



Kol K.I.

learn. inspire. grow. together.



16 Colt Road | Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201 | 413.445.4872 | knessetisrael.org • Rabbi David Weiner | Jesse Cook-Dubin, President

Homes For the Stranger • KI's involvement in refugee resettlement —submitted by Jenny Gitlitz

As many of you may know, in December 2021 Knesset Israel joined about a dozen other Berkshire congregations and host groups in a resettlement effort for refugees fleeing Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. When the Taliban took over the country in August of last year, the United States mounted an emergency airlift that got 117,000 people out of the country. The airlift included Afghans who feared violent Taliban reprisals for having worked with US personnel in some capacity during the 20 years in which we had a military presence there. Since then, the evacuees have been living on US military bases as organizations across the country prepare armies of keyboard-and phone-wielding volunteers to help resettle them. Since the Afghans left in the middle of a crisis, many have arrived with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Many don't speak English and have experienced varying degrees of trauma. All of them are worried about loved ones they left behind.

Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Western MA is the umbrella organization working with the Federal Government and coordinating the regional relief effort. The

(continued on page 4)



Jenny Gitlitz, Benjamin Heyman, and Brenda Landes
at the jam-packed storage unit on Hawthorne Street in Pittsfield.

In This Issue

Homes For the Stranger	1
Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs.....	2
From the Rabbi.....	3
Calendar/Passover Services.....	6 & 7
Children & Passover	9
Passover Preparation.....	10
Hamatz Sale/Moat Hittim Fund.....	11
Kasher & Rituals	12-13
Food Pantry Volunteers Speak.....	14-15
Of Note	16
Advertisers.....	17
Spotlight On: Mike Stoll, part 2	18-20
Yahrzeits.....	21
Funds & Endowments	22-23
Community Seder.....	Back Cover

KI Staff

OFFICE PHONE 413-445-4872

RABBI DAVID WEINER Ext. 10
rabbiewiner@outlook.com

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

ED ROBINSON
ed@booksmartsllc.com

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

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



learn. inspire. grow. together.

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

Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

■ Congratulations to **Barbara and Gerry Hayden** on the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, **Talia Eden Hayden**, which took place on March 26 in Huntington, New York. Talia is the daughter of **Ronald and Melissa Hayden**. A big mazel tov to the entire extended family!

April Birthdays

yom huledet sameach

■ Barbara Ende.....	April 1	■ Sharon Siegel.....	April 15
■ Loretta Prives	April 1	■ Leora Cook-Dubin	April 15
■ Mason Rosenthal	April 1	■ Elizabeth Bikofsky	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	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
■ Alice Klein.....	April 8	■ Alice Davenport	April 18
■ Susan Colton	April 9	■ Ryan Robbins	April 22
■ Richard Charkow	April 9	■ Elisa Snowise	April 23
■ Richard Sutter	April 9	■ Aviva Skoblow	April 23
■ Philip Coleman	April 9	■ Dale Charkow.....	April 24
■ Jeffrey Siegel	April 12	■ Fran Wolk	April 26
■ Larry Promisel	April 13	■ Bruce Schreiber	April 26
■ Kyneret Albert	April 13	■ Andrew Lederman	April 26
■ Susan Albert.....	April 13	■ Lawrence Rosenthal	April 28
■ Ruth Rosenthal.....	April 14	■ Peter Wasserman	April 29
■ Susan Frisch Lehrer.....	April 14	■ Alex Lippe	April 29
■ Brenda Leeper	April 14	■ Risa Lippe	April 29

April Anniversaries

yom nisuyim sameach

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

From the Rabbi

Creating Passover Memories

Participation makes for a meaningful and memorable Seder



Rabbi David Weiner

This semester, my fifth and sixth grade Hebrew School students have been exploring Passover in depth. Typically, our students study facets of the holiday every year, but the pandemic shut down classes just after Purim in 2020 and, in the spring of 2021, with limited instructional time and a hybrid online-in person model for classes, we made other curricular decisions. Although my five students enjoy creative family Passover Seders every year, their Hebrew School studies had barely touched on the themes and observances of the holiday. This left room for a creative, multifaceted deep dive, blending narrative, ritual, history, and important ideas. No two weeks have been the same.

There have been many high points along the way. A lesson about kiddush incorporated a tangent into Greco-Roman wine mixing that we practiced with orange juice concentrate. The four cups led to a seminar with curator and historian Lesley Herzberg about Rockwell's *Four Freedoms*. We discussed the evolution of the four questions and the Seder plate over the past two thousand years and explored the differences between Passover in the Bible and Passover in our homes. My students were split over whether the abandonment of the roast lamb Passover sacrifice was, on balance, a positive development for the Jewish people. We tried out recipes from different regions and time periods for maror, haroset and other traditional foods. We also discussed why the chapter our sages wrote about Seder two thousand years ago begins with a commandment to ensure that even someone who eats at the soup kitchen must be given four cups of wine. And one afternoon before Purim, we mixed flour and water and baked matza in the KI kitchen, discovering the many differences between the matza we eat at seder and the matza our ancestors ate on their journey out of Mitzrayim.

Pesach without children is like a cantor without a song, like an actor without any lines, or a storyteller without an audience.

—Joe Bobker, *And You Thought There Were Only Four: 400 Questions to Make Your Seder Enlightening, Educational and Enjoyable*

KOL K.I. PUBLICATION NOTES

Editor: Dee Griswold • Photo Editor / Production: Nan Bookless • Printed by Aldam Press

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 **VIA EMAIL** to: Dee Griswold at deegriswold@gmail.com
Send high resolution photos **VIA EMAIL** to: Nan Bookless at chama2194@icloud.com



photo by Stuart Masters

(This turned out to be so much fun, and so messy, that I also taught matza baking to the other Hebrew School students that afternoon.) I hope my students will remember these experiences and bring them to their Seder tables this year and for many years to come.

Every year in this column, I try to offer some suggestions for meaningful discussion around the Seder table, ways to enhance the ritual and keep the story of the exodus from Egypt fresh and relevant. Here are some possibilities for this year.

Karpas. Into salt water, a symbol of tears, we dip a vegetable that signifies renewal and rebirth. What losses and struggles have we endured since last Seder? What new possibilities are being born?

Plagues. Instead of throwing plastic frogs at each other while singing a children's song, maybe this year we can talk about enduring a plague. What has this plague taken from us? Taught us? How has it changed us?

(continued on page 8)



learn.

Lifelong learning at KI

Hebrew School for our children

Stimulating classes
and programs for adults

•

inspire.

Connect with each generation

Share through leadership

Tikkun Olam...repair the world

•

grow.

Start where you are

Cultivate new insights

Seek guides to the unfamiliar

Nourish mind, heart, and soul

•

together.

Supportive calls to other members

KI Cares to help during illness

Make a minyan

•

visit

knessetisrael.org
for opportunities

Homes for the Stranger *(continued from page 1)*

first group of recent evacuees—a trio of sisters—arrived in the Berkshires in January, and about five other families have followed suit. We have been told that Knesset Israel may welcome "our" family any time between March and May.

That being said, there is a possibility that we may get a family from Iraq or Syria instead of Afghanistan due to bureaucratic red tape that is beyond our control. Our commitment remains the same: to help refugees settle comfortably into their new homes.

In preparation for their arrival, about 20 volunteers from KI are working on committees to help with different aspects of the refugees' adaptation: housing, education, medical, financial, and community integration. We've secured a free, large storage unit and have already filled it with donated furniture and household goods. We're also partnering with the First Congregational Church in Pittsfield, which has raised more than \$1,000 in cash donations to assist our family with unforeseen needs.

JFS is taking care of many of the families' financial needs for the first six months, including subsidized rent and utilities, bedding, and cash disbursements provided by the Federal Government. There are also local relief organizations offering free food (such as Berkshire

כִּאּוֹרֶח מִכֶּם יָהִי לְךָ מִגְּרָן הַגָּר אַתֶּם וְאַהֲבָתָ לֹ

כִּמְזֻךְ כִּי-גְּרִים הַיִּתְּמָ בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרָיִם אָנָּי יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

"The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am your God."

Leviticus 19:33-34

Bounty and the South Community Food Pantry) and services (such as the Berkshire Immigrant Center), as well as many volunteers who've stepped up to help.

The need is great, however, and it will not end when the Federal money runs out in six months. That's why we are putting out a call for donations of cash, goods, and volunteer time. If you were too young or too busy to help with the Russian resettlement in the early 1990s, now's your chance to participate in a very meaningful tzedakah project—creating homes for the stranger.

How You Can Help

► **CASH** will be needed to help furnish the permanent homes of the refugees once they're out of temporary housing and to help with purchasing winter clothing, school supplies, halal meat, and perhaps even a car for refugees to get to work if the local bus routes cannot accommodate their needs.

KI was fortunate to have our resettlement fund seeded by contributors to Shadow Gordon's Bat Mitzvah project. We have used about \$700 from that effort to pay professionals

(continued on next page)

Homes for the Stranger

to move a houseful of donated items to our new storage space, and we've already supplied three pieces of furniture to one very grateful Afghan family.

To help replenish this fund for the many needs the refugees will be facing, please make checks out to Knesset Israel (write "Refugee Resettlement Fund" on the memo line). If you're contributing through the KI website (knessetisrael.org/payment.php), select "Afghan Family Resettlement Support."

► **GOODS** are also needed to comfortably furnish new homes: kitchen utensils and appliances, linens, toiletries, lamps, desks, dressers, clothing, children's toys, and bicycles in working condition. Please see the list at tinyurl.com/38c2sxen and sign up for what you'd like to donate. If you cannot use the computer to do so, please contact Benjamin Heyman or Jenny Gitlitz (see email addresses below) about items you'd like to donate.

► Finally, **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS** are in short supply. We need people to take the families shopping and drive them to Friday afternoon religious services at the Islamic Center in Pittsfield. We especially need volunteers to drive them to legal appointments in downtown Pittsfield and medical appointments in Great Barrington.

Volunteer drivers must be vaccinated, have current auto insurance, be willing

to undergo a background check, and drive with a mask on. To become a volunteer driver, please contact Brenda Landes (brendahlandes@gmail.com).

► **OTHER OPTIONS.** Should you want to volunteer in other capacities, please contact one of the chairs of KI's committees:

- **Housing:** Benjamin Heyman (info@benjaminheyman.com) and Jenny Gitlitz (jenny.gitlitz@gmail.com)
- **Medical:** Joel Wolk (jwolk@att.net)
- **Community Connections:** Karen Pelto (karen.pelto@gmail.com)
- **Employment:** Donna Fork (dmfork@yahoo.com)
- **Education:** Marcie Greenfield Simons (mgreenfieldsimons@gmail.com) and Amy Abramovich (amy.abramovich@gmail.com)
- **Fundraising:** Ed Udel (quayle64@gmail.com) and Lew Schiller (schillerlr@aol.com)
- Or you can contact Brenda Landes, the chair of KI's Host Committee for Refugee Resettlement (brendahlandes@gmail.com).

Todah rabah in advance for your generosity in welcoming the stranger.

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.

אַיִלָה הָנָנִי

Our best
response.

G-d's first call to
human beings.

Hineni Ayeka
Here I am. Where are you?

The Passover story is the Jewish people's original story of becoming strangers in a strange land.

It is the story that reminds us that we, too, have stood in the shoes of refugees and asylum seekers in search of safety and liberty.

As we lift our voices in song and prayer, we call out together with those who long to be free.

This year, there are still many who struggle towards liberation; next year, may we all be free.

—Mark Hetfield, President & CEO, HIAS

אַרְבָּה חַנִּינָה אַרְבָּה חַנִּינָה April Calendar / Passover

Adult Education

■ HEBREW WITH RABBI DAVID WEINER

Tuesdays, April 5 & 26 11:00 a.m.

■ DYNAMIC JUDAISM WITH RABBI DAVID WEINER

Thursday, April 28

Topic: Shabbat & Technology 10:45 a.m.-noon
(then every week in May)

Meetings

■ KI ROSH CHODESH DISCUSSION GROUP

There will be no Rosh Chodesh meeting in April due to Passover. The next meeting will be

May 15 on ZOOM 1:00 p.m.

Link: us02web.zoom.us/j/83944892240

ID: 839 4489 2249

Yom Hashoah

Holocaust Memorial Day 5782 / 2022 is observed from the evening of **Wednesday, April 27** through nightfall on **Thursday, April 28**. It is a public holiday in Israel. In the United States, Days of Remembrance runs from the Sunday before Yom Hashoah through the following Sunday.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is sponsoring a free film and memorial candle lighting at the Berkshire Museum.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 (see ad on page 20) 2:00 p.m.

Candle Lighting

Friday, April 1 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 8 7:08 p.m.

Friday, April 15 7:16 p.m.

Saturday, April 16 / Pesach 8:18 p.m.

Thursday, April 21 / Pesach 7:23 p.m.

Friday, April 22 / Pesach 7:24 p.m.

Friday, April 29 7:32 p.m.

Services

■ SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN / IN PERSON

APRIL 3, 10, 24 8:45 a.m.

■ TUESDAY EVENING DAVENING / ON ZOOM

April 5, 12, 19, 26 7:00 p.m.

ZOOM ID # 934-910-554

■ THURSDAY EVENING DAVENING / ON ZOOM

April 7, 14, 28 7:00 p.m.

ZOOM ID # 934-910-554

■ FRIDAY KABBALAT SHABBAT

• Shirei Shabbat: April 1 5:30 p.m.
(followed by dinner, RSVP to the office by March 28)

• Musical Minyan: April 8 5:45 p.m.

• Traditional Service: April 15 (before Seder) ... 6:00 p.m.

• Traditional Service: April 22, 29 5:45 p.m.

► Options for Saying Kaddish

We encourage people who are looking to say kaddish to:

- (a) attend services in person
- (b) watch a livestream service and say kaddish along with the assembled minyan that can be seen and heard on screen.
- (c) participate in our Zoom services—Tuesday or Thursday evenings on a day close to the Yahrzeit—and say kaddish.

Please keep in mind that if there is no minyan in the sanctuary for a livestream service, mourner's kaddish will not be recited.

► Livestreaming of Shabbat services and special events in the sanctuary (such as Megillah reading and festival services) will continue. Indoor funerals may also be streamed, at the discretion of each family.

► Safety Protocols Revised

With Covid waning in Pittsfield and Berkshire County, KI has restored normal programming. Please attend services only when you are feeling well. Should you be exposed to Covid-19, please follow the protocols prescribed by the CDC and your physician.

Everyone who is eligible to for a Covid vaccine MUST be vaccinated to attend services and communal meals. Masks are optional. There is a section set aside for socially distant seating in the sanctuary. We expect some flexibility around shiva arrangements as we adapt to the new normal.

אַיָּה הַנֵּוֹ אִיכָּה חַנְׁכָּה הַנֵּוֹ אִיכָּה חַנְׁכָּה

Passover Services

- **FRIDAY, APRIL 15 – EVE OF PASSOVER/FIRST SEDER**
 - SIYUM FOR FIRST-BORN.....8:00 a.m.
ZOOM with the Rabbinical Assembly.
A registration link will be in the K.I. E-News
 - FESTIVAL MAARIV / IN PERSON.....6:00 p.m.
 - KNESSET ISRAEL COMMUNITY SEDER
(RSVP required / details on back cover)6:30 p.m.

- **SATURDAY, APRIL 16 – FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER/SECOND SEDER**
 - Festival Shaharit.....9:30 a.m.
No Hebrew School

- **SUNDAY, APRIL 17 – SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER**
 - Festival Shaharit9:30 a.m.

- **FRIDAY, APRIL 22 – SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER**
 - Festival Shaharit9:30 a.m.
Festival Minha, Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv.... 5:45 p.m.

- SATURDAY, APRIL 23 – EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER**
 - Festival Shaharit.....9:30 a.m.
Yizkor (approximate time)..... 10:30 a.m.
No Hebrew School



Kosher for Passover

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

Download it at bit.ly/36PuRL1, or you may call the synagogue office and we can print you a copy.

Pesach Ritual Times

- Turn in HAMETZ SALE FORM (page 11) to the KI office by Wednesday, April 13

- SEARCH FOR HAMETZ**on Thursday, April 14 after nightfall

- HAMETZ BURNT** on Friday, April 15before 10:00 a.m.

- LIGHT CANDLES** - Friday, April 15no later than 7:17 p.m.

- LIGHT CANDLES** - Saturday, April 16no earlier than 8:26 p.m.

- HAVDALA** - Sunday, April 17no earlier than 8:26 p.m.

- LIGHT CANDLES** - Thursday, April 21no later than 7:23 p.m.

- LIGHT CANDLES** - Friday, April 22no later than 7:24 p.m.

- HAVDALA** - Saturday, April 23 ...no earlier than 8:24 p.m.

- HAMETZ CONSUMED**no earlier than 9:24 p.m. on Saturday, April 23



Passover Program

- **BRUNCH, ART PROGRAM, AND DISCUSSION**
 - Sunday April 3 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 - Guest presenter: Dr. Melody Blass Fisher, professor of Psychology at Berkshire Community College.
 - As we begin the Passover season, Knesset Israel Families Together will host a brunch followed by a creative arts program for the kids and a group discussion for the parents and caregivers.
 - Still Fighting Amalek: Raising Fearless Kids in a World with Anti-Semitism.** While the kids are working on their art, the parents will learn and consider how we approach talking with our kids about anti-Semitism.

- RSVP and questions to Judith at jweiner@knnessetisrael.org

Passover 5782/2022

From the Rabbi

(continued from page 3)

Freedom. David Brooks' recent *New York Times* column, "The Dark Century," (Feb. 17, 2022) posits that our societal understanding of and commitment to freedom has eroded dramatically over the last few years. What constitutes freedom? How do we maintain it? What sacrifices does it require?

Yachatz—breaking the middle matza. American society has fractured along political lines. Have we given up on half of our neighbors? Does redemption require us to find each other again? Name one step we can take in that direction.

Maror. The bitter herb is always dipped in sweet haroset. How do we temper the bitterness in our own lives? How do we help others do the same?

All the days of your life. The Haggadah repeats a teaching of the sage Ben Zoma, that we are meant to recount the Exodus story by day and by night, namely, in bright times and in dismal ones. In dark times, the story brings us hope; in happier eras, the story reminds us to be grateful and generous with the freedoms we enjoy. What sort of time is this for you? To what does our people's story call you?

Judith, Joe, Ari, and Shira join me in wishing you a sweet and meaningful Passover holiday.



photos by Stuart Masters

The willingness to sacrifice is the prelude to freedom.

The first step in the struggle to lift the yoke of bondage must be marked with the blood of idealism—of idealistic men and women who are willing to make the sacrifice that the realization of freedom requires. Liberty is not achieved by complacency; it is not won without suffering the scars of battle. It is accomplished by selflessness and sacrifice; it is won by courageous action.

—Alfred J. Kolatch, *The Family Seder: A Traditional Passover Haggadah for the Modern Home*

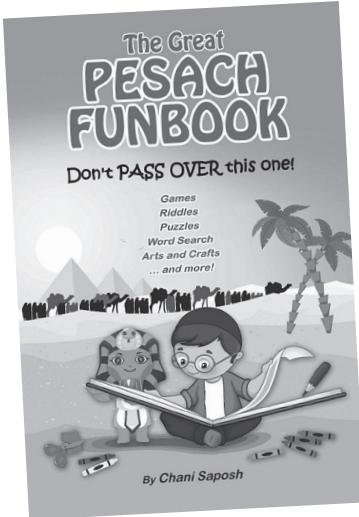
Engaging Young Children Before and at Seder

Self-directed, interactive, family fun and learning

For DIRECT links for all of these suggestions go to:
knessetisrael.org/celebrating-passover

The Passover Seder is one Jewish ritual that can be adapted for participants of any age. This is true even for families with small children.

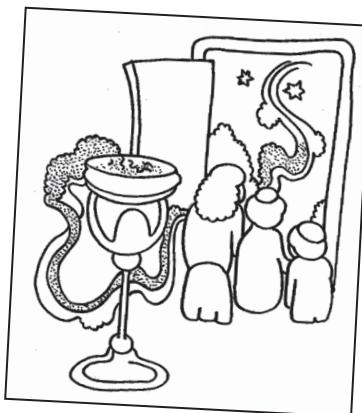
This Passover, consider incorporating one or two of the ideas below. We hope your family will benefit from an interactive, age-appropriate holiday experience.



Passover games

■ **The Great Pesach Funbook** from Judaica Press is loaded with games, riddles, puzzles, mazes, fill-ins, crafts, recipes, and much more. Children will learn all sorts of interesting facts and information about Pesach, practice singing Pesach songs, and make art projects for the Seder. You can order the book or print out the pages.

■ **5 Passover Activity Downloads for Kids!** Games and coloring pages, including a maze to guide the Jews out of Egypt and a bingo card to be used throughout the entire Seder.



Coloring

- **TorahTots.com** offers Free Passover coloring pages. Click on any image to go to that coloring page, then print the image directly from your browser.
- **My Passover Haggadah.** Download and enjoy coloring this simple Haggadah for kids. Complete with the basic blessings & translations for your Seder.

Act it Out

- You can download a pdf for **Passover Play—A Ten Minute Script For All Ages**. The playwright Rabbi Daniel Brenner says, "This short play/skit is...a contemporary take which makes the story current but stays true to the Exodus narrative. I've written it for large crowds—so there are 13 parts, but if you have a smaller gathering you can easily double up."
- **An Interactive Script** by Shira Kline (of ShirLaLa Jewish children's music fame) offers this *Interactive Script to Re-Tell the Story of Passover*.

Use Puppets

- Tori Avey's website links you to all you need for **Passover Finger puppets—the ten plagues**. Print out full color or color-

ing sheet puppets. The children can act out the plagues during Seder—a great way to get kids engaged in the story of Passover and the Ten Plagues.

- Cut out and color **Passover Story Character Puppets** for children to use while the Passover story is being told. Combine with the 10 plague puppets for an in-depth storytelling experience.

Beyond Books

- From Jewish Interactive—twelve delightful "**Pesach Bytes**"—self-directed learning and fun, compiled of curated videos, games, and activities (both digital and hands-on) for children ages 5-9.
- Always a favorite, make the printable **PJ Library Passover Question Catcher**.



More Fun Ideas

- **The PJ Library website** has a wealth of Passover resources. The page "*Passover Made Easier*" provides links to podcasts, a Passover playlist, and downloads for Passover themed MadLib Sheets and a Passover Card Game.
- Download Haggadot's **Our Favorites For Families**, which includes *Dr. Suess' Four Questions* (poem), *There's No Seder Like Our Seder* (song), and discussion ideas about gender representation and labeling children using The Four Sons as a starting point (great for tweens).

Preparation for Pesach—*by Rabbi Weiner*

With Purim behind us, 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 celebrate Passover is imbued with substantial spiritual significance.

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

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



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—for Ashkenazim, 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, Thursday night, April 14—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'layhayav 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 it in English better accomplishes the goal of making the declaration understandable.

Burning of Hametz

April 15, no later than 10 a.m.—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, da-hamitei 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.

(continued next page)

Passover 5782/2022

Selling of Hametz

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.

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 the selling of your hametz, please fill out the form on this page and either mail or bring it to the synagogue no later than Wednesday, April 13.** If for whatever reason the sale does not go through, hametz will revert to your possession an hour after the end of holiday.

Passover Fund

It is customary to make a donation to ensure that all Jews have the financial capacity to eat matza on Passover. At KI 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/year in Passover funds.

Hospitality

Even the Book of Exodus records households sharing the festive Seder meal. **This year Knesset Israel is hosting a community Seder on the first night of Pesah.** For more information or to make reservations, see the back cover of this issue of KOL K.I. or visit knessetisrael.org. Financial aid is available.



Sale of Hametz & Moat Hittim Fund

Although we make every effort to rid our homes of hametz for Passover, Jewish tradition is aware that this discipline might prove financially prohibitive or wasteful. **When feasible, make donations of unopened boxes of hametz to a local food pantry, perhaps South Church in Pittsfield, and discard open boxes or containers of hametz.**

Some food (or drink, or a pet) 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 the selling of your hametz, please fill out the form below and mail it to the synagogue no later than Tuesday, April 12 or click through the link that will be provided in the weekly email as Passover draws closer.**

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.

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 Friday, April 15, 2022, and ending no earlier than 9:24 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

■ Enclosed is my (our) contribution of \$ _____ to the Knesset Israel Maot Hittim Fund. 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, then mail (or scan and email) this form to:

Mail: Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Email: office@knessetisrael.org with name and address(es).

Clean, Kasher & Shop for Passover

Questions welcome!

Some members of Knesset Israel are new to Passover; others of us grew up with family traditions around preparing the home for Passover. For those looking for more guidance or clarification, a brief guide follows. Rabbi Weiner is also available to answer questions.

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. Hametz can be purged from a utensil by the same process through which it was absorbed in the utensil. Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing. Many households keep special, inexpensive sets of Passover dishes, pots and pans because the kashering process can be time-consuming or damaging to the equipment.

For many, setting the menu for Passover is an important part of the holiday. Today there are more kosher-for-Passover products than ever before; this does not mean that every household needs to buy all of them. Nor does it mean that all of the products one might find in a Passover aisle necessarily require a kosher-for-Passover symbol for use on the holiday. A kosher-for-Passover symbol will usually look like a normal kosher symbol with a capital "P" or the phrase "kosher for Passover" in Hebrew or English next to it. A certification from a defunct agency, a prior year (check especially packages of matza and matza meal you might buy at a warehouse club or large supermarket), or a deceased rabbi is not acceptable.

A few general comments: The foods forbidden to Ashkenazi Jews on Passover are hametz –leaven–and kitniyot—a category that encompasses rice, beans, and many legumes (though not their derivatives). In recent years, the Conservative movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has approved kitniyot products produced under kosher supervision as suitable for eating during Passover. Kosher-for-Passover certification on a product indicates that it was prepared in such a way as to avoid incorporation of or contact with the forbidden products. I welcome questions from those with food allergies, as well as from vegetarians, about making the observance of the holiday compatible with nutritional needs. Also, note that different rules apply to certain products purchased before vs. during the holiday.

You may find the Conservative movement's up-to-date Passover guide at:
www.rabbinicalassembly.org/ in the left margin of the website.

Diana will have a few copies of this guide available in the synagogue office for those unable to view or print it out at home.



What about the other 8 Days of Passover?

Rituals to enrich your holidays

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.) Candle lighting times appear on page 6. 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!

(continued on next page)



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 start 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 G-d, 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, including the "Sefira" app, though your rabbi still recommends homercalendar.net as a way to step up the entertainment value of counting the Omer.

Tikkun Olam ~ Heal the World

Tzedakah Opportunities

These are just a few of the ways you can help others. If you know of a tzedaka opportunity you would like listed, please email Dee Griswold (deegriswold@gmail.com).

Adopt an "Orphan" Headstone

Many of the older headstones in the KI cemetery are in need of cleaning but have no descendants to arrange it. By donating the \$65 cleaning fee, you can have one cleaned. Contact Diana at office@knessetisrael.org.

Become a Shomer

Shomrim, 'watchers,' fulfill an important Jewish burial tradition by sitting with a person's aron (coffin) until the funeral. Shomrim work in shifts. Please call Alexandra Warshaw at 413-443-1434 for more information.

Help South Congregational Church Feed the Hungry

Donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for the South Congregational Church Food Pantry. You may donate online at knessetisrael.org or send a check to the KI office. Please designate the church food pantry in the memo.

Make Food Deliveries / Pack Cartons

Members of the KI Social Justice Committee are currently distributing food cartons to families in Pittsfield. Carton packers and volunteer drivers are needed. For more information, email Nancy Cook at splynter100@gmail.com.

KI Cares

Volunteer with the KI Cares Committee. Members phone other members who are in need of a sincere connection. They also rally around others in our congregation who are experiencing illness and help when they can. If interested, contact Fran Wolk at ffolk@att.net.

Drive People to Health Care Appointments

One of the great injustices in our community is widely unequal access to transportation. Wheels for Wellness connects volunteer drivers with neighbors who need a ride to health-related activities, including vaccination. Please call Wheels for Wellness at 413-395-0109 to learn more or to sign up.

Donate to Knesset Israel

Supporting our synagogue financially is an act of *tzedakah*. These donations are the foundation of all that KI can offer, including unforeseen expenses for security and service options. Donate to a Fund or Endowment in honor or memory of family, friends, and occasions. These donations sustain us all.

Create a Legacy Gift

Consider including a legacy gift to KI in your estate plan. If you would like to know more about how you might make such a commitment, email Arlene Schiff at arlenedschiff@icloud.com.

Tzedakah

A Day in the Life of the KI Food Pantry Team

Volunteers reflect on their experiences

Since March 2020, a group of intrepid KI members have been packing or delivering boxes to families in Pittsfield who are suffering from food insecurity and do not have transportation of their own to make pick-ups at the South Community Food Pantry (southcommunityfoodpantry.org). Over these two years there has been no decrease in the number of families needing this food. There were about 175 deliveries each week when we started. Now there are 321 families (822 individuals) on our client list. In addition, our new Afghan neighbors have just begun to be receiving food that reflects their needs and customs.

Here are some of our experiences:



Helen Radin:

For the past few months, for about an hour and a half each Monday, I dedicate myself to remembering those in our community who are in need of support. I have begun to feel a connection to the 8 or 9 families whom I know only by last name and number of family members. Yet it gives me great satisfaction to be shopping for them. Basic needs are being fulfilled and, whenever possible, special surprise treats are added. The other packers who are working side by side with me have also joined together to as-

sist each other with the search for items that provide dignity and sustenance to those less fortunate than ourselves. Each Monday I return home feeling physically spent and spiritually renewed.

Marcie Greenfield Simons:

In March 2020, when Covid struck, I felt helpless, uncertain, and anxious. When a call came that the food pantry needed drivers, I thought: here is some small way I can do something constructive during this daunting moment in history. I was apprehensive about taking on this commitment, but as soon as we started, I felt gratitude for being part of something so important—literally nourishing needy souls. As we drove around town delivering food to families living in neighborhoods I had never seen before, I was keenly aware of our neighbors' everyday struggles. Now I love walking into the food pantry each week, witnessing many generations, races, and religions joined together in a united effort to help others. Being part of this team and this effort is a great privilege.

Ellen Levy-Lanciano:

I have found few challenges and many benefits in packing for the South Community Food Pantry for the food insecure in our area. As a recent retiree, I was asked to participate, and the timing was perfect. My co-workers and coordinators at the pantry swiftly showed me how, what, and where, and soon the packing began. I found a huge difference in how I approached this work as compared to my former job. For each food item I carefully selected a healthy available product, as if I were the chef preparing meals for recipient families. A lot of love goes into the packing. G-d bless everyone involved in this wonderful endeavor.

Amy Abramovich

Volunteering with the food pantry is an opportunity to help others in a direct way. Physically delivering food to families who are hungry is a very humbling and rewarding experience. Then there are the unexpected bonuses: getting to know and work with wonderful food pantry volunteers, and best of all, hearing (or seeing in a message on your phone) "thank you" or "G-d bless you" from the recipients...priceless!



Susan Gordon:

There are so many reasons why I like doing this.

1. Jim and I do it together.
2. It's about food. What's not to like?
3. I get to see Lew Schiller almost every week. I miss the rest of the team, though.
4. Every week I marvel over the quantity and quality of the food that the pantry collects and distributes.
5. I've gotten to know and like several of the families we deliver to.
6. It's a small commitment of time.
7. I have no organizing responsibilities.

(continued on next page)

Tzedakah



Brenda Landes:

I do it because it is something real I can do for my community and I find it very satisfying to focus on assembling a box of healthy food that can help provide ingredients for a week's worth of meals for a food insecure family. I'm hoping that it helps relieve a little stress for that family, especially during this time of Covid.



Nancy Cook:

We deliver a wonderful carton of fresh, nutritious food. I feel so good about the quality of food we provide and the generous spirit of the KI group.

I know that our clients are helped, and I appreciate that people who don't even know them are reaching out in this way. While I repeatedly get thankful messages, my favorite is the grandmother who lives with a client family. She appears each week at an upstairs window and blows kisses.

Linda and Phil Halpern:

Volunteering at the food pantry is an opportunity for tzedakah and an opportunity to connect with Berkshire residents we wouldn't encounter otherwise. We enjoy connecting with other volunteers as well. It's made us aware of the level of food insecurity in our area and is an acute reminder about appreciating our own privileges. It's a privilege to help fulfill a need.



Lew Schiller:

It has been rewarding for me to give back a little to our community, although my efforts pale in comparison to those of many of the other folks at the South Community Food Pantry. I recall when, in my younger years, I had fallen on difficult times and was out of work for extended periods during bad recessions. It has also been a good reminder of how fortunate I am today.

Karen & Bruce Jacobs:

When my husband Bruce and I volunteered, we didn't realize we were becoming part of a wonderful team from KI who both pack cartons and deliver the groceries to those in need in our own community of Pittsfield.

After a few weeks we learned how to map out the route and manage getting heavy boxes from the car to the front doors. At this point it doesn't take us more than an hour from arrival at the pantry to the last delivery.

We feel very blessed to be where we are in life and not have to worry about putting food on the table, paying our rent or mortgage, gassing up our cars, or paying our bills. What better way to pay it forward than by doing such a mitzvah for the larger Pittsfield community.

Noah Cook-Dubin:

Delivering food for the South Community Food Pantry has really been a rewarding way to participate in community. It's great to feel like part of a team and to be able to see the positive impact our work has on our neighbors' lives. It's a dependably fulfilling way to spend two hours on a Monday.

Please contact Nancy Cook at splynter100@gmail.com for more information on how to join our team.



Of Note

Save the Date!

Saturday, June 4 will be a day of celebration

Saturday, June 4 will be a day worth marking on your calendar for three reasons:

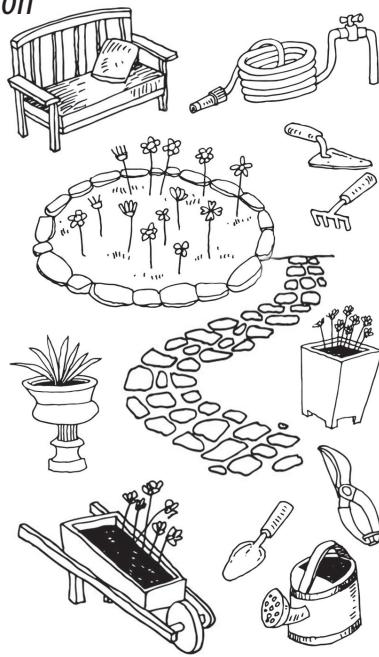
First, it's Shabbat, always a special day.

Second, it's a day of celebration for graduates of the Hebrew High School and their families.

Third, it will mark the completion of 3 seasons of work on the **Betty Braun Memorial Garden**.

As we approach the fourth growing season, we are planning a celebration of the restored garden and its potential for enriching the future life of our KI community. Following a kiddush lunch in the tent, you are invited to enjoy dessert in this special place.

See the May 2022 issue of KOL K.I. for more information.



Yevgeny Kutik Responds to Ukraine

Offers violin lessons to refugees

From Yevgeny Kutik's Facebook page: "Even during devastation (perhaps especially), the world needs art. If you are a violin student who has recently had to flee home (Ukraine, Afghanistan, or elsewhere), I am happy to offer you several violin lessons over zoom free of charge. Just fill out the form on my website: YevgenyKutik.com/Pedagogy."

On March 1, Mr. Kutik also posted a video of his performance of Kaddish, "the traditional Jewish prayer of remembrance, (written out by Maurice Ravel)" in response to this: "Russian strike on the TV tower in Kyiv resulted in five deaths and damage to the #BabiYar Holocaust memorial, the site where 34,000 Jews were murdered over two days by Nazis and collaborators during WWII." If you are on Facebook you can view the video at bit.ly/37h5xOV.

We All Need Some Good News...

Your community wants to share in the joy.
Tell us about you, your family, your friends.
Special Birthdays, Milestones, Awards Won,
Books Published...any and all nachas.

Send the details to deegriswold@gmail.com.
High-resolution photographs welcome.



ברוכים הבאים

New Members

Welcome to all who come

The entire congregation and staff extend a sincere welcome to you.

We look forward to praying, studying, socializing, and working together to strengthen our community.

Ann Appelbaum and Neal Borovitz

Ann is a retired attorney and Neal is a retired rabbi. Ann and Neal live in New York City and joined Knesset Israel because they wish to support Jewish life in the Berkshires. They are traditional members.

Sharon Strassfeld

Sharon is a part-time resident (summer months). A retired businesswoman, she spends her winters in Sarasota, Florida. Sharon joined Knesset Israel because she has established a relationship with the Berkshire Minyan, where she is a member. Sharon is a Chaver member.



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

Call Naomi Schwartz
at 413-841-0006.

PINEWOOD LODGE

Looking for a unique rental for visiting family & friends?



Discover this tranquil airbnb located in the beautiful Berkshires. This wooded country refuge in the peaceful town of Becket is just minutes from the area's renowned cultural venues.

Michael S. Armstrong, Property Manager / Mitchell Gilbert, Proprietor / KI Member
Learn more at airbnb.com/h/pinewoodlodgeberkshires

EDWIN J. HELITZER D.M.D.



Doctors Park
195 South Street
Pittsfield, Mass.

.....
by appointment • 413/447/7622

Jewelry Heirlooms
WEARABLE HISTORY FROM ISRAEL
Beautiful, Affordable Roman Glass Jewelry

f OPEN EVERY DAY The Mews at 36 Main Street / Stockbridge, MA 413-298-4436 • adjacent to the Red Lion Inn courtyard



SHIRA NICHAMAN

Daily Money Manager in the Berkshires
Your Financial Advocate & CFO

Serving Seniors and Busy Professionals
BILL PAYMENT, EXPENSE TRACKING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING, TAX ORGANIZER, INSURANCE CLAIMS MANAGEMENT, FRAUD REVIEW

shira@everydaymm.com • 646-872-9842
www.EverydayMoneyManagement.com



Making Your Personal Finances Easy and Secure!

Because Relationships Matter.

What matters goes beyond numbers and benchmarks.

We believe working in your best interests becomes the foundation for how we nurture our professional relationship.

Learn more. Have a conversation with our managing director, Gary Schiff, and his team at October Mountain Financial Advisors.



Portfolio Management • Financial Planning • Trust & Banking Services*

103 West Park Street

Lee, MA 01238

(413) 243-4331

www.octobermountainfa.com

St. Germain Investment Management operates as October Mountain Financial Advisors in the Berkshires.

*Banking & trust administration services provided by Lee Bank.

Member SEC, FINRA, SiPC

Local Leaders and Trusted Partners



Jonathan Denmark
President & COO,
MountainOne Insurance



North Adams | Pittsfield | Williamstown
Quincy | Rockland | Scituate
mountainone.com

INSURANCE PRODUCTS ARE NOT A DEPOSIT, NOT FDIC-INSURED
NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY,
NOT GUARANTEED BY THE BANK, MAY GO DOWN IN VALUE

Spotlight On

Bearing Witness: Mike Stoll—Part 2

A story of survival—submitted by Phil Coleman

Last month we met one of the most interesting people you could ever know. Like an old fashioned serial, here is Part 2 of my fascinating interview with Mike Stoll!

(This article is published unedited to present Mr. Stoll's exact words to the reader.)

The time left for living Partisans to tell their stories is quickly disappearing. How do you feel about keeping these memories alive and the role of the Jewish Partisans Educational Foundation (JPEF) in ensuring that this history is taught and perpetuated?

Mike: It's very important to me to be a live witness to the persecution and killings that I've seen, while there are voices denying that it happened. So this story has to be taught and remembered for

Mind you, I tried to get a job and no one would hire me because I wasn't a US citizen, but I was easily drafted as an American soldier!!!



Serving in the US Army during the Korean War.

the next generations to be on guard and to stay safe. To know that kind of tyranny can happen beyond our expectations and belief. As Partisans, we had to fight for our lives. We did and inflicted many casualties on the enemy by mining trains and their supplies, and disrupted their front lines.

You've had a long and fulfilling life here in America. What were your career and life activities after you emigrated to the United States? Please tell us about your family and your wife Etta of blessed memory as well.

Mike: It took four years after the war ended and finally we emigrated to America in August 1949. My original aim was to go to Palestine to fight for a Jewish state. I was convinced that was my destiny but, I had an obstacle, in that my mother ("') was terrified of me even thinking of going to fight another war! After hard discussions and much difficulty, she convinced me to go with my parents to America and if I didn't like it I could then go to Palestine. I agreed, and finally we arrived in America in 1949. Three months later, in 1950, I was drafted into the US Army to fight the Korean war. Mind you, I tried to get a job and no one would hire me because I wasn't a US citizen, but I was easily drafted as an American soldier!!! I was devastated and feeling depressed, that was not my aim. I don't belong in this army, I thought. I served for 2 years as a translator, relieved to be out as a civilian again, found many friends and connections



A poster from the Jewish Partisans Educational Foundation. JPEF develops and distributes educational materials about the Jewish partisans and their life lessons, bringing their heroic resistance against tyranny into educational and cultural organizations. jewishpartisans.org.

(continued on next page)

Spotlight On



to Jewish organizations and met my dear wife Etta (""). We got married, and I started a business. It was called Fine Art Mirror and Table Corporation. I was a craftsman, manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer of marble, glass and carved wood decorative tables and mirrors—cocktail tables, end tables, side tables, lamp tables. I also installed custom mirrors on walls and we had 16 employees.

Etta and I had 2 children, and had a wonderful family life in Brooklyn, NY. My dream of going to Palestine soon evaporated. My son, Andrew, went to Yeshivah of Flatbush, later became a doctor and now lives in Vermont. My daughter, Nancy, graduated college, was married and soon after moved to the Berkshires. The Berkshires became my home in 1997 after I became a Zeyda to Ian and Suzanne who became the prime focus of my life. Life was beautiful. We bought a wonderful home, I retired and enjoyed life in the Berkshires, and traveled all over the globe.

I was on top of the world until tragedy interrupted my happiness and success. Etta was stricken with an illness and passed away in June 2000. I was completely devastated. I learned not to take life for granted. As time goes on and years pile up, I realize that I am a mature older man living with some aches and pains and learning how to survive, and thinking a lot about my happy years. I am learning to be an older Zeyda since my grandson Ian was recently married. Be happy where you are and destiny will decide the future!

Judaism and living a Jewish life are clearly a big part of who you are. Where do Jewish practice and identity fit into your life?

Mike: I always knew that I am a Jew. I grew up in a Jewish family. My grandmother was very orthodox. I was brought up in a Jewish school and spoke Hebrew because my father was a Zionist. I always learned from my father (""). His words to me were always,

(continued on next page)



Above left: Mike on the ski slopes. Left: Mike and Etta Stoll's legacy—grandchildren Suzanne and Ian with Zayde Mike. Above: daughter Nancy and son Andy.

Spotlight On

Bearing Witness (*continued from page 19*)

Michael, wherever you will be, remember always to be a part of the community of your people and of your friends. Coming to the Berkshires, those words came back to me so we joined KI to be close to my daughter and her kids. I'm still proudly a member!

What do you like about Knesset Israel, and what could we do to improve the programming or rituals at the synagogue?

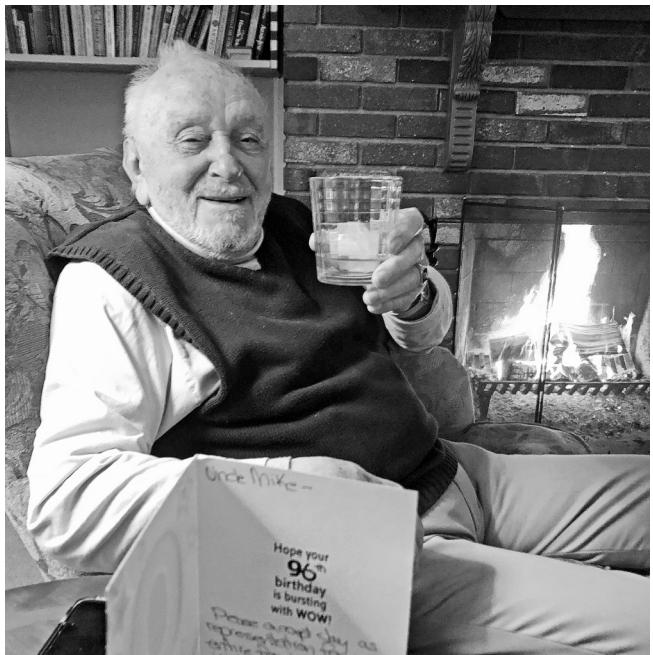
Mike: Basically, I feel KI is my Jewish identity. I really don't know what you can do to improve. Whatever you do, I'm happy with it. That's my Jewishness.

I know that you are a very avid skier. What can you tell us about this hobby?

Mike: Skiing became a part of me. It's in my veins. I can tell you that now at my age (I turned 96 in February), skiing is constantly on my mind. I ski practically every night in my dreams! But older age interferes with that. I think it's basically part of my life.

I'm very happy to talk with you and know you. Stay healthy and young. Because older age is not a picnic.

Zei gezunt! (Be well!)



On February 21, 2022 Mike and his family celebrated his 96th birthday.

YOM HA'SHOAH - HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY Free Film Screening and Memorial Candle Lighting

The Invisibles

April 24, 2022 at 2 pm

The Berkshire Museum
39 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

The astonishing stories of four young German Jews in Berlin who tried to escape deportation to the concentration camps during World War II by daringly hiding in plain sight of the Nazis.

AFTER THE FILM: Join us for a candle lighting, prayers and a moment of reflection in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.



Jewish Federation®
OF THE BERKSHIRES



Yahrzeits • April 2022 • Nisan, 5782

So precious is the mitzvah of memory that the Torah commands us no less than 169 times to remember.

—Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin

1 NISAN - APRIL 2

Bernard Dondey
Abraham Deutch
Mollie Goldstein Leavitt

2 NISAN - APRIL 3

Anna S. Bookless
Aron Grende
Lena Markowitz
Rose Freed
William Wortman
Sophie Feller

3 NISAN - APRIL 4

Bernard H. Starr
Leib Garbowitz
Jacob Kirsch
Ben Cohen

4 NISAN - APRIL 5

Dr. Lester H. Sugarman
Lester Sugarman
Harold Frisch
Dr. Stanley Simkin
Rose Foster
Pauline Mass
Minnie Schiller
Mollie Jacobs

5 NISAN - APRIL 6

Vicki Lebenbaum
Sally Schatsky
Natalie Holland
Hilda Dunaieff
Rebecca Savitz Morgenstern
Walter B. Samek

11 NISAN - APRIL 12

Shirley Starr
Sulka Bus Shlomo
Phil Kruvant
Sylia Simme Frank

12 NISAN - APRIL 13

Robert Martin Edelstein
Samuel Weiss
Sonia Weiss

13 NISAN - APRIL 14

Pearl London
Stuart Marks
Dorothy Levine
Murray M. Samek
Gertrude Schwartz
Maxwell Cutler
Dorothy Lerman Weiss
Carole Schiller Krauss

14 NISAN - APRIL 15

Theresa Pill
Pincus Rosenfeld

14 NISAN - APRIL 15

Frank Udel
Esther Lubin

15 NISAN - APRIL 16

Nanette Rosenthal
Florence Horn
Libby Perlman
Rose Weiss

16 NISAN - APRIL 17

William Kosowitz
Mary Temple
Florrie Solomon
Bertha Rosenblatt

So as long as we live, they too shall live; for they are a part of us.
We Remember Them.

—Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riener



17 NISAN - APRIL 18

Evelyn Promisel
Murray Mandel
Harry Weinberger
Jacob L. Becker
Hyman Bitensky
Ferenc Glattstein
Sol Goldman

18 NISAN - APRIL 19

Bradley Jay Medney
Frieda Rosenthal
David Siegel
Anna Herman
Alice Weeks
Julius Kramer
Elliott Krancer
Stella Goldberg
LeVine
Anne Levy

19 NISAN - APRIL 20

Benjamin Cohen
Harry Green
Rebecca Horely
Bella Schaitkin

20 NISAN - APRIL 21

David Schwartz

21 NISAN - APRIL 22

Betty Rich
Moe Levy
Abe Geller
Sarah Penziner
Irving Marks
Shirley Lerman Lodis
Rebecca Fishelson
Diane Marmulstein
Freadman
Boris Zernitsky



23 NISAN - APRIL 24

Irma Waller
Edith Gross
Louis Gorfinkle
Harry David Green
Lippman Cohen

24 NISAN - APRIL 25

Shirley Frisch
Harris Cohen
Ida Marks

25 NISAN - APRIL 26

John Green
William Harris
Libby Levine Strauss
Roslyn Alexander

26 NISAN - APRIL 27

Anna Astrachan
Hyman Goldstein
Selma Edna Schreiber
Julius Feigenbaum

27 NISAN - APRIL 28

Jack Miller
Ethel Prives
Leonard Liverman

28 NISAN - APRIL 29

Semyon Berlin
Esther Tabaknek
Goldstein
Sarah C. Harris
William Shusterman
Samuel Speigel

29 NISAN - APRIL 30

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

Funds & Endowments

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Get well wishes for
Ken Conlow
Diana Geller & Andy Geller
In memory of Nathan Geller
Harvey & Susan Frisch Lehrer
In memory of
Alan Model
Nathan Geller
Lesley Oransky
In memory of Nathan Geller
Marion Adler

AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT

Judy Seaman
Lew Schiller
In memory of
Julia Kaplan's cousin Jeff
Rebecca Wolin

BOOKLESS FAMILY ENDOWMENT

In memory of
Samuel Bookless
Maxine Bookless &
Nan Bookless

BRAUN MEMORIAL GARDEN

In memory of
Alan Model
David Bastow
Nathan Geller
Ev Bastow
In memory of
Sandra Abeles Braun
Peter Simkin

BUBBE & ZAYDIE SHINDLER ENDOWMENT

In honor of
Elaine Shindler's birthday
Marty & Roberta Shindler

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Sofiya Plotkina
Alec & Anna Yantovsky
In memory of
Sophie Steinman
Peter, David & Henry Simkin
In memory of Nathan Geller
Susan and Martin Cohen

ORPHAN HEADSTONE CLEANING

Joseph Rich & Skip Paynter

BOBBI COHN REVITALIZATION ENDOWMENT

In memory of Nathan Geller
Bobbi and Mike Cohn

JEROME & DIANA GELLER ENDOWMENT

In memory of Nathan Geller
Carole Siegel

Elaine Epstein & Family

Laurie Sukel

Miriam & Barry Gesserman

Molly Novick

Nan Bookless

Phoebe & Don Sugarman
& Family

Simon & Barbara Pines,
Noah & Jennifer Pines,
& Hiram Pines

Susan Zuckerman

In appreciation of
family and friends who
expressed messages of
sympathy in memory of our
son/brother, Nathan Geller—
much appreciated

Diana Geller & Andy Geller



GENERAL FUND

In memory of Nathan Geller
Bea Selig & Regina Mason
Harriet I. Samuels
Ruth & Steven Rosenthal

In memory of
Irving Rosenfeld
Janet & Earl Kramer

In memory of
Harold Novick
Nathan Geller

Jeff and Dana Siegel

In memory of Jeff May
Siegel Family

ELLIOT AND BARBARA GREENFELD ENDOWMENT

In memory of
Deborah A. Greenfeld
Lucy M. Kronick
Barbara Greenfeld

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

In honor of
Ari Weiner on the occasion of
his Bar Mitzvah
Cindy and Ed Helitzer's
grandchild, Hudson
Harvey & Susan
Frisch Lehrer
In memory of Nathan Geller
Sarah & Lawrence Klein

KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Isaak Kutik
Arnold & Tanya Mazurenko

In memory of Louise Clark
Brenda & Fred Landes

In memory of
Abraham Deutch
Rabbi Jan Kaufman

MURRAY AND CECILY LEVINE ENDOWMENT

In memory of Joyce Abecasis
Cecily Levine & Amy Levine

LIVESTREAMING SUPPORT

In memory of
Nathan Geller
Sarah Kaplan
In honor of
Susan Frisch Lehrer's
retirement
Sharon, Joel & Eric Karlin

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In memory of
Samuel Lebovitz
Ruth Lebovitz Markovits

PUSHKA INCOME

In memory of Bruce Leavitt
Helene Leavitt & Family

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of
Alan Model
Martin Bloom
Carole Siegel
In memory of Nathan Geller
Ev Bastow

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

Funds & Endowments

A truly generous person is one who always gives, whether it be much or little, before one is asked.

—Orchot Tzaddikim

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (*continued*)

In memory of
Alexander Stein

Florence & Steven Winter

In memory of Sol Lusthaus
Gerald & Barbara Hayden

In memory of
Herman B. Perlman
Jeanne Perlman
Jane Perlman &
Josh Berthiaume

In memory of Nathan Geller
Joan Grossman

In memory of
Morris Goldner
Nancy Raser
Marian & Marshall Raser

In memory of David Gersh
Miriam Maduro

In memory of Nathan Geller
Sergey & Natalya Yantovsky

In memory of Lois Gottlieb
Suellen Haysy

In memory of
Robert M. Staskin
Susan Staskin
In memory of Ira Bender
The Bender Family

MATTHEW RICH ENDOWMENT

In memory of
Matthew Rich
Paul Rich
Joseph Rich & Skip Paynter

JOSEPH AND PAULINE SIEGEL ENDOWMENT

In memory of
Joseph Siegel
Pauline Siegel
Sharon, Joel & Eric Karlin

STANLEY AND FAYE SIMKIN ENDOWMENT

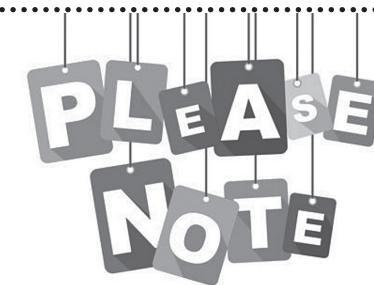
In memory of Rhea Katz
Peter, David & Henry Simkin

SOUTH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

In memory of Nathan Geller
Ellie & Mike Geller
Joanna & Ellis Fribush

DAVID AND SUSAN ZUCKERMAN ENDOWMENT

In honor of Susan Frisch
Lehrer's retirement
Regina Karas



Prayers for Healing. Submit prayer requests to Diana by email at office@knessetisrael.org before 11:00 a.m. Friday mornings.

In compliance with United Synagogue standards, it is requested that you refrain from conducting synagogue business via email, text, and/or phone calls on Shabbat. Thank you.

Submit your thoughts. Kol K.I. would love to publish an article by you. Send us a story, your musings on a Jewish experience or subject, thoughts about your experiences during these crazy times. Musings by adults, teens, and children will be considered.

Did you know that Knesset Israel has a Facebook page? If you are on Facebook please "friend" our page and comment on, like, and share our posts.

A summary of the weekly parsha appears at the bottom of the weekly K.I. E-News. Please read the e-news for timely announcements and updates on KI's health and safety protocols.



K.I. Cares—If you or another KI member you know is experiencing serious illness requiring support, please contact the Care Committee by emailing Diana at office@knessetisrael.com. We will be in touch with you.

Emergency Contacts

PASTORAL CARE

If you need 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 flynn.dagnoli@albany.twcbc.com.

The quality and virtue of charity
are determined by the kindness
that goes with it.

—Rabbi Jacob Weinstein



learn. inspire. grow. together.

16 Colt Road | Pittsfield, MA 01201

knessetisrael.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Permit # 70



Knesset Israel Community Seder



First Night Seder
April 15 ~ 6:30pm

To register, visit
www.knessetisrael.org

Celebrate with the Berkshire
Jewish community and enjoy a
joyous Passover experience!

- Led by Rabbi David Weiner
- Catered by Chris Goetze
- \$42 for adults, \$21 under 18
- Financial aid is available
- Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
- **Registration required by April 5**