



Kol K.I.

learn. inspire. grow. together.



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

Hands-On Torah Rescue

Students experience the art & mitzvah of Torah repair



the way to the beginning. Then the 5th-6th grade class detached and replaced the other eitz hayim. The congregation used the scroll for the first time in many months on February 15.

Our hope for this unusual Hebrew School day was to give our students a new perspective on what it takes to maintain Torah scrolls, and to strengthen their connection to Torah. We look forward to students reading from this and other Torah scrolls at their bar/bat mitzvah celebrations and beyond.

More photos of the Torah repair appear on the mailer side of this KOL K.I.

Knesset Israel Hebrew School students recently got up close and personal with one of the congregation's Torah scrolls. Several months ago, one of the atzei hayim—Torah poles—broke in half. After consulting with the rabbis at Sofer-on-Site—our go-to resource for Torah repair—and with the generosity of a donor (who wishes to remain anonymous), we purchased a new set of Torah poles and the giddin (sinews) that function as thread.

Dave Pill, the K.I. member responsible for maintaining our scrolls, learned how to sew the parchment to the poles and tie the knots from an online instruction recommended by the sofer.

On February 12, students from the bar/bat mitzvah class attached the end of the Torah scroll to a new eitz hayim, then helped Dave and Rabbi Weiner roll the Torah all



Inside: Passover Calendar and Guidelines for Holiday Preparation

In This Issue

Torah Rescue.....	Front & Back Cover
From the Rabbi.....	3
Calendar.....	4-5
From the President.....	6
Passover Section	7-12
Feedback Needed	13
COVI-19 & K.I.....	14
From the Cemetery Committee	15
Families Together/Hebrew School	17
Spotlight On: Susan Lipton	18
Advertisers	20
Yahrzeits, Funds & Endowments.....	21-23

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

■ **Helen Krancer** acknowledges the thoughtful K.I. members who have generously sent her a Purim mishloach manot bag of delicious hamantashen. She appreciated the hard work of the bakers and packers with every bite. "Being on the receiving end is a different experience for me. Thank you. This year, instead of crying, I'm smiling my thanks. I'm so fortunate to belong to the K.I. community".

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| ■ Barbara Ende..... | April 1 | ■ Leora Cook-Dubin | April 15 |
| ■ Loretta Prives..... | April 1 | ■ Elizabeth Bikofsky..... | April 16 |
| ■ Mason Rosenthal | April 1 | ■ Phyllis Schwartz..... | April 16 |
| ■ Arlene Schiff | April 2 | ■ David Grossman-Ponemon..... | April 16 |
| ■ Asher Cook-Dubin | April 2 | ■ Peter Simkin..... | April 17 |
| ■ David Albert | April 3 | ■ Laura Rosenthal..... | 17 April 17 |
| ■ Edward Sporn | April 4 | ■ Gary Schiff..... | April 17 |
| ■ Tanya Mazurenko..... | April 5 | ■ Myla Blum..... | April 18 |
| ■ Allen Kopfstein | April 6 | ■ Alla Zernitskaya | April 18 |
| ■ Richard Charkow..... | April 9 | ■ Marty Bloom..... | April 19 |
| ■ Richard Sutter | April 9 | ■ Emily Sarah Wood..... | April 19 |
| ■ Philip Coleman | April 9 | ■ Ryan Robbins | April 22 |
| ■ Samantha Wood..... | April 9 | ■ Elisa Snowise | April 23 |
| ■ Jeffrey Siegel | April 12 | ■ Aviva Skoblow | April 23 |
| ■ Larry Promisel | April 13 | ■ Dale Charkow..... | April 24 |
| ■ Kyneret Albert..... | April 13 | ■ Fran Wolk | April 26 |
| ■ Susan Albert | April 13 | ■ Bruce Schreiber | April 26 |
| ■ Ruth Rosenthal | April 14 | ■ Andrew Lederman | April 26 |
| ■ Susan Frisch Lehrer | April 14 | ■ Lawrence Rosenthal | April 28 |
| ■ Brenda Leeper..... | April 14 | ■ Peter Wasserman | April 29 |
| ■ Sharon Siegel..... | April 15 | | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Sydney and Judith Levine | April 3 |
| Elie and Myrna Hammerling..... | April 4 |
| Leonard and Alice Schiller..... | April 4 |
| Ed and Lisa Udel..... | April 5 |
| Bernard and Beth Abramson..... | April 6 |
| Ellis and Joanna Fribush..... | April 10 |
| Gary and Arlene Schiff..... | April 12 |
| Ira and Phyllis Lieberman | April 22 |
| Leonard and Elaine Lipton | April 30 |



Your community wants to share in your good news!

**Send KOL K.I. editor,
Susan Miller, the details
sunpath2@gmail.com**

From the Rabbi

The Possibility of Seder Discussions

Plan for thoughtful and meaningful exchange of ideas

Last summer, while our family was in Jerusalem, I enjoyed an opportunity to study at the Shalom Hartman Institute's summer continuing education program for rabbis. The theme this year was the very timely, "Tribalism and Nationalism in a Global Era." Teachers focused on certain eras of Jewish history, like the Hasmoneans, who ran a Jewish state in the second century, B.C.E., the rabbis of the Talmud, who lived as a minority in Sassanian Persia, and 19th-20th century European Zionists, who were compelled to reckon with the place of the Jews in the world. One of the scholars, Micah Goodman, took us all way back to the Exodus, noting that the story we retell at seder shapes our narrative and our identity more than any other.



Rabbi David Weiner

Micah observed that, although Jewish people have read the Exodus story with reverence over the centuries, we have not reached a permanent consensus about its exact meaning. Some of us connect the Exodus to persecution in Europe and the creation of the state of Israel; others relate it to the "Save Soviet Jewry" movement; still others to the civil rights or immigrant justice movements. Some of us see the story as distinctively

Jewish, while others see it as more universally human. This diversity is not necessarily a weakness. Indeed, part of the power of our story is its capacity to evoke many different meanings in different contexts.

Just because a reading seems inviting doesn't mean it is wise or even prudent. Indeed, Micah spotlighted a lesser-known passage of the Bible (the end of II Kings) that describes how the Judean King Josiah drew a straight line from the Passover story of Exodus to the political situation of his own late 7th cen-

war—a stunning defeat for the Israelites and the death of an otherwise remarkable king—should serve as a potent warning. Focusing the Exodus story on only one message can invest that message with far too much power and lead us astray.

I encourage seder leaders to think carefully about how we tell the Passover story and what meaning we take from it. Leaders might present some possibilities, then invite participants to discuss how they find meaning in our story. Alternatively, the seder could host a debate between two messages that seem plausible, timely and relevant, with the purpose not of victory but of learning from both perspectives.

Although we have read the Exodus story with reverence over the centuries, we have not reached a permanent consensus about its exact meaning.

ture (B.C.E.) reign. Emphasizing how God fought for the ancient Israelites against the Pharaoh of yore, Josiah inflamed Judean animosity against the Egypt of his own day and persuaded his people of God's support for an upcoming war. Josiah read Exodus well, but his interpretation turned out to be devastating for his people. Indeed, the outcome of this

The Haggadah, a wonderful resource for preparing an engaging seder, offers several overlapping options to inspire a vibrant discussion. I recognize that such a conversation could provoke questions about the nature of God, the connection between God and the world and our relationships with the Divine. Don't try to tie things up in a neat little package; instead, listen to and honor the diverse opinions of seder participants.

In the spirit of the seder rituals, here are four possibilities:

1. Left to our own devices, we'd still be enslaved. Only God could save us from Mitzrayim (Egypt) then, and only God can save us from our Mitzrayim, whatever it may be, now. Our story teaches us to

continued on page 6

KOL K.I. PUBLICATION NOTES

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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

• DEADLINE • APRIL 30 for the JUNE ISSUE •

April Calendar



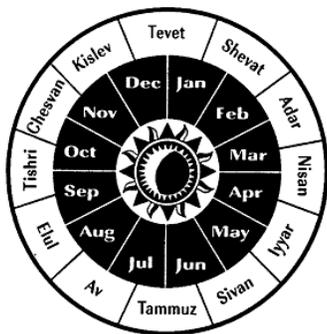
Saturday, April 11 • 10:30-11:30AM
More Family Together News: Page 17

SPRING/SUMMER SERVICES

Sunday..... 8:45 AM & 7:00 PM
Tuesday..... 7:00 PM
Friday..... 5:45 PM
Saturday..... 9:30 AM

MINCHASat., April 4 ...7PM

Note: No Saturday afternoon services in Spring/Summer after Passover



About the Month Nissan... *The 1st month but not the new year!*

Nissan is the first month on the Jewish calendar. Before the Jews left Egypt, on the first day of the month of Nissan, God told Moses and Aaron: "This chodesh (new moon, or month) shall be to you the head of months." • Thus the peculiarity of the Jewish calendar: the year begins on Rosh Hashanah, the first day of Tishrei (the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve), but Tishrei is not the first month. Rosh Hashanah is actually referred to in the Torah as "the first day of the seventh month."

CANDLE LIGHTING

FridayApril 3 7:04 PM
WednesdayApril 8 7:09 PM
ThursdayApril 9 8:12 PM
FridayApril 10..... 7:12 PM
Shabbat.....April 11..... 8:14 PM
TuesdayApril 14..... 7:16 PM
WednesdayApril 15..... 8:19 PM
ThursdayApril 16..... 8:21 PM
FridayApril 17..... 7:20 PM
Friday,April 24..... 7:28 PM

MINYAN

Sunday morning8:45 AM /sanctuary
Sunday evening 7:00 PM / chapel
Tuesday evening 7:00 PM / chapel
Friday evening.....5:45 PM / sanctuary*

SATURDAY EVENING MINYAN

April 4 7:00 PM



CLASSES

- Hebrew School / Grades 3-7Weds., April 1, 15, 29..... 4:00-6:00 PM
- Hebrew School / K-7.....Sat., April 4, 11 9:00 AM -NOON
- Hebrew School / post Bar Mitzvah.....Sat., April 4, 11 8:40-9:00 AM
- Hebrew School / Adult DiscussionSat., April 4, 11 9:00-10:00 AM
- Meditation with Jane RosenTues., April 7, 14, 21, 28 8:30-9:30 AM
- Torah Portion of the Week.....Tues., April 7, 14, 20, 28 10:00-11:30 AM
- Enhanced Prayer Class Wed., April 1, 22, 29 10:00-11:30 AM
- Intro to JudaismSun., April 5, 12, May 3..... 10AM-12PM
- Mussar w/ Rabbi Pamela WaxSun., April 20 9:45 AM
- Class dates & times for Arguing as Jews; Mincha Study Sessions; and Chanting Torah appear in the box to the right. (Page 5)

EVENTS

Community Seder at Knesset IsraelWed., April 8 • details page 77:30 PM
Families Together/ Passover TheaterWed., April 15 • details page 175:30 PM

MEETINGS

Social Justice CommitteeTues., April 217:30 PM
K.I. Board MeetingWed., April 227:00 PM

April Calendar



Need a minyan?

A minyan can be requested for other days by contacting Diana Macfarlane in the K.I. office. All Jewish people 13 and older count toward a minyan (10 people). Plan to bring as many family and friends as are available, to better ensure a minyan, then let Diana know requested date, how many additional people will be needed, and whether someone is needed to lead the service. Diana will contact regular minyan attendees.



Rabbi's Class Schedule Winter/Spring 2020

Arguing as Jews

Thursday mornings, 10:45-noon:

April 23, 30;

May 7, 14, 21;

June 4, 11;

then break until Labor Day.

How did Judaism come to value arguments as an important way of seeking justice and truth? About what do we argue? How? Why?

Mincha, Study Session & Maariv

Saturday afternoons/evenings

April 4;

then break until Labor Day.

Times for each class date are listed on knesetisrael.org calendar.

Chanting Torah

Tuesday evenings, 7:15-8:15 p.m.;

April 21, 28

Passover Services

PASSOVER, APRIL 8-16, 2020

Wednesday • April 8 – *Eve of Passover / First Seder*

Festival Maariv, sanctuary 6 PM

No Hebrew School

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Seder at K.I., social hall..... 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 9 – *First Day of Passover Second Seder*

Festival Shaharit.....9:30 AM

No evening service at K.I.

Friday, April 10 – *2nd Day of Passover*

Festival Shaharit.....9:30 AM

Festival Mincha &
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:45PM

Saturday, April 11 – *3rd Day of Passover*

Shaharit.....9:30AM

Hebrew School..... 7:40AM- Noon

Sunday, April 12 – *4th Day of Passover*

Shaharit.....8:45AM

Mincha/Maariv..... 7PM

Tuesday, April 14 – *6th Day of Passover*

Mincha/Festival Maariv6:15 AM

Wednesday, April 15 – *7th Day of Passover*

Festival Shaharit.....9:30 AM

Thursday, April 16 – *8th Day of Passover*

Festival Shaharit.....9:30AM

Yizkor (approximate time)..... 10:30AM

Pesach Ritual Times

Turn in Hametz sale form to the K.I. office by **Tuesday, April 7**

Search for Hametz on **Tuesday, April 7** after nightfall

Hametz burnt before 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8

Wednesday, April 8 – light candles no later than **7:09 p.m.**

Thursday, April 9 – light candles no earlier than **8:11 p.m.**

Friday, April 10 – light candles no earlier than **7:11 p.m.**

Saturday, April 11 – havdala no earlier than **8:11 p.m.**

Tuesday, April 14 – light candles no later than **7:16 p.m.**

Wednesday, April 15 – light candles no earlier than **8:19 p.m.**

Thursday, April 16 – havdala no earlier than **8:18 p.m.**

Thursday, April 26 – Hametz consumed no earlier than **9:19 p.m.**

Further information about Passover Rituals appears on page 9



Everything we do to prepare for and to celebrate Passover is imbued with substantial spiritual significance.

From the President

A Holiday to Participate

Question, challenge and experience what it means to be free



Richard Simons

Pesach is the holiday that defines many of the treasured values we hold as Jews. Each year we retell the story of the liberation from bondage to freedom. In acting out that story, we experience and celebrate the birth of a people who are to be guided by law, morality, and compassion.

What I love about Pesach is that it is a participatory holiday. In other words, we are not just passive observers of rituals performed. The holiday requires us to engage. For many of us, the engagement begins with cleaning and preparing for the holiday. Kitchens are cleaned. Dishes are changed. Passover products are purchased. Seders are planned. For others it involves engagement around the Seder table. We are encouraged to question, challenge and experience what it means to be free.

While much of Pesach observance is in the home, there are opportunities to celebrate Pesach in community. Under the auspices of the Jewish Federation, we have a community Seder at K.I. on Wednesday night, April 8. No one should be left without an opportunity to attend a Seder. We also have services throughout the chag.

One message from the Pesach holiday is to never grow complacent. We have to continually question and engage in order to bring meaning into our lives. In the same vein, I hope you will not allow your K.I. membership to ever fall into a passive mode. To grow as a community, we need you to continually engage and participate in a way that is meaningful to you. As Jews, we have not only survived through the ages, but we have flourished. This has occurred because we, as a people, tend not to accept the status quo. Let's together use that spirit to allow our congregation to flourish in the years to come!

Marcie and I wish all of you a meaningful Pesach! Chag Sameach!

Marcie and I wish all of you a meaningful Pesach! Chag Sameach!

Knesset Israel Statement of Purpose

Welcome.

We are here to nourish mind, heart, and soul.

We are here to inspire through word and deed.

We are here to accompany each other on life's journey.

We are here to celebrate in community.

We are here to bring life to the wisdom and values of Torah.

We are here to transform our world.

From the Rabbi

continued from page 3

be grateful to God for our freedom and feel, speak and act accordingly.

2. Every Mitzrayim, in every generation, necessarily ends in a Yetziat Mitzrayim, a leaving of Egypt. This resonates with the inscription on Dr. King's memorial in Washington: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Our story teaches us the primacy of justice: we are not to acquiesce to oppression or stand by the oppression of others.

3. In the long run, God never forgets the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, so that covenant is our best way forward. Our story teaches us to invest in Jewish community, hold fast to our way of life and stick up for each other.

4. The Exodus showed us that no human being, even the most powerful of kings, is stronger than God. No matter what "they" do to "us" in any generation, God will prevail. Therefore, we are called to serve God and only God, even when times are dark. Our story teaches us about the necessity and power of hope.

I look forward to hearing about the insights shared at your seder table this year. Judith, Joseph, Ari and Shira join me in wishing everyone a sweet, joyous and kosher Pesach.

**Passover affirms
the great truth that
liberty is the
inalienable right of
every human being.**

—Morris Joseph



Jewish Federation®
OF THE BERKSHIRES



JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE BERKSHIRES COMMUNITY SEDER

Celebrate in community! Enjoy a joyous Passover experience with lots of insight and song led by Rabbi David Weiner. Includes a gourmet four course kosher meal, with all ritual foods and wine, catered by Crown Market of West Hartford, CT. Bring your own kosher for Passover table wine.

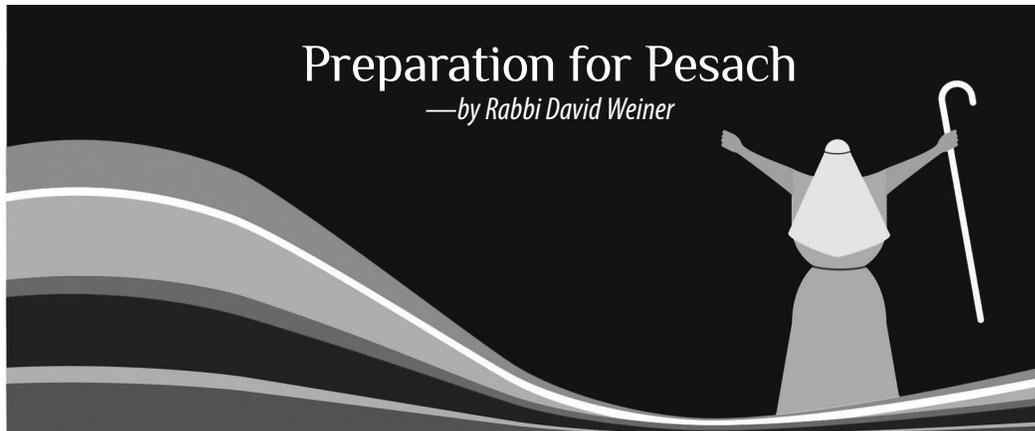
APRIL 8 | 6:30 P.M.

KNESSET ISRAEL
16 COLT ROAD, PITTSFIELD, MA

\$40/adult, \$20/child (5-13 yrs). Children 4 and under are free

Reservations & Payment required by March 31
Register at JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG or (413) 442-4360, ext .10
(Financial assistance is available thanks to the Jewish Women's Foundation)

Passover



With the passing of Purim, the month of *Nisan* and the holiday of Passover draw closer and closer. Passover provides us with an annual opportunity to renew our commitments and teach our story to the next generation. We do so through a series of acts intended to help us internalize and live the wisdom of our tradition. From cleaning our homes to getting ready for the *seder*, everything we do to prepare for and to celebrate Passover is imbued with substantial spiritual significance.

There is diversity in how K.I. households observe Passover; all are welcome to participate in the following meaningful acts.

Cleaning the House

Cleaning our homes of *hametz*—leaven—is a metaphor for searching inside ourselves to rid our lives of pride, self-centeredness, materialism and other character traits that interfere with living our lives as meaningfully as we are able. Accordingly cleaning for Passover is a thorough process. Generally speaking, it is best to run down stocks of *hametz* in our cabinets, refrigerators and freezers at this time of year to enable a fresh start after Passover.

Passover Shopping

Many of us have memories of special Passover foods prepared in the home of parents or grandparents—*matza* balls, *gefilte* fish, *haroset*, brisket, *matza* meal cakes, etc... Today the easy availability of kosher for Passover products beginning about a month before Passover—in stores and on the internet—has made observing the dietary practices of the holiday easier.

Search for Hametz

After dark, Tuesday, April 7: The cleaning complete, one member of the household ‘hides’ a few pieces of bread for the others to find by candlelight. Before the search commences, recite the following blessing:

Barukh ata Adonai elohaynu melech haolom asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzeevanu al bee-ur hametz.

You, Adonai, Source of Blessing, Ruler of the Universe, have sanctified us through Your commandments and commanded us regarding the burning of hametz.

Complete the search (preferably in silence), wrap up the bread and the paper bag used to collect it and declare:

*Kol Hamira v'hami-a d'ika birshuti d'la chamitay udla viartay udla ydana lay, libatel v'layhavay hefker k'afra d'ara.**

May all leaven in my possession, which I have not seen or removed be regarded as non-existent and considered as mere dust of the earth.

*Please note: The declaration is written in Aramaic because Aramaic was the vernacular of the Jewish people for hundreds of years. While reading the Aramaic preserves the traditional formula, for most of us, reciting the phrase in English better accomplishes the goal of making the declaration understandable.

Burning of Hametz

Burning of Hametz – Wednesday, April 8, no later than 10 AM: As soon as your house is as free of *hametz* as it will get, set the bread from the previous night's search a safe distance from the house in a receptacle outdoors and light it on fire. Witness the *hametz* burning, recite the following declaration, then tend to the fire until it burns out:

Kol hamira v'hamia d'ika virshuti, dahazitei udla hazitei, dahamitei udla hamitay, divaritay udla viaritay, libatel vlehavi hefker k'afra d'ara.

May all leaven in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, whether I have burnt it or not, be regarded as non-existent and considered as mere dust of the earth.

Passover

Selling of Hametz Passover Fund

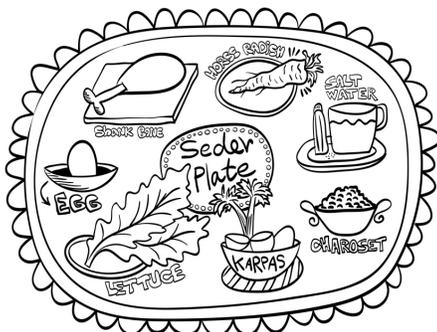
See page 10 for the form to empower Rabbi Weiner as your agent for selling of your hametz, and information about the Passover Fund.

Siyum

By custom, firstborn Jews fast on the day before Pesach, with the understanding that only circumstances of birth prevented us from death the eve of the first Pesach in Egypt. Attending a siyum, a celebration of the completion of a unit of Torah study, overrides the commandment to fast. **Knesset Israel will host a morning service and siyum over the 9th century Midrash Mishle, a commentary on the book of Proverbs that Rabbi Weiner has been studying with a friend this year. The service will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 a.m. in the chapel at KI. The day before Passover coincides with the first yahrzeit for Theresa Pill, and we will dedicate our siyum to her memory.**

Hospitality

Even the Book of Exodus records households sharing the festive *seder* meal. If you have extra seats available at your *seder* and are able to perform the mitzvah of hosting an additional guest or two (or more), please be in touch with Diana in the synagogue office. Furthermore if you are in search of a home in which to enjoy a *seder* (first or second night), please be in touch with Diana.



Passover Holiday Observances

Rituals enrich your holiday experience

Although most Passover observances focus on the first two nights and the seders, the holiday lasts for eight days and includes other home rituals as well. You might enhance the holiday as follows:

CANDLE LIGHTING. On the eve of the first and seventh day of the holiday we light candles before sundown; on the eve of the second and eighth we light after nightfall. (When the eighth night coincides with shabbat, we light eighteen minutes before sundown.) The blessing for lighting candles (on Shabbat and) on the holiday is as follows:

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher ki-d'-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu l'-had-lik ner (shel Sha-bat v') shel yom tov.

DAYS 1 & 2 ONLY

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-khi-ya-nu v'-ki-y'-ma-nu v'-hi-gi-a-nu la-z'-man ha-zeh.

AVOIDING HAMETZ. The proscription of *hametz* remains in force throughout the holiday. Hang in there!

YOM TOV. The first, second, seventh, and eighth days of Passover are full festival days. There are enough days of mourning and grief in all of our lives that we ought to allow ourselves the pleasure of an occasional day of celebration. If you're able to do so, join in communal festive services each morning. Enjoy family meals and celebrate our liberation from Egypt. The seventh day commemorates the anniversary of the crossing of the Sea of Reeds, and the eighth includes *Yizkor* memorial prayers. Days two and eight conclude with a short *havdala* after nightfall—consult your *siddur* for the liturgy.



COUNTING THE OMER. Beginning at the second *seder*, we begin counting the days until Shavuot every night. The practice reminds us of our ancestral connection to the land, the innumerable ways we might connect with God and our tradition's insistence that we value each and every day. Check your *siddur* for the traditional liturgy and some interpretive readings. There are innumerable apps to help you remember to count, though your rabbi still recommends homercalendar.net as a way to step up the entertainment value of counting the Omer.

Passover

Selling of Hametz

Consider donating Hametz to local food pantries!

Although we make every effort to rid our homes of hametz for Passover, Jewish tradition is aware that this task might be financially prohibitive or wasteful. When feasible, make donations of unopened boxes of hametz to a local food pantry—South Congregational Church in Pittsfield operates one—and discard open boxes or containers of hametz (pasta, bread products, cereals, etc...). Nevertheless some food or drink that is considered hametz might remain in your home, with or without your knowledge, and this needs to leave your possession to enable a full experience of the holiday. To empower Rabbi Weiner as your agent for selling of your hametz, please fill out the form below and either mail or bring it to the synagogue no later than Tuesday, April 7.

Our tradition mandates that those who are financially able help Jews who are in need celebrate Passover—“Maot Hittim”. As you empower Rabbi Weiner as your agent for the sale of hametz, please enclose a donation to help all Jews eat matza, the bread of freedom, this year.

Maot Hittim Passover Fund

*Assuring others have
matza at Passover*



It is customary to make a donation to ensure that all Jews have the financial capacity to eat matza on Passover. At K.I. we have a long tradition of giving Maot Hittim to provide food and assistance to those in need. Especially when you sell your hametz, please join us in this important mitzvah by sending in your donation using the enclosed form. In recent years, I have distributed about \$1200 in Passover funds.

I hereby authorize Rabbi David Weiner as agent for Congregation Knesset Israel, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, to act on my behalf to sell, transfer and assign all *hametz* of whatever kind and wherever situated in my residence or my business or any other place without reservation or limitation.

All the aforesaid *hametz* is to be sold to a non-Jew who is to have free access to the hametz acquired by him or her. I further state that the *hametz* covered by the agreement will be stored away and not used by me during the period commencing no later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2020 and ending no earlier than 9:19 p.m. on Thursday, April 16.

Enclosed is my (our) contribution of \$_____ to the Maot Hittim Drive, Congregation Knesset Israel. Please distribute these funds in my (our) behalf to individuals in need and to organizations which are helping our fellow Jews observe Passover with dignity and joy and to help alleviate the distress of hunger from all those in need.

The authorization is legalized by my signature on this _____ day of _____.

Name(s): _____

Address(es): _____

Please fill in and mail this form to:
Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Email is also effective — office@knessetisrael.org with name and address(es).

*The Rabbinical Assembly publishes a
guide to Passover observance,
especially 'kosher for Passover',
that is precise and specific.*

*You may find and download this
year's up-to-date Passover guide
by navigating to:
rabbinicalassembly.org/story/
pesah-guide-5780.*

*You may also call the synagogue office.
Diana will have a few copies available
for those unable to view or
print it out at home.*

Passover

Ruth's Cup: An Alternative Passover Ritual

A ritual honoring Jewish diversity— Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Mitzrayim, the Hebrew word for Egypt, is also interpreted to mean “narrow places.” At Passover, we celebrate being released from the restrictions that limit us and make our lives smaller. We are not fully free as long as we are kept down by attitudes and conditions that are unjust.

In the biblical book that bears her name, Ruth is a Moabite who marries an Israelite living in Moab. After her husband's death, Ruth insists on accompanying her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi, when she returns to Israel. There she cares for Naomi and ends up marrying one of her relatives. Because of Ruth's declaration to Naomi: “Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16), she is considered the prototypical convert to Judaism. Ruth becomes the great-grandmother of King David, from whom our tradition says the Messiah will descend.

The following ritual—Ruth's Cup—honors those who have converted to Judaism, and the overall diversity of the Jewish people. The following may be added after Elijah's Cup or anywhere in the seder.

Leader: At Passover we fill a cup with wine for Elijah and open the door to welcome him to our seder. Elijah symbolizes our hope for the Messianic age, when the world will be perfected, and all people will live in harmony and peace.

We also fill a cup of wine for Ruth, the first Jew by choice and great-grandmother of King David. We open the door to signify our welcome of Ruth and all who follow in her footsteps—those who become part of our people, part of our diversity.

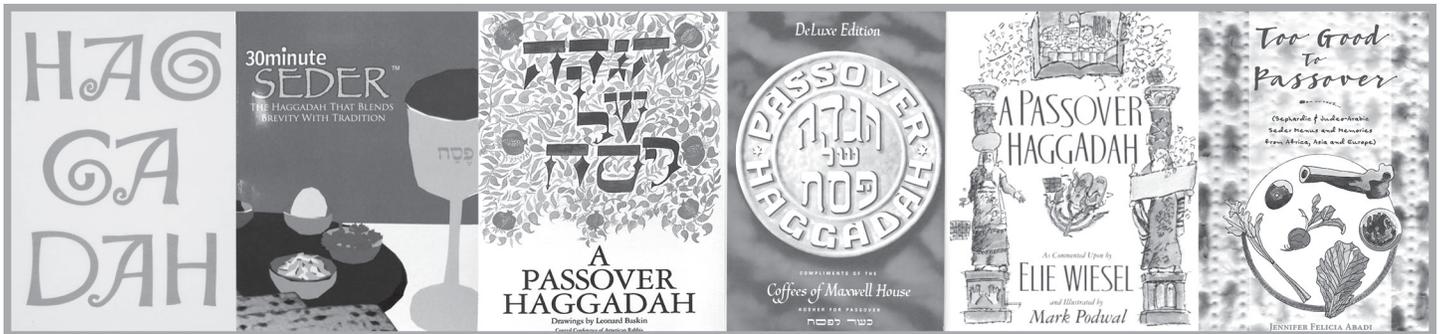
All rise, face the open door, and read together:

We declare that we do not have to wait for the Messianic age to make sure that every Jew feels fully comfortable and integrated into our people.

Close the door and be seated.

May your Passover be liberating and enlightening!

(This edited article is from the website myjewishlearning.com)



The Exodus from Egypt occurs in every human being,
in every era, in every year, and in every day.

-- Rabbi Nachman of Breslov

The message of Passover remains as powerful as ever.
Freedom is won not on the battlefield but in the classroom and the home.
Teach your children the history of freedom if you want them never to lose it.

—Jonathan Sacks

Adult Education

Feedback Needed!

Programming suggestions in response to last month's "Myrna's Meanderings"



In my February Kol K.I. column, "Myrna's Meanderings," I encouraged you to share some suggestions for Jewish-related programs you might find yourself attending or which might meet an interest or need. I'd like to share a few suggestions that were made. Please comment on them to me through email, phone calls or whenever I see you! And please, if you have other suggestions...Bring them on!!

Here are some ideas submitted. I would appreciate feedback.

■ There was a request for learning more about the topic of **Jewish Art**. I have a good idea where to begin researching this one. How many of you would be interested in this direction? Do you have suggestions too?

■ **Movie Nights**. The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival committee schedules six summer evenings of film with great success. Last year we had a few films on Saturday nights during other months with great turnouts. There are always worthy features that can't fit into the limited series. Perhaps, we can get suggestions from the committee and others as to when and how to extend the BJFF to other days during the year. We would need a projectionist and other volunteers. I'm happy to provide the popcorn.

■ Another suggestion was a **Jewish book club**. This would have to differentiate itself from the Hadassah Book club and should be better defined if pursued. Let's hear what you think!

■ **Hands -on Art Workshops**. Perhaps a local artist could teach us hands-on, creative skills. Hands-on programs every few months can be a challenge and provocative too! You may discover a talent you never thought you had!

■ Lastly, some of our OLLI participants mentioned that OLLI encourages **Single Interest Groups**. Each "chevruta" consists of people sharing some special interest together. They find different topics or

speakers or trips for their get-togethers to enrich their expertise and comprehension of that particular idea or passion. This should have, of course, a Jewish slant and could be very interesting!!

Please keep thinking and I will too! Connections are what nourish the soul. The deeper our connections, the closer we become as a people, and a congregation! You can reach me at (413) 445-4872 x. 16 or mhammerling@knessetisrael.org.

Free Film Screening and memorial candle lighting *For Yom Ha'shoah—Holocaust Memorial Day sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires*



April 19 • 2PM • The Berkshire Museum • 39 South Street • Pittsfield, MA
*After the film: Join us for candle lighting, prayer, and a moment of reflection
in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.*

Please join the community for a FREE screening of *Above the Drowning Sea*, a documentary narrated by Julianna Margulies.

On the eve of World War II, tens of thousands of Jewish refugees were trapped in Nazi-controlled Vienna. This documentary is the epic story of their dramatic escape to Shanghai. *Above the Drowning Sea* recounts the courageous intervention of Ho Feng Shan, the Chinese Consul in Vienna who defied his own government and braved the Gestapo to issue visas to the refugees.

Jewish refugees and the Chinese residents of Shanghai who helped them survive recount their experiences, terrors, and deprivations as well as the remarkable friendships forged across cultures—friendships that survive to this day.

Above the Drowning Sea is a 90-minute documentary that takes you on an inspiring emotional journey across time and the world.

Volunteers, Veterans, Verifications

Important notes from the K.I. Cemetery Committee

■ Needed: On-call Volunteers for Burials

As you know, Knesset Israel members perform the mitzvah of providing our members with a proper Jewish burial.

We are looking for volunteers for an on-call list of people to assist with burials. We average only eight burials a year, usually on a weekday or Sunday, around noon or 2 p.m. Individuals would be called, when sufficient committee members are unavailable, to provide 1-to-1½ hours at the cemetery to help with lowering the casket or pulling the boards that support the casket, before lowering.

Helping with a burial is a true gemilut hasadim—act of loving kindness. This an opportunity fulfill our K.I. mission to “accompany” each other.

Contact Don Sugarman at cemetery@knessetisrael.org for more information.

■ Note to Veterans:

Make sure you have your military discharge form DD on hand with your important papers. This form is needed for many benefits, including procurement of a granite or bronze military marker. Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral home handles the submission of the military marker request.

■ Planning, Pre-Arrangements and Special Family Circumstances:

Sometimes we find ourselves unprepared for end-of-life decisions or we have not pre-authorized others to make those decisions for us. Sometimes the people who need to make the decisions are unable to or are unavailable. Sometimes we may want people other than those with the legal authority to make those decisions to do so.

To that end, we encourage members to insure that your documents are in order and that your wishes are clear and on file with an authorized family member, your lawyer, or the funeral home. For matters of proper Jewish burial, this should cover your desire for Chevra Kaddisha, the disposition of remains—including release to the funeral home and burial location—and a designated representative to handle such details.

Contact Flynn & Dagnoli (K.I.'s designated funeral home), at 413-442-1733, for more information or to make arrangements.

We will be publishing more information about funeral and burial options through Knesset Israel in future Kol K.I. bulletins.



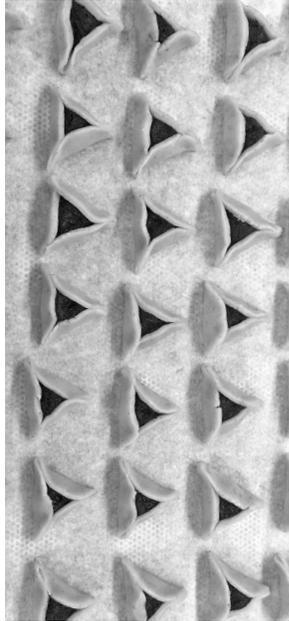
COVID-19 News

As of this printing, information about COVID-19 is changing daily. Please look to your state and municipality news releases for updates about your community, and to our KOL.K.I. E-News for any information pertinent to Knesset Israel. Wash your hands, sneeze into tissues or your elbow, and stay well!

Take heed to thyself and take care of your lives.

(Deuteronomy 4:9)

Hamantashen Heroes



Hebrew School / Families Together

Wishing all families a wonderful and meaningful Pesach!



Everyone is welcome!

Our student offerings for April...

Passover Theater • at Kneset Israel
April 15 • 5:30 p.m. • All are welcome!

This April continues the K.I. Hebrew School participation in a theater workshop that encourages ensemble building, teaches performance skills, and culminates in the creation of an original short piece of theater exploring the relevant social justice themes of Passover.

On Wednesday evenings starting in February and continuing through April 15, we meet in the social hall and have fun on our feet playing theater games, sharing thoughts and material about the themes of Passover. The result will be a brief presentation on April 15 at 5:30 p.m. We hope you will attend.

Our theater instructor, Amy Brentano, has been in theater education for forty years and has worked in the Berkshires with WAM Theater, Barrington Stage Co., Berkshire Theater Group, and Richmond Consolidated School directing, creating and teaching theater. She currently owns and manages The Foundry, a new performance and visual arts venue in West Stockbridge, MA.



Saturday, April 11 • 10:30-11:30AM

Join us for a musical Tot Shabbat. Fun, songs, activities and snacks for children and their parents.



learn.

Lifelong learning at KI!

From Hebrew School for our children
to stimulating classes
and programs for adults...

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Feed your spirit through artistic expression

inspire.

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Tikkun Olam... transform our world

grow.

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Nourish mind, heart & soul

together.

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with other mailing mavens!

Be a GLEE star
at Shirei Shabbat

Comfort a loss
with Chevre Kaddisha

visit

knesetisrael.org
for opportunities!

Spotlight On

Susan Lipton

A multi-faceted talent —by Phil Coleman



Susan Lipton

Welcome, Susan. It is great to have you as my guest! You've had a very diverse, multi-faceted art and design career including calligraphy, graphic design, and watercolor painting. What is your background and training?

Susan: My art and design career has been very diverse and exciting, throughout my life. I grew up in the Berkshires, surrounded by nature, music and art. I studied dance for twelve years, developing the love of classical music, and loved biking and hiking throughout my

childhood and adult life, thus developing the love and appreciation of my scenic surroundings. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, achieving a double major in Elementary Education and Fine Art.

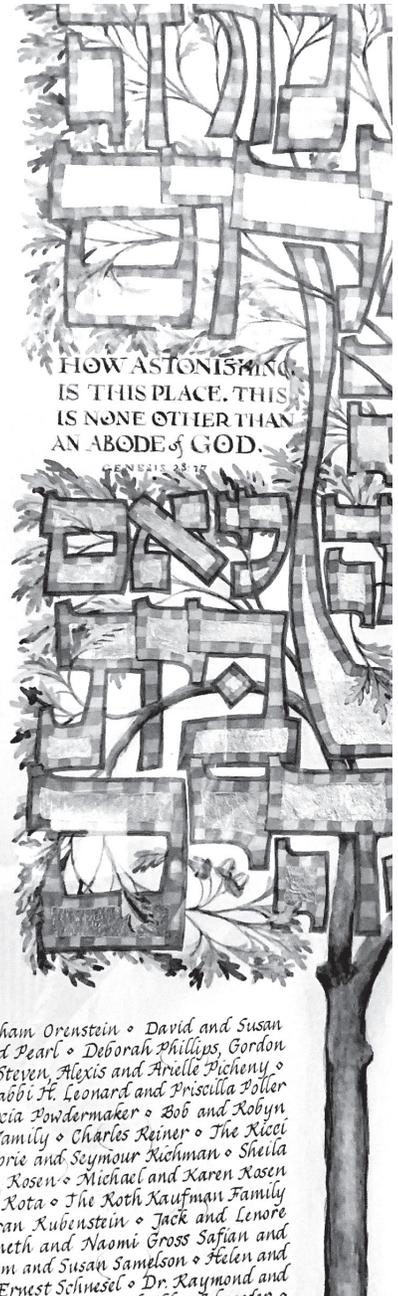
After teaching elementary school, I decided to pursue my artistic talents in graphics, while raising my family, on a freelance basis. I began designing logos for small businesses, Tanglewool, a yarn and boutique business, being my most recognized. It was exciting. I pursued designing for over 40 years.

Judaic and synagogue art is a part of your identity, and for which we are very grateful here in the Berkshires. For instance, tell us about the piece you did for the lobby space at Hevreh in Great Barrington.

Susan: I also studied calligraphy with Julio Granda, a prominent professor at Berkshire Community College. This opened up another avenue for working on weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and personalized projects to be framed. I taught many classes for both children and adults, both privately and at the Berkshire Museum.

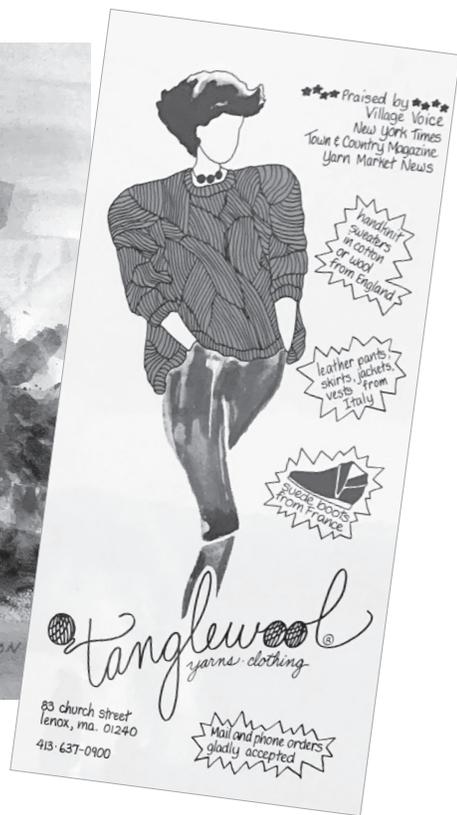
My Judaic and synagogue art had begun. I completed many projects for Knesset Israel for over 40 years, both calligraphy and graphic design. I was asked to work on a huge project for Hevreh with another accomplished artist, Jonathan Nix. We combined our talents and produced a beautiful piece, which is hanging up at Hevreh in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. It's a MUST to go and see!

◦ Audrey and Ralph Fromm ◦ Barbara and El Galdonitz ◦ Jim Gavin and Joan Gellert ◦ The George Gellert ◦ Erwin and Lois Ginsberg ◦ Jane and Peter Goldberg ◦ Janice and Roger O. Goldman ◦ Ira Goldstein ◦ Howard and Len Greenberg ◦ Stephan and Sarah Greene ◦ Tina and Emily ◦ Peter and Harold Grinspoon and Natalie Hanna ◦ Dolly and Ellen Heffan ◦ David and Marc Hirschele ◦ Daniel L. and Sara A. Hopp ◦ Robin and Frederic and Linda Imberman ◦ Michael and Debbie Irie and Barry Jaffe ◦ Fred and Barbara Kahan ◦ Roy K. Kalodner ◦ Hilda and Barry Karson ◦ Eli and Myllis Katz ◦ Ira and Montana Katz ◦ Jerry and Joan Kleinman ◦ Betty Szolá Krainis ◦ Barbara and Bennett J. and Lila Landy ◦ Lynne and Marcia Ozner Lee ◦ Z ◦ Louis and Gloria ◦ Joseph and Bonnie Lichtenfeld ◦ Irene Judith Lieberman ◦ Honey and David Ell ◦ Gloria and Herbert and My Mann ◦ Barbara Marcus ◦ Stan and Milton Marcus ◦ Barbara and Eluyho Mayer ◦ Chester and Ter and Phoebe Ford ◦ Lynn Meyers ◦ Norman and Marilyn Miller ◦ Cecile Model ◦ David and Morganstein ◦ Francis and Bill Moser ◦ Michael, Nathan ◦ Irwin and Melva Nerenberg ◦ Bonnie Oloff ◦ Ted and reinstein and Sarah Bingham Orenstein ◦ David and Susan Patel ◦ Shirley and Bud Pearl ◦ Deborah Phillips, Gordon Susan Phillips ◦ Helice, Steven, Alexis and Arielle Picheny ◦ Jill and Chelsea Pollen ◦ Rabbi H. Leonard and Priscilla Poller ◦ Andrew Potier and Marcia Powdermaker ◦ Bob and Robyn Raeuber ◦ The Runkell Family ◦ Charles Reiner ◦ The Ricci Family ◦ Joel and Anne Rosen ◦ Michael and Karen Rosen ◦ M. Rota and Pam Sandler Rota ◦ The Roth Kaufman Family ◦ Puchkoff ◦ Ken and Fran Rubenstein ◦ Jack and Lenore ◦ Eleanor Sack ◦ Kenneth and Naomi Gross Safian and n ◦ Edwin A. Salsitz ◦ Sam and Susan Samelson ◦ Helen and ◦ Sam Sandler ◦ Anne and Ernest Schinesel ◦ Dr. Raymond and



Above: Detail of calligraphed donors to Hevreh's building and the sanctuary upgrade. The full color piece hangs in the synagogue's lobby, and features Susan's calligraphy.

Spotlight On



Watercolor is a very disciplined, exacting form of painting. What can you tell us about your interests in this area, and your study with Robert Daly?

Susan: My study of watercolor was very detailed and exacting. I studied this form of painting with Robert Daly, for several years. Our class studied at his studio in Windsor, as well as working on site at many locations throughout the Berkshires. Hancock Shaker Village was especially inspiring.

I know you love to do calligraphy, greeting cards, logo designs, and a wide variety of graphic arts. You have experience in creating stationery, baby and children's gifts, Bar and Bat Mitzvah items—a long list. Can you tell us any of your favorite activities or pieces that you have done?

Susan: I do personalized artwork for children and adults. Stationery, sign-in boards, baby announcements, invitations, baby and children's gifts are some of the many projects I love to do. I recently completed a baby gift for one of my closest friends who became a grandparent! It was inspiring to get back into my artwork again, after taking some time off.

I hope you're still at it. What are you working on now, and are you contemplating projects that you might want to get to in the future?

Susan: I look forward to working on new projects in the coming year. Calligraphy has been my strength for many years for various projects. Graphic design (especially designing logos) is what I love to do, as well. I am going to stay very active!

Thanks Susan. This was a lot of fun!



Free Lifesaving Training Offered

Berkshire Health Systems and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires are sponsoring a free training in stopping bleeding. Instructors will be from the Trauma Care Program of BMC.

Participants MUST pre-register by May 1 and be 18 year of age or older. Training will take place:

**Thursday, May 7 at
Temple Anshe Amumim,
26 Broad Street • Pittsfield, Mass.**

There will be two sessions to choose from:
**Morning Session—9 AM
Evening Session—6PM**

Register in advance at 413- 442-4360, x 10, or federation@jewishberkshires.org



KOL K.I. Deadlines!

April 30 for June issue
 May 30 for July/August (double issue)
 July 31 for September issuer
 August 31 for October issue
 September 30 for November issue
 October 30for December/ January (double issue)

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The Hebrew word for ‘pebble’ is tz’ror —this Hebrew word also means ‘bond.’ When we pray the memorial El Maleh Rahamim prayer we ask that the deceased be ‘bound up in the bond of life’— tz’ror haHayyim.

—Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, the New York Jewish Healing Center

7 NISAN - 4/ 1

Robert S. Friedman
Betty Braun
Machla Weis
Arline Fletcher

14 NISAN - 4/8

Pincus Rosenfeld
Esther Lubin
Frank Udel
Theresa Pill

20 NISAN - 4/14

David Schwartz

21 NISAN - 4/15

Abe Geller
Irving Marks
Betty Rich
Shirley Lerman Lodis
Moe Levy
Sarah Penziner

8 NISAN - 4/2

Joseph Robinson

15 NISAN - 4/9

Rose Weiss
Libby Perlman
Nanette Rosenthal
Florence Horn

9 NISAN - 4/3

Elliott Lubin
Barnett Cotton
Anna R. Goodman
Liuba Benari
Willy Benari
Polly Shapiro
Harry Wasser
Lillian Jaffe

16 NISAN - 4/10

Bertha Rosenblatt
Mary Temple
Evelyn Promisel
Florrie Solomon

22 NISAN - 4/16

Rebecca Fishelson
Diane Marmulstein
Freadman
Boris Zernitsky

10 NISAN - 4/4

Alex Cohen
Fanny Novick
Esther Weisberger
Harry Schatsky

17 NISAN - 4/11

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Hyman Bitensky
Jacob L. Becker
Ferenc Glattstein
Sol Goldman
Harry Weinberger

23 NISAN - 4/17

Lippman Cohen
Louis Gorfinkle
Harry David Green

11 NISAN - 4/5

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Sylia Simme Frank
Phil Kruvant

18 NISAN - 4/12

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Elliott Krancer
Frieda Rosenthal
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Anna Herman
Alice Weeks
Julius Kramer
Anne Levy
Stella Goldberg LeVine

24 NISAN - 4/18

Shirley Frisch
Harris Cohen
Ida Marks

12 NISAN - 4/6

Sonia Weiss
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Benjamin Cohen
Harry Green
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Bella Schaitkin

25 NISAN - 4/19

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John Green

13 NISAN - 4/7

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Dorothy Lerman Weiss
Carole Schiller Krauss
Maxwell Cutler
Stuart Marks
Dorothy Levine

26 NISAN - 4/20

Julius Feigenbaum
Hyman Goldstein
Anna Astrachan
Selma Edna Schreiber

27 NISAN - 4/21

Jack Miller
Ethel Prives
Leonard Liverman

28 NISAN - 4/22

Esther Tabaknek
Goldstein
William Shusterman
Sarah C. Harris
Semyon Berlin

1 IYAR - 4/25

Simon Gorfinkle
Eve Lerner

29 NISAN - 4/23

Charles Robbins
Gershon Udel
Roslyn Abel
Charles Robbins
Samuel Spiegel
Sandra Alhadeff
May Dondey
Carole Goodman
George Flashner

2 IYAR - 4/26

Lena Goodheartz

3 IYAR - 4/27

Anna Rich
Betty Beck Turetsky
Bruce M. Havsy
Archie Weinstein
Fay Buff

30 NISAN - 4/24

Louis Frankel
Theodore Louzin
Mae Mones
Gertrude Goodman

4 IYAR - 4/28

Benjamin Rosenshein
Rose Cohen

5 IYAR - 4/29

Morton Kahn
Jason Borke
Rose Gelber
Martin Curran
Michael Peretzman

There are stars whose 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 illumine our path....—Hannah Senesh

6 IYAR - 4/30

Lynne Cutler
Selma Cohn
Robert Epstein
Rebecca Freadman

Funds & Endowments

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.

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Here I am. Where are you?

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text, and/or phone calls on Shabbat.

Thank you.



Remember a loved one, honor
a special occasion, a friend, or family member,
by a donation to the Bima Flower Fund

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Call Naomi Schwartz at 413-841-0006.

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& Rochelle Leinwand*

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Nina Shelomentseva

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