

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

Rabbi Weiner Reflects and Reports

Excerpts from rabbi's remarks at Knesset Israel's Annual Meeting, June 2023

For centuries nearly every synagogue has called itself a Kehilla Kedosha—a holy congregation. That's not because we are full of ourselves, believing that only we are holy. Rather we call ourselves holy congregations because we convene to help each of us, and all of us aim to make our lives and society more just, wondrous, and sacred. I am grateful for the people whose efforts make our work possible—to Jesse Cook-Dubin, Kneesset Israel's board president, members of the board, committee chairs, and lay leaders; to Rabbi Pam Wax, who serves as our interim director of adult education; to KI's staff—Diana, Chris, and Ken.

Return to Normalcy

This year has been challenging and satisfying. Last summer brought a return of normal-cy—hundreds of visitors over the course of the summer, the return of JTS in the Berkshires, kiddush luncheons in the social hall, and several new members. Only a few years removed from the disruptions of the pandemic, and KI was hopping!

Hebrew School and Families Together are thriving.

Attendance is up, the students are learning, and the parents are enjoying each other's company and strong, relevant programming. Two families with school-age children, recruited through Families Together events, have joined the synagogue in the last year,

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We call ourselves holy congregations because we convene to help each of us, and because we all aim to make our lives and society more just, wondrous, and sacred.



What's Inside... KI Summer—so much to do!

As we put the Knesset Israel summer calendar to page, we couldn't help but get excited about everything being offered. We wonder how we can possibly squeeze it all into our personal schedules, but guaranteed we'll try!

Along with the 37th Annual Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (see page 9) there are a bounty of other things to do. Where else can you choose to go hiking and talk Torah with a rabbi one morning and study with a guest scholar-in-residence for an entire weekend?

Turn to pages 6 and 7 and begin to fill your days. Whether you attend one event, a few, or every service, class, workshop, and lecture—this summer is the opportunity to, as KI's tag line says...learn. inspire. grow. together. Thank you to those who pulled together this stimulating calendar. Please participate, see old friends, and meet a few new ones in the process.

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learn. inspire. grow. together.

KNESSET ISRAEL

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Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

Kaetah Klein's Bat Mitzvah

Celebrate as a community: attend or tune in August 5



Kaetah Zivia Klein

Kaetah Zivia Klein will ascend the bima for her Bat Mitzvah on August 5th, 2023. The service will also be livestreamed for family and friends that want to attend in spirit. We will be a very proud and happy congregation. Kaetah is the daughter of Sarah and Lawrence Klein and the sister of Jacob. Kaetah has two rescue cats: Ginger and Wasabi.

Kaetah will be returning to Herberg Middle school in the fall as an eighth grader. In 7th and 8th grade she was part of a writing contest, has been part of an art club, and was on the Pittsfield Public Virtual Academy student counsel. Kaetah has a good sense of

humor. She enjoys spending time with family and friends. Kaetah loves listening to music and dancing. She likes to make videos and take photos too. In school Kaetah's favorite subjects are gym and art. She likes biking, gymnastics, basketball, and swimming. Kaetah plans to join more clubs in eighth grade. She also enjoys movies and television programs as well as acting.

Another interest of Kaetah's is doing manicures for herself and others with very intricate and interesting colorful designs. She likes receiving them, too. She enjoys shopping, clothes, fashion, jewelry, hairstyling, and make up. She considers herself a fashionista, as do her parents. Kaetah also has a sweet tooth especially for vanilla cake and cupcakes without frosting, kosher gummy candy and gum.

When Kaetah grows older she would like to be a lawyer like her dad. She would also like to own and operate beauty salons for people and animals. Some of her extracurricular activities have included The Berkshire Theater Group camp, The Berkshire Museum film camp, gymnastics camp, and The Becket Day Camp where she enjoyed interacting with live chickens.

Her formal Jewish education in preparation for her Bat Mitzvah was at the KI Hebrew School where she had wonderful teachers and amazingly talented tutors for whom she is greatly appreciative. Kaetah's favorite part of Hebrew school is interacting with friends. In the past Kaetah also attended The Ramah Family Camp.

Kaetah's Mitzvah project is no surprise given her love and empathy for animals. It is to raise community involvement (through donations, adoption, and awareness) specifically for disabled animals in need of medical care for the Berkshire Humane Society. Their website is BerkshireHumane.org also at 413-447-7878 at 214 Barker Road in Pittsfield, MA 01201

Any donations should specify "Kaetah's Mitzvah." Todah Rabah.

Rabbi Weiner Reflects

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and I am hoping that a few more will follow. I am grateful to our Hebrew School teachers, several of whom assumed administrative tasks and special projects, to our Families Together Committee, and especially to Marcie Greenfield Simons who, in the absence of a program director, filled the position



Rabbi David Weiner

all year as a volunteer. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires continue to support our education program generously. This year the Federation changed how it funds Jewish education, which has proven to be encouraging and inspiring for KI.

Torah, Music, Inclusion

Services for Shabbat and holidays have been humming along all year. A few of our newer Torah readers have gotten markedly stronger and emerged as teachers and gabbaim. Several shlihei tzibbur tried new things.

Buoyed by the purchase of new equipment, KI's musicians have continued to learn from each other and play togeth-

er. Shirei Shabbat, Musical Minyan, and the Purim Band are sounding better than ever.



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The Meeting OWL has been a success in adult education classes. It provides a panoramaic view of the room and is motion and voice activated.

Adult Education

Adult education remains vibrant. The "OWL" is a great success. This camera-microphone & speaker allows us to hold classes in the synagogue library that are also broadcast on Zoom, alowing students from other parts of the country to participate. Many students have enjoyed Rabbi Wax's

classes, and many more will be registering for the wide-ranging programming that will take place all summer. (see Calendar, pages 6 and 7). My classes have also been engaging. The Tuesday Hebrew class has completed an exhaustive study of the Amidah, and the Thursday class—about 20-30 individuals each week—used materials from Hadar's Proj-



ect Zug to study a wide variety of topics. We are also more than halfway through an Intro to Judaism course taught by learned KI members to a group of about a dozen people who are just beginning or continuing their journey of Jewish education.

Lifecycle

Lifecycle commemoration remains a fundamental part of congregational life. We celebrate one bar mitzvah and one bat mitzvah this year. The Hevra Kadisha, shomrim, and Cemetery Committee continue to serve. All three groups need more participants—people who are physically able can perform mitzvahs with Hevra Kadisha and the Cemetery Committee. Those with free time during the work week are especially welcome. Shomrim are needed daytime and nighttime hours.

Good Neighbors

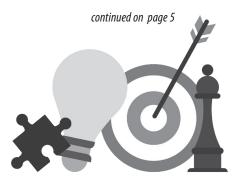
<u>inter</u>faith

We engage with our neighborhood. KI's partnership with the South Community Food Pantry is still going strong. Our effort to support resettlement of a household from Afghanistan ended when the family moved to California to be closer to extended family. My term as president of the Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations is complete, but I will continue to be involved as the organization rebuilds, post-pandemic. KI has continued to support Berkshire Interfaith Organizing as it continues to try to reinvent itself with a new organizer, as a part of the Massachusetts Community Action Network.

But at KI we are always compelled to go beyond just the basics. A surprisingly complex process led, last summer, to a stronger partnership between Knesset Israel and the Berkshire Minyan. I look forward to that relationship continuing to grow.

Planning and Implementing

This year, the Strategic Planning Committee collected data, explored our context, and worked together to discern what we should do differently. Change is hard, especially when, in a post-pandemic world, you can't figure out where you are, never mind where you're going. But the



Strategic Planning

July Birthdays July Anniversaries

■ Dee Griswold	July 1
■ Noah Palmer	July 1
■ Jan Zimbler	July 3
■ Dawn Shamper-Schecter	July 3
■ Sanford Gordon	July 4
■ Edwin Helitzer	July 5
■ Michael Geller	July 6
■ Yefim Kogan	July 6
■ Ilana Albert	July 7
■ Judith Weiner	July 7
■ Elisabeth Berger	July 7
■ Hannah Nhim Ovitsky	July 8
■ Samson Nhim Ovitsky	July 8
■ Barbara Hertzberg	July 10
■ Dee Dee Acquisto	July 10
■ Carolyn Kaplan	July 12
■ Mory Brenner	July 12
■ Yvette Bastow	July 14
■ Janet Rothstein	July 14
■ Lesley Campbell Herzberg	July 14
■ Parker Wright	July 15
■ Gerald Link	July 15
■ Ethan Lipson	July 16
■ Phil Halpern	July 19
■ Lara Denmark	July 19
■ Stephanie Ilberg-Lamm	July 21
■ Gayle Rotenberg	July 22
■ Suellen Havs	y July 23.
■ Sheila Goldlust	July 24
■ Steven Winter	July 25
Jenny Gitlitz	July 25
■ Roberta Cohn	July 27
■ Lynne Goodman-Leary	July 27
■ Eleanor Geller	
Judy Usow	July 28
■ Ira Lieberman	
■ Lauren Spitz	-
■ Roy Kozupsky	
Jeremy Merrin	

■ Murray and Barbara Akresh	July 1
■ David and Kyneret Albert	July 2
Jerome Socoloff and Kate Gigliotti	July 3
■ Harold and Harriet Shair	July 5
Colin Ovitsky and Sopheap Nhim	July 7
■ Michael and Alison Rosenthal	July 14
■ Bruce and Terri Ettinger	July 15

Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-noi E-loi-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-chee-ya-nu v'ki-yi-ma-nu vi-hi-gi-ya-nu liz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

August Birthdays

Renee RobbinsAugust 1	■ Kay Lerner August 20
■ Stephen FeingoldAugust 3	■ Shira Rodriguez August 20
■ Daniel LearyAugust 4	■ Rose Sutter August 21
■ David DahariAugust 4	■ Robin Fleet August 21
■ Howard Lerner August 5	■ James Frank August 22
■ Kathleen Todd August 7	■ Cindy Mann August 22
■ Nina Snowise August 8	■ Ellen Weitzler August 22
■ Yael Snowise August 8	■ Catherine Louise May August 23
■ Brett Goldberg August 9	■ Norman Klein August 24
■ Jacob Herzberg August 12	■ Joel Wolk August 24
Colin Ovitsky August 12	■ Sarah Klein August 26
■ Aleksey Berezkin August 13	■ Carol Link August 27
■ Joel Friedman August 13	■ Charles Raser August 28
■ Richard Ferren August 14	■ Jacob Klein August 28
■ Natalya Yantovsky August 15	■ Rhonda Sattin August 28
■ Michael Albert August 16	■ Irving (Dave) Krawet August 28
■ Harvey Zimbler August 16	■ Michael Shocket August 28
■ Leatrice Finck August 17	■ Eliot Stern August 29
■ Patricia Salkin August 18	■ Phoebe Sugarman August 30
■ Michael Edwards August 18	■ Ely Hochfelder August 31
■ Ruth Lebovitz Markovits August 19	■ Galina Sirota August 31

From the Rabbi

Rabbi Weiner Reflects

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planning process highlighted very good ideas, some of which are already being implemented. We are bringing the best of our culture as a synagogue to the fore and removing barriers to involvement. The Board of Directors has been asked to move beyond maintaining synagogue operations, to consider our vision for Jewish life, and to act boldly to bring it to fruition.

Recruitment and engagement

Strategic planning also highlighted a challenge for KI in turning members into volunteers and volunteers into leaders. We are starting to rebuild habits of recruitment and encouragement. For instance, the hamantashen project is important because of the cookies, the tradition, the fundraising, and its potential to get people new to KI involved in synagogue life. Ramblin' with the Rav is a good workout and a way to welcome newcomers to KI. When a group prepares a meal for Shirei Shabbat, they cook safely and keep things kosher, but in addition could recruit at least one or two new people to cook with them. The same is true for adult education, the film festival, and other projects. Recruitment,

engagement, and inspiration require our attention.

Welcome Rabbi Walker

Last week, Rabbi Becca Walker began work as Director of Lifelong Learning. We are incredibly excited to welcome her as she assumes leadership of congregational programming and Families Together, as well as helping in many other areas. In addition to bringing her scholarship and breadth of expertise to our community, Rabbi Becca works from an engagement and community organizing perspective—a powerful combination that will add a whole new dimension to the work we do at KI.

Looking forward to seeing you

I hope you'll participate in our summer of incredible programming—services, kiddush every week starting July 8, JTS in the Berkshires, the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, Friday nights in the tent and beyond. Please attend, and please keep an eye out for new people to welcome. As you are inspired, please continue to support Knesset Israel as we continue to work together to serve and develop the Jewish community of the Berkshires.

August Aniversaries

■ Joel and Fran Wolk August 9
■ Richard Simons and Marcie Greenfield Simons August 11
■ Helen and Stephen Radin August 12
■ Elisa and Mark Snowise August 16
■ Patricia Salkin and Howard Gross August 17
■ Allen and Rosalind Kopfstein August 18
■ Noah and Kika Cook-Dubin August 20
■ Ellen and Steven WeitzlerAugust 24
■ Kathleen and Bill Todd August 24
■ Susan and Joel Friedman August 29
■ Andrew and Sandra Snyder August 30

member



Let's kick off our summer of chef prepared Kiddush Luncheons and meet up with old and new KI friends! Attend services beforehand or just come for lunch...

> **Evreryone** is Welcome!

RSVP by July 5 to

knessetisrael.org/rsvp

AND please come say hi to our Membership Ambassador at the Welcome Table

Help our Congregation on the High Holidays

KI needs people to usher for High Holiday services. If you are looking to volunteer, this is the perfect opportunity.



We will offer a training and safety session ahead of time.

If interested please contact Joan Grossman at 413-445-7848 or jcg8874@msn.com

Kl Services, Classes & Events / Summer 2023

Special Summer Services

Musical Minyan—mellow, meditative, acoustic. Fridays at 5:45 p.m.— July 21 and August 25

Shirei Shabbat—upbeat, contemporary, family friendly. Fridays at 5:45 p.m.—July 21 and August 11

Tisha B'av: Wednesday, July 26 at 8 p.m. and Thursday, July 27 at 8 a.m. Details below...

Tisha B'av Services... a haunting service of remembrance

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26......8:00 p.m.

Tisha B'Av late night service. An evocative late night service marks the anniversary of the destruction of the Temple. We will chant the Book of Lamentations and recite ancient and contemporary elegies as we remember. Visitors are welcome to attend and participate, whether it's their first time at Tisha B'Av services or they attend every year. Those who may wish to chant part of Eicha should contact the synagogue office in advance.

THURSDAY, JULY 27 8:00 a.m.

Tisha B'Av Morning Service. The somber, reserved Tisha B'Av morning service includes Torah reading and a Haftara for the fast day, which marks the destruction of the Temple.

The Seventeenth of Tammuz is a Jewish fast day commemorating the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple. It falls on the 17th day of the 4th Hebrew month of Tammuz and marks the beginning of the three-week mourning period leading up to Tisha B'Av.



Tisha B'Av ("the Ninth of Av") is an annual fast day in Judaism, named for the ninth day (Tisha) of the month of Av in the Hebrew calendar. The fast commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple and Second Temple in Jerusalem, which occurred about 655 years apart, but on the same Hebrew calendar date. • Above is a photo of the frieze from the Arch of Titus in Rome, depicting the pillage after the destruction of the Second Temple. Most observant Jews will not walk through the arch to this day.

Shabbat Cardle

rilday, July 7	o. 14 p.111.
Friday, July 14	8:11 p.m.
Friday, July 21	8:06 p.m.
Friday, July 28	7:59 p.m.
Friday, August 4	7:51 p.m.
Friday, August 4Friday, August 11	-
•	7:42 p.m.
Friday, August 11	7:42 p.m. 7:32 p.m.

Weekly Services

SUNDAY MOKNING MINYAN	
IN PERSON8:45 a.n	n

■ TUESDAY & THURSDAY **EVENING DAVENING** ON ZOOM......7:00 p.m. ZOOM ID # 934-910-554

■ FRIDAY KABBALAT SHABBAT IN PERSON (under the tent weather permitting)5:45 p.m.

■ SATURDAY SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM

.....9:30 a.m. followed by kiddush.

In summer months, livestreaming of Saturday Shabbat services and special events will continue. Friday evening services will be under the tent so NOT livestreamed. Indoor funerals may also be

streamed at the discretion of the family.



Weather permitting, Knesset Israel's Kabbalat Shabbat will be held ba'ohel during July and August.

Kl Services, Classes & Events / Summer 2023



Hike the Trails

Ramblin' with the Ray

Join Rabbi David Weiner for a moderately paced walk, a little Torah, and good company.

Registration for all hikes required: knessetisrael.org/rsvp

More information upon registration.

Wednesday, August 2 • 9-11 a.m. — Boulders

This is a scenic stroll through a nature preserve in a surprising location. Wetlands, forest, and a hill with enormous erratic boulders and a commanding viewpoint over Pittsfield. Be prepared for some uphill walking on uneven trails. Dogs on leash are welcome.

Wednesday, August 16 • 9 a.m. -1 p.m —Hopkins Memorial Forest

The Hopkins Memorial Forest is a reserve with hiking trails spread out over an extensive 2,600 acres. The Williams College Center for Environmental Studies manages the area.

Wednesday, August 30 • 9 am-12 p.m. —Arches

It's the last day before the start of school! Come on your own or bring sure-footed children and grandchildren for an easy hike along a scenic section of the Westfield River that is crossed by several early 20th century keystone arch bridges.

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, [where] they can be guite alone with the heavens, nature, and God.

—Diary of Anne Frank

Lectures & Learning



In the Berkshires

Important—Register for these sessions at inspired.jtsa.edu/Berkshires2023. Registration required.

\$15 per lecture. Sessions take place from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in-person only at Shakespeare & Co., Bernstein Theater, Lenox, Massachusetts.

Friday, July 7—Dr. Arnold M. Eisen: Revisiting Zionist Thought: Charting a Path Forward

Friday, July 21—

Rabbi Gordon Tucker: In the Narrow *Places: Visions of Destruction in the Mind* of Jeremiah and in the Mind of his Artistic Interpreters

Friday, August 4—Dr. Shira Billet:

Law in Context: Uncovering the Mother's Perspective in Traditional Sources on Abortion

Presented in partnership with Knesset Israel and in cooperation with The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Also supported by:

Valerie Ann and Allen I. Hyman, MD Brenda and Fred Landes, MD,

in memory of Harold Landes The Harold Grinspoon Foundation



Klezmer Concert

Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra

with director, Aaron Kula, is a genrebending group, performing traditional and jazz Klezmer music.

Monday, August 21 • 7:15 p.m. Registration required: knessetisrael.org/rsvp

Book Talks

Sunday, July 30 • 10 a.m. and Saturday, August 26 • 12 p.m. Rabbi Pam Wax discusses Rabbi Michael Strassfeld's book: Judaism Disrupted, a Spiritual Manifesto of the 21st Century. Limited copies for discounted price of \$20 at KI office. Registration required for July 30 only: knessetisrael.org/rsvp

Sunday, August 27 • 10 a.m. Author Margery Metzger discusses her book: Hidden Demons: Evil Visits a Small **New England Town**

Community Meals

Kiddush Luncheons after morning service, chef prepared kosher meal Saturdays • 12:00 p.m. July 8 throught August 19

Friday night Shabbat Dinners—kosher meal following Shirei Shabbat services. July 21, August 11 • 6:45 p.m. Registration required: knessetisrael.org/rsvp

Special Lunch and Learns...

See the Berkshire Jewish Voice for more details on the following events:

Saturday, July 15: Rabbi Michael **Strassfeld**, author of *Judaism Disrupted*: A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st Century in conversation with Rabbi Pamela Wax following Shabbat morning services. On July 30, Rabbi Wax will lead a discussion of his book. (see Book Talks above).

Saturday, August 12: After services Rabbi Marc Margolius will address the topic of Jewish mindfulness and how it can help us experience greater meaning in traditional Jewish practices.

Saturday, August 19: Dr. Ruth

Messinger The Berkshire community's shared scholar-in-residence will offer the d'var Torah at KI. At lunch she will speak on "Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers Then and Now."



Tikkun Olam ~ Heal the World

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 fwolk@att.net.

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.

Feed the Hungry

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

Make Food Deliveries / Pack Cartons

Members of the KI Food Pantry Team are currently distributing food cartons to families in Pittsfield. Volunteer drivers and carton packers are needed. For information, email Nancy Cook at splynter100@gmail.com.

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.

Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the inner sparks of possibility...

—Golda Meir

More from the

BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Please visit knessetisrael.org/filmfestival to purchase your Season Pass or make a much-appreciated donation.

Please visit berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org to peruse the festival program and sign up for the BJFF e-newsletter for our talkback schedule

The BJFF wishes to thank our generous underwriters.:

Berkshire Bank Foundation

Greylock Federal Credit Union

Harold Grinspoon Foundation

The John Bergman Charitable Fund

MountainOne

Marcia & Albert Schmier

Spitz-Tuchman Charitable Trust

Jessie & Bernard Wolfson Family Foundation, in memory of Bernard Wolfson



l grew up in a tradition where having ideas and contributing to the community and creating art that had an impact on the world mattered. That's part of the lewish tradition.

- Eve Ensler

BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



Week 1—July 10

- 4:00 p.m. Our (Almost Completely True) Story • Making an unlikely couple, both Jerry Sroka's and Mariette Hartley's characters bond over the indignities of being out-of-work actors of a certain age, while navigating the seniors' singles scene. A life-affirming dramedy that "sparkles" with wit and depth as it celebrates love and romance while reflecting on the challenges of growing older.
- 8:00 p.m. Four Winters Against extraordinary odds, over 25,000 Jewish partisans fought back against the Nazis and their collaborators from deep within the forests of Eastern Europe, Ukraine and Belarus. Along with stunning archival footage, the surviving partisans relive their journey, sharing their stories. Transformed from young innocents to fierce partisan soldiers they exhibited magnificent courage and deep humanity.

Week 2 —July 17

- 4:00 p.m. The Muses of Isaac Bashevis Singer • In the mid 1960's Bashevis Singer established an army of female translators—more than forty women who helped spread his work. He chose his translators carefully, was inspired by their presence, often falling in love with them. Nine of the women who were intimately familiar with the man and work are still here. Theirs will be the only voices heard in the film, as they allow us a glimpse into his complex personality and persona.
- 8:00 p.m. Reckonings is the first documentary feature to chronicle the process of negotiating German reparations for the Jewish people. It captures the anger on one side, the shame on the other, and the anguish for all as talks broke down. By confronting the past, German and Jewish leaders charted a better future for a desperate and traumatized people.

Week 3—July 24

- 4:00 p.m. Shttl is the story of the inhabitants of a Yiddish Ukrainian village at the border of Poland, 24 hours before the Nazi invasion, known as Operation Barbarossa. In one unflinching shot, this film presents a day in the life of a Jewish village before it disappears.
- 8:00 p.m. Karaoke Sleepwalking through marriage, an older couple beset with unspoken regret get a much-needed spark with the arrival of Itzik (the effortlessly magnetic Lior Ashkenazi), a sexy, middle-aged hedonist who loves hosting karaoke parties in his posh penthouse.

Week 4—July 31

- 4:00 p.m. (2 FILMS)—Grossman David Grossman, one of Israel's most notable authors, shares the rare and captivating connections between his life and his novels. The film follows the writer up close and takes the viewers on a personal journey into the soul and work of an exceptional human being.
- 2ND FILM Castles in the Sky Filmmaker/professor Pearl Gluck's provocative short film centers on Malke, a Holocaust survivor and sex-ed teacher who has been leading a secret life for decades: performing slam poetry on the Lower East Side. Castles in the Sky features commanding performances from actor Lynn Cohen, who died in 2020, and poet Venus Thrash, who died in 2021.
- 8:00 p.m. Where Life Begins Each summer Esther travels with her French Ultra-Orthodox family to a farm in Calabria to harvest etrogs for Sukkot. Trapped by the suffocating rituals of her faith, the despairing and curious Esther captures the attention of the farm owner. Their brief encounters help Esther find her path. In this visually sumptuous and deeply moving film there is a subtle portrayal of self realization.

Week 5—August 7

- 4:00 p.m. Queen of the Deuce Born in Salonika, Greece, Chelly Wilson came from a religious Sephardic family. At the start of WWII, leaving her family and children behind, she emigrated to America and built a business that ultimately turned to the dark yet lucrative world of pornographic film theaters located alongside the X-rated shops on 8th Avenue, known as the Deuce.
- 8:00 p.m. March '68 Hania and Janek are students in Warsaw in 1968. When the government's persecution of Jews gains strength, Janek, whose father is a government official, and Hania, who is Jewish and whose parents have lost their prominent jobs, join other university students protesting the government's actions changing their lives forever.

Week 6—August 14

- 4:00 p.m. The City Without Jews H.K. Breslauer's 1924 silent masterpiece is the tragi-comic story of the fictional Austrian city of Utopia. The story follows consequences of an anti-Semitic law forcing all Jews to leave the country. The citizens of Utopia must come to terms with the loss of the Jewish population and the resulting economic decline, and decide whether to invite them back. The film will be accompanied by live original music composed and performed by renowned klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals and silent film music legend, pianist Donald Sosin.
- 8:00 p.m. Farewell Mr. Haffmann
- · In this gripping wartime thriller, a French-Jewish jeweler is caught in a Faustian pact that will change the fate of all involved. When the Nazis occupy Paris, Joseph Haffmann arranges for his family's escape and signs over his shop to trusted right-hand man François. As fortunes reverse, Haffmann is now at his employee-turned-collaborator's mercy, hiding in the basement to avoid deportation. Unpredictable twists mark this superbly crafted morality tale.

New Members



ברוכים הבאים Welcome all who come

The KI Membership Committee has the pleasure of introducing the following new members. The entire congregation and staff extend a sincere welcome. We look forward to praying, studying, socializing, and working together to strengthen our community.

■ Jeff and Bonnie Stevens - Traditional Membership

Jeff and Bonnie were former members. Jeff is a hospital administrator and Bonnie works in development.

■ Susan and Joel Friedman - Chaver Membership

Susan and Joel winter in New Jersey and are in the Berkshires for the summer. Susan is a planning board development consultant. Joel is a research scientist.

■ Nathan and Sherri Lebwohl - Traditional Membership

Nathan and Sherri live in Lenox and winter in Florida. Nathan is a retired physician. Nathan and Sherri have attended services on several occasions and joined the synagogue to show their support.

■ Marc Rudoltz and Lisa Hochman - Traditional Membership

Marc and Lisa live in Pittsfield. They are both physicians. They enjoy adult education and chanting Torah. Marc and Lisa joined the synagogue to be a part of the Jewish community.

■ Nancy and Jack Cook- Chaver Membership

Nancy and Jack are summer residents and reside in Florida. They are both retired.

■ Noah Lauzon - Traditional Membership

Noah Lauzon and his children, Sam, Solomon, and Coyote, recently returned to the Berkshires and have joined KI as 3rd and 4th generation members in order to reconnect to their family's synagogue and the local Jewish community. Their interests include learning to chant Torah, cooking, family and youth programming, film festival, music, and learning Hebrew. Noah and his family are in the process of meeting congregation members and families.

■ Noah Palmer and Hana Askren - Traditional Membership

Noah Palmer and Hana Askren and their 2 young children have joined Kl. Hana, Noah, and their school-aged children live in East Chatham, NY. Noah is a musician and Hana is a firefighter. They are interested in chanting Torah/Haftorah, family and youth programming, and leading services. This family attended services for a while and is very excited about joining.



Preserve & Maintain

A new appeal to honor the departed

Knesset Israel is proud to be one of the few Conservative synagogues in the United States to own and maintain its own cemetery entirely through member volunteers and donations.

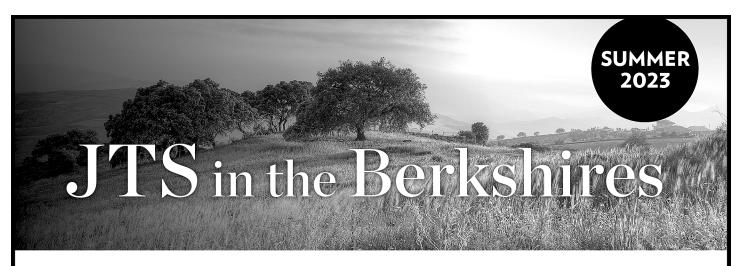
As years pass, beyond the usual maintenance of the grounds, headstones need to be cleaned, adjusted, or straightened to keep the integrity and beauty of this holy place.

The Cemetery Committee, in an effort to make sure all this work is done with equity, is appealing to the congregation to donate to the Cemetery Fund with a the memo line "Headstone." You can donate \$5, \$500, multiples of chai—or more! Your contribution will make sure KI's cemetery reflects the honor and respect we give to those who came before us. It's a mitzvah! Eventually the committee hopes to have all stones cleaned, and then will provide—through your continued contributions—ongoing cleaning and maintenance.

If you want a specific family stone or "orphan" stone attended to, indicate the name with your check, and it will be on the list when we raise enough funds to provide the contractor with a full day's work.

Please send checks to Diana at 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Be sure to fill out the memo with the appropriate information.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Join us in the Berkshires for inspiring learning that illuminates the Jewish past and shapes the Jewish future.

FRIDAY JULY 7. 2023

Revisiting Zionist Thought: Charting a Path Forward

Dr. Arnold M. Eisen, Chancellor Emeritus and Professor of Jewish Thought, JTS



FRIDAY JULY 21, 2023

"In the Narrow Places": Jeremiah and His Artistic Interpreters

Rabbi Gordon Tucker, Vice Chancellor for Religious Life and Engagement, JTS



FRIDAY AUGUST 4, 2023

Law in Context: Uncovering the Mother's Perspective in Traditional Sources on Abortion

Dr. Shira Billet, Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Ethics, JTS



Shakespeare & Company

Elayne P. Bernstein Theater, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, Massachusetts

11:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M., TICKETS: \$15

Learn more and register at jtsa.edu/berkshires-2023

For more information, contact Lynn Feinman at (212) 678-8821 or lyfeinman@jtsa.edu









Presented in partnership with Knesset Israel and in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Supporters include: Valerie Ann and Allen I. Hyman, MD; Brenda and Fred Landes, MD, in memory of Harold Landes; and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Yahrzeits • July 2023 • Tammuz/Av 5783

12 TAMMUZ - JULY 1

Barbara Rose Bass Snyder Herman Fink Milton Flashner Harry Singer Annie Shapiro Gertrude Smith Jennie Abrahms Joshua Louis Weinstein Morris Abrahms

13 TAMMUZ - JULY 2

Liya Berlin Samuel Shapiro Seymour Leppo

14 TAMMUZ - JULY 3

Robert Markowitz Denese Mann Samuel Landa Joseph Loveman Benjamin Slaminsky Milton H. Zimbler **Bernard Bell**

15 TAMMUZ - JULY 4

Edward Merrin Sophie Goldner Lewis Edward Levinson Joan Bildner Margaret Lanzer Lillian Kahn Ella Esterman

16 TAMMUZ - JULY 5

Rita Wortman Rebecca Gold

17 TAMMUZ - JULY 6

Mitchell Stevens Ida Kaufman Adelson Henry Kowler Sarah Kriger

18 TAMMUZ - JULY 7

Marcia Rosenthal Michael Lippe Estelle Kammel Ida Milstein Louis Wiederkehr Ruth Morganstein

19 TAMMUZ - JULY 8

Geraldine Weinstein Dr. George Grossman Sarah Gruberg

20 TAMMUZ - JULY 9

J. Philip Cook Leo Drimmer Irene Baer Saul J. Cohen

22 TAMMUZ - JULY 11

Esther G. Kriger Archie Newman Abraham J. Reder Sidney Ginsberg

23 TAMMUZ - JULY 12

Mary Aronovitz Clara Mindlin Margolin Francis Wainhouse Rabinovitz Pearl Goodman Walter Epstein Dale Gelber Max Lenhoff

> Ner Adonai **Nishmat** Adam

God's light is the soul of every person.



24 TAMMUZ - JULY 13

Audrey Schlanger Judith Sellner Rachel Felds Pauline Feldstein Sidney Metzger Lois London Jacob Geller Sidney Goodman Arthur Kriger Julius Lampert

26 TAMMUZ - JULY 15

David Katz Regina Sason Mendel Aldersheim Rose C. Rife Benjamin L. Swirsky

27 TAMMUZ - JULY 16

Elie Hammerling **Emil Metropole** Henry Simkin **Edward Bass**

28 TAMMUZ - JULY 17

Elsie Ettinger Miriam Helitzer Beatrice Drimmer Alvin Kass Sarah Moskowitz Ida Block

29 TAMMUZ - JULY 18

Ralph Goodman **Ethel Martin Brown** Joseph Rod Morris Wolfe

1 AV - JULY 19

Sylvia Geller Max Alimansky Milton Bergman Minnie Cotton Neil Radsken **Doris Soman** Ida Gibner Philip Abel

2 AV - JULY 20

Arthur K. Fried **Bernard Poretz** Louis Green Priscilla Less Wood Fredric Meyers Bernard Schulman **Ernest Blank** Michael **Nathaniel Shute** Abraham L. Ginsberg Regina Siegel

3 AV - JULY 21

Gladys Zahavah Novick **Beatrice Kopfstein** Elizabeth Zaslavskaya Joe Weiss

4 AV - JULY 22

Lee Robinson Samuel Yantovsky

5 AV - JULY 23

Shirley Halperin Bertha Zemmel Samuels Shirlee Robbins Herman Abramson Morris Lubin

6 AV - JULY 24

David Bashevkin Benjamin Sidransky **Ethel Ferber** Alfred Fellner Rose Libby Marvin

7 AV - JULY 25

Richard Amron Ira Siegel

8 AV - JULY 26TH

Benjamin Bookless Norman Moskowitz Helen Tallen Mote Blank Susan Margulies Dora Goodman Samuel Cohen Nathan Pinsky Rose P. Bass

9 AV - JULY 27

Eileen Goldman **David Lipshitz**

10 AV - JULY 28

Eve Lipman Maximilian Kowler

11 AV - JULY 29

Eva Aronson Greenfeld Barbara Nadler **Dorothy Haims**

12 AV - JULY 30

Gladys Wilansky Samuel Aronstein **Shirley Dolinger** Fannie Feldman **Roney Weis** Jesse Ginsberg **Eleanor Liss** Madelyne Goldin Bessie Adelson

13 AV - JULY 31

Meyer David Graubard Joseph Stern Beatrice A. Epstein

Yahrzeits • August 2023 • Av/Eulel 5783

14 AV - AUGUST

Eli Hochman Miriam Levinson Barry E. Alper Max Raser Merrill Silverstein

15 AV - AUGUST 2

Bruce Rossomando Herman Weitzen **Beatrice Dichner** David Gold Samuel Novick Pincus Herzl Auslander

16 AV - AUGUST 3

Philip Baron Esther Halpern Freed Sydney Berg

17 AV - AUGUST 4

Hilda Betten Robert R. Fingeroth L. George Reder Claira Tauber **Boris Berlin**

18 AV - AUGUST 5

Nathan Milikowsky Winifred Bell Frederick Lezberg Milton Selkowitz **Irving Singer**

19 AV - AUGUST 6

Barbara Gordon **Ethel Shusterman** Irving Bikofsky Isadore Davidoff Harry Gitelman

20 AV - AUGUST 7

Helen Masters Elbert Kaplan

20 AV - AUGUST 7

Anna Garbowit Edith Friedman Jennie Swirsky Anna B. Goodheartz Jennie Lipson Lena Louzin Liebe Bikofsky Jacob Joseph Nelson Eva Rife Lucille Grossman

21 AV - AUGUST 8

James Burgone Frances Simkin Meyer Gilner Benjamin Hurewitz Lipman Arnold Katzman **Dorothy Smith** Ahron Frommer Rebecca Rachel Klein Rita Toscher Isidore Schlanger

22 AV - AUGUST 9

Edith Kaufman Cohen Margaret Goodman Max Katz Joyce Kaufman

23 AV - AUGUST 10

Freda Perlmutter Koppel Shusterman **Gertrude Lusthaus** Finger Linda Posell 7alman Kominiar

Morris Horelly

25 AV - AUGUST 12

Margie Rosenthal Alexander Mason **Rubin Oringer** Albert Shindler Miriam Cohen Henry Kamm Solomon Lipson

26 AV - AUGUST 13

Harold Herman Schreiber Florence Simon Lebovitz

27 AV - AUGUST 143

Leona Green Annie Feder Bashevkin Celia Lerman

28 AV - AUGUST 15

Kenneth Schwartz Benjamin Rosen Sydney Kanter

29 AV - AUGUST 16

Leo Solomon Marjorie Garber Rappoport Shirle Stahl

We can endure much more than we think we can; all human experience testifies to that.

-Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

24 AV - AUGUST 11

Howard H. Braun Adeline Schortz

30 AV - AUGUST 17

Alfred S.J. Goldin Sarah Blasberg Auslander

1 ELUL - AUGUST 18

Albert Cohen Dora Kanter Joseph Plotsky Fred Goetz

2 ELUL - AUGUST 19

Florence Hazen David H. Shair Nathan Pines Ann Pomerantz Muriel M. Gersh

3 ELUL - AUGUST 20

Benjamin Gross Hedy Kamm Harry Rudich Ruth Rosen Milton Aronstein Phil M. Frankel

4 ELUL - AUGUST 21

Helene Brado Hyman Rosenthal Isadore Block Elsie Markowitz Frank Ptashkin **Beniamin Drate** Milton A. Kolodkin Henry Raphan

and death a destination. And life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage to life everlasting.

—Alvin Fine, Gates of Repentance

Birth is a beginning,

5 ELUL - AUGUST 22

Israel Manny Cohen Israel Cutler Abraham Lipson

6 ELUL - AUGUST 23

Shirley Yanofski Samuel Perlmutter Irving Kay Helen Davidoff

7 ELUL - AUGUST 24

Eva Smicker Rose Schlingbaum Morris H. Lubin Joyce Stein Stanley Leeper Lena Ginsberg Sol Raphan

8 ELUL - AUGUST 25

Ida Teitelbaum Esther Freadman Beniamin Lehrer Max Smith **Ruth Waller**

9 ELUL - AUGUST 26

Evelyn Zwerner Dora Goldberg **Ethel Haft** Laura Stoskin Blanche Handelman Max C. Kaye continued on page 14

Funds & Endowments

10 ELUL - AUGUST 27

Harry Hertzberg Marvin Gersh Henry Voremberg Philip Turetsky Chaim Witkowski Nathan Kaplan

13 ELUL - AUGUST 30

Tillie Cohen Anna Chesney Harry Albert Vincent Acquisto Henry Golub Eliezer Samel

11 ELUL - AUGUST 28

Irving Siegel Kenneth Gogel Robert Berend Samuel Akresh Samuel Gold

14 ELUL - AUGUST 31

Sarah Altmann Saul Nulman Arno Altmann Carol Cohen Tillie Sandler Bernard Bressler David Marks

12 ELUL - AUGUST 29

Jim Orlow Louis Zemmel

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.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Cindy Tatalovich

BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

In honor of John Bergman's birthday *Joel Curran*

In memory of Susan Miller Rabbi Jan Kaufman

BOOKLESS FAMILY ENDOWMENT

In memory of Anna Fainer Bookless Maxine Bookless and Nan Bookless The Jewish religion is an ethical religion. That is, we are taught to do right, to love mercy, do justice, not because there's gonna be any reward in heaven or punishment in hell. We live righteously because that's how people should live.

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

BOBBY BRAUN MEMORIAL GARDEN

In memory of Lyubov Kutik Nahomi Onckenl Susan Miller

Cindy and Ed Helitzer

In memory of Joel Bastow Joseph Strul Ev Bastow

In honor of Ev Bastow's birthday and her tenth anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

Pattie Lipman and John Huffaker Ruth Perlow

CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Gerald H. Goodman

> Lynne and Daniel Goodman Leary

In memory of Lyubov Kutik

Tanya Mazurenko and

Alexander Kutik

In memory of Fannie Abramowitz William Abramowitz The Landa Family

CEMETERY GATE AND ROADS FUND

In memory of Ida Pill Jerome Goldenberg Theresa Levinson Dave Pill

CHEVRA KADISHA FUND

In appreciation of Alexandra Warshaw for her kindness

Sheila Goldlust

JOEL AND PHYLLIS CURRAN ENDOWMENT

In memory of Phyllis Curran Lawrence and Sarah Klein Rabbi Jan Kaufman

HARRY, ENID & HOWIE FUHRMAN ACCESSIBILITY FUND

In honor of
Bailey Honer's graduation from
the University of Rhode Island;
Howie Fuhrman's 63rd birthday;
Joan Fuhrman's 90th birthday;
and Melissa Landman's master's
degree from Tufts University

Meryl and Richard Cooper

Funds & Endowments

GENERAL FUND

Harriet Samuels Robert Young

In memory of Lyubov Kutik Alec and Anna Yantovsky Arlene and Gary Schiff Eugene Mamut and Irina Borisova Zina Etkina Caroline Weisberg

In memory of Benjamin Rosenshein Ann and Dave Krawet

In memory of Vera Stoskin Gangel Barbara Gershen Swartz

In memory of Charlotte Genn Gil Genn

HOMER & MARTHA GUDELSKY FAMILY FOUNDATION

Jonathan Genn

In honor of Rabbi David Weiner Jonathan Genn Gil Genn

In memory of Melvin Rudoltz Marc Rudoltz and Lisa Hochman

In memory of Ana Rosner Miriam Cohen

In memory of Reba Kaufman Rabbi Jan Kaufman

In memory of Howard Wax Rabbi Pam Wax

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Brett Goldberg

In memory of Nahomi Oncken Bobbi and Mike Cohn

In memory of August Robert Rossomando

David and Janet Rothstein

RABBI'S **DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of Nahomi Oncken Amy Abramovich

In memory of Helen Krawet

Ann and Dave Krawet

In memory of Lyubov Kutik Brenda and Fred Landes Amy Abramovich Joel Curran Richie and Marcie **Greenfield Simons** Rabbi Yaacov and Nina Rone

In memory of Heinz Ronberg Rabbi Yaacov and Nina Rone

In memory of Laeita Israelite Norman Israelite Marcia Israelite Lieberman Diane Weinstein

In memory of Larry Dubin Kika and Noah Cook-Dubin Nancy Cook

In memory of Harold Landes Lawrence and Sarah Klein

Is volunteering important? The Talmud tells us: "Deeds of loving-kindness are equal in weight to all the commandments." May each of you be inspired to give. And give back.

—Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (CONT.)

In memory of **Edythe Rosenthal** Norman Rosenthal

Lawrence Rosenthal

In memory of Harold Landes Rabbi Jan Kaufman

Bertha Charkow Richard and Dale Charkow

In appreciation of Rabbi Pam Wax Sarah Daniels

In memory of

MELVIN AND NAOMI SCHWARTZ ENDOWMENT

In memory of Lyubov Kutik Naomi Schwartz

SHIREI SHABBAT MUSIC EQUIPMENT FUND

In memory of Lyubov Kutik Diana Geller and Andy Geller

In memory of Nahomi Oncken Jan and Harvey Zimbler

SOUTH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

In memory of Beniamin Fribush Joanna and Ellis Fribush

SUMMER TENT FUND

In memory of Connie Lister Brenda and Fred Landes

> 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.

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 flynndagnoli@ albany.twbc.com.



Need to Say Kaddish?

We encourage people who want to say Kaddish to either:

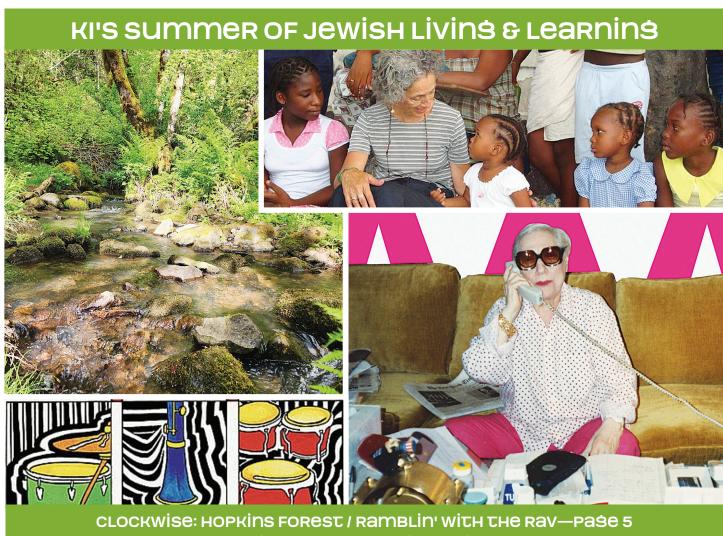
- (a) attend services in person.
- (b) watch a livestream service and say Kaddish along with the assembled minyan that can be seen and heard on screen.
- (c) participate in our Zoom services—Tuesday or Thursday evenings on a day close to the Yahrzeit—and say Kaddish.

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



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CLOCKWISE: HOPKINS FOREST / RAMBLIN' WITH THE RAV—PASE 5

DR. RUTH MESSINSER / SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE—PASE 7

KLEZMER CO. JAZZ ORCHESTRA—PASE 7 • BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL—PASE 9