emergency Contacts

PASTORAL CARE.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care for any reason, please contact Rabbi Weiner, 413-445-4872, ext. 10.

FUNERALS.

Knesset Israel's funeral arrangements are handled with Flynn-Dagnoli funeral home. Please call 413-663-6523 or 413-442-1733. You can also email flynndagnoli@albany.twcbc.com.

CARE COMMITTEE.

If you or another K.I. member you know is experiencing serious illness requiring support, please contact the Care Committee by calling the main office of Knesset Israel, 413-445-4872, ext. 10 and we will be in touch with you.

Judy Cook honored by Berkshire Interfaith Organizing

The Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO) has honored Judith Maislen Cook as a Micah honoree. Her extraordinary work in Berkshire County was highlighted at their annual luncheon on Sunday, October 27 at the Stationery Factory in Dalton, Massachusetts. Over 20 churches, organizations, including Knesset Israel, celebrated the tireless community centered work that Judy and other nominees do. It was a grand event that spotlighted the selfless work that quietly takes place daily.



Qualifications for the honor are:

1. A person who takes on responsibilities without expecting rewards or thanks.
2. A person with a consistent record of giving time generously over the years.
3. A person with numerous obligations and still making time for social justice and humanitarian causes.

Judy's leadership qualities are well known at Knesset Israel. She has served as President of the Board of Directors, Financial Secretary, the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, the Cemetery Committee, and even helps plan and serve delicious congregational meals for holiday celebrations.

Judy also served as president of Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, and still sits on various committees. As a long-term Tanglewood volunteer, she co-chaired the "Walks and Talks" and "Berkshire Night" which celebrates active and retired volunteers. Judy is past president of the Berkshire chapter of Hadassah and serves on the board for Girls Inc. at the Gladys Brigham Center. She has organized their Bizarre Bazaar since the 1970's. This list hardly covers her deep involvement in her synagogue and her community.

K.I. members Ellen Masters, Don Sugarman, and Cindy Tatalovich were chosen as Michah award winners in previous years.



Tikkun Olam ~ Heal the World

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

—The Talmud

November Calendar

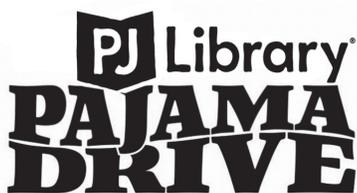


CLASSES

Torah Portion of the Week (Library)Tue., November 5, 12, 19, 26 10–11:30 AM
 Enhanced Prayer StudyWed., November 6, 13, 20, 27 10–11:30 AM
 Beyond Dispute: Debates That Shape Jewish Life
Thurs., November 7, 14, 21 10:45 AM–12 PM
 Hebrew SchoolTues., November 6, 13, 204–6 PM
 Hebrew SchoolSat., November 2, 9, 16, 23 9AM–12 PM

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Rosh Chodesh Movie Afternoon..... Sun., November 102:30 PM
 Cemetery Committee Tues., November 127:30 PM
 Social Action Committee..... Tues., November 197:30 PM
 K.I. Board Meeting..... Wed., November 20.....7:30 PM



Give the gift of cozy, warm nights!

During the cold winter months many children in our community go to sleep without the comfort of warm pajamas. To meet this critical need, PJ Library is running its annual community-wide pajama drive. Donate BRAND NEW pajamas, sizes newborn to teen, and they will be delivered to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families in Pittsfield in time for the Christmas holiday.

Drop off November 1—December 6 at:

- Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
196 South St., Pittsfield
- Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
270 State St., Gt. Barrington
- Congregation Beth Israel
53 Lois St., North Adams.

Questions? Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer at 413-442-4360 x 14 or email: slehrer@jewishberkshires.org

Please support
Knesset Israel's
Minyan Services

MINYAN

November 2..... 5:15 PM
 November 9..... 4:15 PM
 November 16 4 PM
 November 23 4 PM

Never forget.

Kristallnacht: the Night of Broken Glass

Kristallnacht refers to the wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms which played out on November 9 and 10, 1938. These were the first incidents of state-sponsored mass violence against the Jews of Nazi Germany.

For illuminating reading and videos visit myjewhlearning.com; yadvashem.org; ushmm.org and search kristallnacht.

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

FridayNovember 15:28 PM
 FridayNovember 84:20 PM
 FridayNovember 154:13 PM
 FridayNovember 224:08 PM
 FridayNovember 294:04 PM

REGULAR SERVICES SCHEDULE:

Sunday 8:45 AM & 7 PM
 Tuesday 7 PM
 Friday 5:45 PM*
 Saturday 9:30 AM
 *Shirei Shabbat Fri., Nov. 8.....5:30 PM

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICES

November 2..... 5:15 PM
 November 9..... 4:15 PM
 November 16 4 PM
 November 23 4 PM

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

November 29 & 30 No services

Cemetery Access— Veteran's Day

The new Knesset Israel Cemetery entrance will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday, November 10, and Monday, November 11 to allow families and friends to visit the graves of veterans and other loved ones.

Spotlight On

Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman

The evolution of Knesset Israel's Siddurim



Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman

My column this month is in a little different format than usual. Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman had graciously agreed to be my subject, and we considered a few different subjects on which to focus. However, Jan felt that the creation of the different Siddurim we use at K.I., and her intimate involvement in that process, would make for a really interesting story. So rather than questions and answers, Jan penned this article. It is a fascinating insider's look at how our prayer-books were created. Thanks so much, Jan! —Phil Coleman

Shabbat and Festivals chaired by Rabbi Leonard Cahan (z"l). The committee had started its work in 1991 and the siddur was published in 1998. We met two days each month at Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and pored over every sentence. K.I.'s former rabbi, Rabbi Lynn Liberman introduced this Siddur to K.I. in 1993.

We then began work on *Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays* following the same process. Rabbi Avram Reisner chaired our group. He was born in Pittsfield when his father, Rabbi Nathan Reisner, (z"l) was Rabbi of K.I., from 1949 to 1952.

The call for creative work became more intense when the Rabbinical Assembly undertook publishing a new mahzor for the High Holidays in 1998. The *Mahzor Lev Shalem* committee was chaired by Rabbi Edward Feld of Northampton. Rabbi Feld would share manuscripts he found of Rabbinic and medieval liturgical texts for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—every meeting was filled with incredible learning! I spent 12 years of my life working on the *Mahzor Lev Shalem*. It was published in 2010 and in-

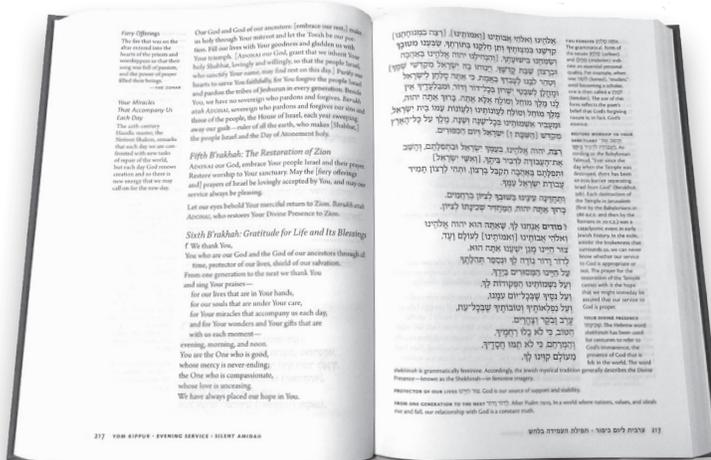
troduced at Knesset Israel in 2011. (That year, I spent more time in the K.I. hallway than in the sanctuary because everyone wanted to tell me how terrific the mahzor was!)

Our version of the mahzor introduced a new "four column format." (Illustrated below). Hebrew text is positioned on the right side of the page (referred to as column two), and the English translation is on the left (column three). Commentary is printed in column one (far right) and column four (far left) both offering more interpretive and inspirational readings. Column one, which is my favorite, explains the historical and literary development of the prayers. Sometimes I'll come across an interesting comment in column one only to realize that I wrote it!"

One of the members of the Mahzor Committee was Rabbi Robert Scheinberg, who was also born in Pittsfield when his father, Hal, worked for the General Electric Co. Hal and his late wife, Elissa, were USY advisors at K.I. in the early 70s. Rabbi Scheinberg represents

continued next page

column four column three column two column one



I spent almost two decades working on liturgical publications at the Rabbinical Assembly which publishes the prayer books Knesset Israel and other Conservative synagogues use.

When I started in 1994, Rabbi Jules Harlow was the preeminent liturgist, not only of the Conservative movement but of the contemporary Jewish world. I was honored to sit at his vacated desk for 15 years when I moved offices. When I came to the R.A., I was on the committee working on *Siddur Sim Shalom* for

Crazy for Cranberry Sauce

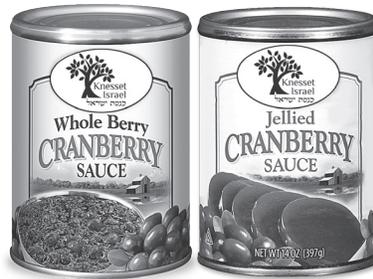
Still time to be a Thanksgiving Angel—1000 cans are needed!

Reminder! Knesset Israel is partnering with Temple Anshe Amunim to collect 1000 cans of cranberry sauce for the Thanksgiving Angels meal distribution.

The Thanksgiving Angels—a group of generous people from many Pittsfield faith congregations—will supply the needed components of a Thanksgiving meal for our neighbors in need.

Please drop off your offerings in the collection box in the social hall through Thursday, November 21. Last year, “smooth” greatly outnumbered “whole berries”—so consider including a can or two of each when you shop. If 100 congregants each donate 10 can we will make our goal!

Financial contributions are also needed. Perishables like eggs, margarine, and turkeys are purchased from these funds.



Checks can be made out to: Thanksgiving Angels, and left in Myrna's mailbox in the front office—or mail it in with Thanksgiving Angels written on the envelope.

Please refer to October's KOL K.I. for more details and opportunities to volunteer. You can contact Myrna Hammerling, at mhammerling@knessetisrael.org or call her at 413-445-4872, x16.

Bake Quick Breads for the Angels!

A sweet way to help

If you would like to bake some quick breads for the Thanksgiving Angels food distribution here are the guidelines:

- **Banana, Zucchini, Pumpkin breads ONLY**
- **NO nut bread (allergies!) We also need gluten free breads. (please label as such)**
- **It is OK to add chocolate chips.**
- **Bread size should be 9"x 5" or 8" x 4". No small sizes, please.**
- **Use disposable foil pans or wrap in foil—no plastic wrap...it doesn't stay on.**
- **Label each bread with a sticker or masking tape—something that will stick. Also, please no fancy bows, etc. as we stack the breads.**

Bring your breads to:
**South Congregational Church,
110 South Street, Pittsfield, Mass.
Sunday, November 24 • 12:30–3pm**
Please do not try to drop off breads earlier than 12:30 pm.

Join the Facebook page Berkshire Thanksgiving Baking Angels for more information!



When you are asked in the world to come,
"What was your work?" and you answer: "I fed the hungry,"
you will be told: "This is the gate of the Eternal, enter into
it, you who have fed the hungry. (Midrash Psalms 18:17)

Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman *(continued from page 10)*

the next generation of liturgists, teaching liturgy at JTS.

Meetings were robust to say the least. We incorporated texts from different communities in our history, such as the Italian rite or Sephardic piyuttim (liturgical poems) that are new to the world of the descendants of European Jews.

As soon as we finished the mahzor, we began to work on *Siddur Lev Shalom*, (also led by Rabbi Feld). When I retired from the R.A. in 2013, we had the draft of the manuscript. The Siddur was published in

2016. K.I. adopted the Siddur almost immediately.

The process of editing a prayer book on behalf of a movement with over 1,700 Rabbis representing close to 1.5 million Jews is quite an undertaking. We had many readers including Rabbis, cantors and congregants, not to mention literary editors and copy editors. We spent many meetings reading, digesting, and incorporating feedback. You can only imagine what that's like. You know...three Jews, 10 opinions!

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Update on the Rosh Chodesh garden project —submitted by Ev Bastow



Ev Bastow, Garden Committee Chair

Fall is now well underway and the Bobby Braun Memorial Garden will soon be dormant. The garden committee, however, will be quite active during the winter months planning for spring.

In the meantime, there are many people to thank for the progress that has been made. If the following list looks like the credits for a movie or TV show, it's because, it took a cast of community workers to begin to bring the garden back.

Dave Pill dug right in and power washed and oiled the moss covered benches. He removed two large Rose of Sharon bushes to open up the visibility of the garden stairway. Monica Lapin and Judy Nishman gloved up with some early spring weeding. The multi-talented Nancy Cook sanded the benches, planned the raised bed layout, led the group dig, shopped for plants, and installed the containers of mums that now mark the entry to the garden. She also sanded the benches and single-handedly painted the pavilion.

On a sunny afternoon this past September, Ev Bastow, Arlene Schiff, Myrna Hammerling, Brenda Landes, Dale Drimmer, Mike Cohn, Randall Winn, Judy Katz, Lorraine Blank, Jesse Cook Dubin, Noah Cook Dubin, and Nancy Cook cleaned out and planted the flower bed.

Support crew included: Chris Goetz & Don Sugarman (needed equipment); Maxine Bookless (beverages and goodies); Don Sugarman, Merle Ferber and Ed Helitzer (accessibility advisors).

We thank Maxine Bookless and Jan Zimpler for the suggestion that the Rosh Chodesh women's group adopt this project.

We will continue to report our progress as the garden plans take root and grow. It is our hope that this space will one day be used by members for contemplation, celebration, and perhaps even classes or special occasions.



The K.l. gardening volunteers dig in!! Pictured above (l to r): Brenda Landes, Nancy Cook Dubin, Dale Drimmer



*This page (top l to r) Dale Drimmer,
Jesse Cook Dubin, Judy Katz.
Bottom (l to r) Michael Cohn, Brenda Landes,
Nancy Cook Dubin, Arlene Schiff, and Dale Drimmer.*



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Research completed by
Dimensional's 2017
Global Investor Feedback
Survey found the most
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receive from their relationship
with their financial advisor is
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Having that sense of security—and the knowledge
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situation—is invaluable.

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Director, and discover the qualities that can help
provide some certainty in these uncertain times.



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her special birthday, her
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Pattie Lipman
& John Huffaker

Happy birthday

Happy 75th birthday to
Howard Jackson. May
we continue to enjoy the
Berkshire Film Festivals.
William Bardavid

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Lydia Marcus
Ev Bastow
Alfred Goldin
Myla Blum

In appreciation of

Wonderful shabbos over the
summer. The congregation
was inclusive and welcoming.
Elaine Yatzkan

Minyans at the Jewish Film
Festival and on Tuesday
evenings where I was able
to say Kaddish in memory of
my mother.

Rabbi Neal Borovitz &
Ann Applebaum

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In honor of

Richie Simon's upcoming
birthday. May you be blessed
with many more years
together with your beautiful
family in good health.
Kim & Ruthy Marks

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& John Huffaker



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Minimum donation to funds is \$5.
Endowment fund minimum is \$10. We welcome contributions in
any amount. Contributions of less than \$5 not publicized.

In appreciation of

Barbara Greenfeld's kind
hospitality and friendship
Chester & Madeline Vogel

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In memory of

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Pattie Lipman & John Huffaker

Jacob Sandler
Sharon & Martin Lewis

Yulia Chernova
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Lina Mestechkin
Viktor Rashkes

Get well wishes

for Elie Hammering,
a swift and complete recovery
Pattie Lipman & John Huffaker

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11/2 - 4 CHESHVAN

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11/6 - 8 CHESHVAN

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David Zwerner
Edith Nissenbaum

11/7 - 9 CHESHVAN

Abraham Sidman
Edwin Newman
Helen Feigenbaum
I. Jerry Harab
Sol Link

11/8 - 10 CHESHVAN

Hope Shirley
Dershowitz
Jack Krawet
Jerome Schlichter
Leonard Gottlieb
Louis Honigbaum
Myra Feldman
Warren Rich

11/9 - 11 CHESHVAN

Arthur Hiller
Harry Rosen
Michele Zuckerman
Rose Sagarin
Sanford Lubin

11/10 - 12 CHESHVAN

Bernard Charkow
Eli Taylor
Gisela Ziskind
Lillian Stoskin

11/11 - 13 CHESHVAN

Celia Palefsky
Jack Lessoff
Jacob Astrachan
Jacob Cohen

The dust returns to earth as it was,
But the spirit returns to God who gave it.

—Jewish prayer

11/12 - 14 CHESHVAN

Benjamin Jonas
Madeline Alfred
Shirley Rudich

11/13 - 15 CHESHVAN

Eugene Tardiff
Frances Zimpler
Harold Ferber
Herman S. Braun
Mary Jonas

11/14 - 16 CHESHVAN

Anna Keslowicz
Henrietta Gans
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Riva Kutik
Shirley Goldlust

11/15 - 17 CHESHVAN

Anita Regina Etscovitz
Esther Rosenfeld
George Miller
Martin Weisberger
Shera Joy Berke

11/16 - 18 CHESHVAN

Daniel Martin
Dr. Joel Fleet
Esther Bunnevitzy
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Lenore Ferber
Rabbi Max Israel Cohen

11/17 - 19 CHESHVAN

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Pauline Landa
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11/18 - 20 CHESHVAN

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Eli Black
Jacob Baer
Rebecca Baz
Reuben Sandler
Richard Smith
Shulamith Auslander
Sylvia Klein Adelson
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11/19 - 21 CHESHVAN

George Garbowit
Grace Martin

11/20 - 22 CHESHVAN

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Isaac Meyer Abeles
Rose Gruberg

11/21 - 23 CHESHVAN

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11/22 - 24 CHESHVAN

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11/23 - 25 CHESHVAN

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Herbert Fishman
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Everhart

11/24 - 26 CHESHVAN

Philip Katzman

11/25 - 27 CHESHVAN

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11/27 - 29 CHESHVAN

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Feyga Kirshteyn
Sheila Goodwin
Feigenbaum

11/28 - 30 CHESHVAN

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11/29 - 1 KISLEV

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11/30 - 2 KISLEV

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William Sherman

Love does not die, people do.
So, when all that is left of me
is love, give me away
as best you can.

—Unknown

May his/her
sould be bound
up in the bond
of eternal life.



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Dedication
•
September
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Upper left: Carole Siegel and Maxine Stein. Bottom left: Leonard and Ilene Cohen, Lauren Spitz, Cemetery committee entrance sub-committee: Judy Cook, Nan Bookless, Dave Pill, Don Sugarman, and Maxine Bookless