



Kol K.L.

learn. inspire. grow. together.



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

A Joyous and Glorious Ascent

Harold Grinspoon Foundation awarded the 2020 Shapiro Prize for Philanthropic Collaboration —by Edward Udel



Arlene Schiff, Harold Grinspoon, his wife, Diane Troderman, Rabbi Abigail Treu, Tammy Dollin, and Dena Kaufman (Arlene, Tammy, and Dena are the Life and Legacy team).

Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb. —Winston Churchill

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life and Legacy® program, under the direction of Arlene D. Schiff, is leading Jews throughout North America on a glorious and joy-

ful climb. This program is elevating our hopes and dreams for a vibrant Jewish future, dramatically increasing the resources, financial and human, required by Jewish institutions and organizations to deliver it.

In a press release dated March 15, 2021, the Jewish Funders Network provides a succinct and clear explanation of Life and Legacy, identifying it as a "groundbreaking fundraising initiative with 71 philanthropic partners in Jewish communities throughout North America.

Launched in 2012, HGF's Life and Legacy envisions a future of vibrant, well-funded Jewish organizations and communities, with endowment funding available to provide critical support. Through Life and Legacy, HGF and its partners seek to capture the opportunity available to the Jewish community from the tremendous generational wealth transfer currently occurring.

Over the course of a four-year partnership, Life and Legacy provides training, support

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From the Editor

Passing the Blue Pencil

Susan Miller retires as Kol K.I. editor

I have had the pleasure of being the editor of KOL K.I. since Sylvia Stein, an extraordinary lady of blessed memory, gave me the nod to take over in January 2014. As of the June issue of KOL K.I., I will be resigning as your editor. I do this with a sad feeling. This disappears when I think of all that I have received in amazing personal gratification in this job.



As editor, I was first to hear the news from members of K.I. I learned, first hand, of our growth, changes, and all the details of life that happened in our vibrant synagogue. Even though I resided in Florida during the cold months, I was fortunate to keep in close contact with my team as we scrambled to meet the deadlines every month.

In the process of editing grammar, writing and rewriting articles, and cajoling our writers to turn in articles, I had the best co-editor possible in Nan Bookless. Without her and her experience, KOL K.I. would not have had the graphics and polish you have enjoyed. We worked under the guidance of Rabbi Weiner, whose monthly column always inspired. My go-to team included production artist Liz DeMarco, as well as regular contributors Diana Macfarlane, Myrna Hammerling, Phil Coleman, Elisa Snowise, Judith Weiner, and whoever was the congregation's president at the time.

Over the eight years, I was able to call on periodic contributors, including our presidents, Richie Simons and Len Schiller, who helped me without complaint. Other articles by various writers were submitted from time to time. Photos of our events came in as we needed them. Our printer, Aldam Press, and mail service, Zip 'n Sort, have been right there reliably each month. They were there for a last-minute change or a "rush" job to get the newsletter out on time.

Although I will not be your editor going forward, I thank you for all the fun, friendship, and joy of these past eight years.. —Susan Miller

From Rabbi David Weiner: Several years ago, Susan Miller accepted responsibility for being Kol K.I.'s editor. She had big shoes to fill, as Sylvia Stein, now of blessed memory, had retired after decades of editing. Susan rose to the challenge. Month in, month out, whether living in Pittsfield or in Miami Beach, Susan collected news and announcements and facilitated communication and publicity at Knesset Israel. She has never been further than a phone call or email away. Under her leadership, together with designers Nan Bookless and Liz DeMarco, Kol K.I. became more colorful and dynamic. I am grateful for Susan's dedication to this project and generosity with her time on behalf of our community.

From Richard Simon: Grace, dignity, and thoughtfulness are the words that come to my mind when I think of Susan Miller. She has brought those qualities to our monthly bulletin for the last seven years. In her quiet and unassuming manner, she has solicited articles and edited for clarity. Along with her talented creative team of Nan Bookless and Liz DeMarco, she has produced a bulletin that is informative and aesthetically pleasing. We cannot thank you enough, Susan, for your contributions over these past eight years.

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Note: Wendy Griswold will be interim editor beginning with the June 2021 issue.

From the Rabbi

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Why I give to the annual campaign

In the Berkshires Jewish community, May marks the beginning not just of spring but also of the annual campaign of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Our Jewish Federation links two important community activities—support and delivery of social services within the Jewish community and fundraising for worthy Jewish causes here and abroad, including Israel. It also connects us to each other and to the Jewish Federations of North America, helping us find our place in the wider American Jewish world. Furthermore, the leadership development that happens in our Federation continues to have a significant impact on other institutions in the region, both Jewish and civic.



Rabbi David Weiner

Giving...puts my dollars behind values I know to be important: caring for the elderly, building Jewish community, supporting Jewish education and camping, connecting with Israel and the Jewish world, and encouraging Jewish continuity.

My family and I are beneficiaries of the Jewish Federation's generosity. My children attend a Hebrew School in the Berkshires that receives grants from the allocations process. Even as the pandemic upended Knesset Israel's usual education programs, the Federation remained steadfast in its support. My children, together with many other Jewish students across the Berkshires, also receive scholarships to attend Ramah, Eisner, and other Jewish camps, where the Jewish leaders of tomorrow form relationships and commitments that will last a lifetime. During this year, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires redoubled its efforts to send children to camp.

The Federation helps Knesset Israel with programming through collaborations, co-sponsorships, and publicity in the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* and jewishberkshires.org. By convening regional rabbis and congregation presidents three times a year, the or-

KOL K.I. PUBLICATION NOTES

Editor: Susan Miller • Interim Editor: Wendy Griswold • Proofreader: Ellen Rosenblatt
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 & photographs **VIA EMAIL** to: Wendy Griswold
at deegriswold@gmail.com

IN-PERSON SERVICES ARE BACK

Knesset Israel has reopened synagogue services to in-person participation.

Livestreaming of services will continue. Should things change, we will keep you informed through email updates.

See page 4 for HOW TO attend services in person, as well as HOW TO ZOOM and LIVESTREAM.

ganization helps us communicate with each other. I respect how the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires finds places where we can work together. Recent efforts include joint online programming and support for livestreaming and improved security protocols. Ongoing projects like this include social services for seniors and families, the Connecting with Community/Nosh & Knowledge Lunch Programs, support for the PJ Library, the community calendar, and the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*.

As grateful as I am for all this, I recognize that my annual gift to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is not meant to repay what I receive from the organization. Rather, I make my donations for the same reason I choose to give to other not-for-profits. Giving to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires puts my dollars behind values I know to be important: caring for the elderly, building Jewish community, supporting Jewish education and camping, connecting with Israel and the Jewish world, and encouraging Jewish continuity. The broad mission and many of the specific programs of the Federation inspire me to support its work.

I know that, at K.I. I am far from alone in my support for the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Last year, a vast majority of Knesset Israel members participated in the organization's annual campaign. This year, let's resolve to raise that figure to 100%.

Clip & Save

Zoom & Livestream Cheat Sheet

for Services, Classes, and Programming

Knesset Israel makes every effort to keep ZOOM numbers consistent. For the most reliable updates go to knessetisrael.org and click on KI ShabbatCentral.

WELCOME BACK!

HOW TO ATTEND SERVICES IN PERSON IN THE K.I. SANCTUARY



If you have not attended services in person since the fall (or spring) of 2020, but would like to now, please get in touch with Diana to let her know you will be attending.

Those who participate in person are required to comply with synagogue policies and State laws, including health self-checks, social distancing, masks, hand hygiene, and travel regulations.

It is helpful but not necessary for people to sign up at padlet.com/knessetisrael/MakeAMinyan before they attend services in person.

HOW TO ZOOM

- 1. Go to **Zoom.us** at the announced time.
 - 2. Click "join a meeting"
 - 3. Enter the Zoom ID number
- 4. If asked, give Zoom permission to use your camera and microphone.

HOW TO LIVESTREAM

Option 1

- Download the **Boxcast app** on your Roku, AppleTV, or Kindle Fire TV
- Open the app and search for the Knesset Israel channel. You may view current and past recordings.

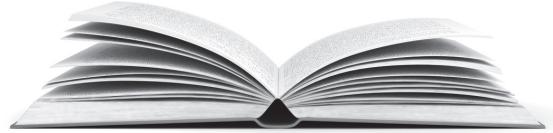
Option 2

- Go to knessetisrael.org/livestream at the announced time.
 - You may need to press the "play" button that appears on screen.
 - On that page you will find suggestions for improving your experience.
 - Watch and sing along.

Because COVID guidelines change often, K.I.'s scheduling can also change on very short notice. For up-to-date information go to:

knessetisrael.org and click on **KI Shabbat Central** (at bottom of home page)

Updates are made every Thursday for the following week.



Adult Education Classes

■ TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK with Myrna Hammerling

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.
May 4, 11, 25 (no class May 18/Shavuot)

Study the Torah Portion of the Week through the lens of scholars and commentaries. Myrna Hammerling continues her insightful approaches to seeking wisdom for our own day from these ancient stories and laws. Try it! You may really like it!

ZOOM ID: 851-6320-8966

■ BEYOND DISPUTE with Rabbi David Weiner

Every Thursday morning 10:45 a.m.
ZOOM ID: 863-269-457

■ MUSSAR with Rabbi Pamela Wax

Sundays 9:30-11 a.m.
For registered participants only. The class is at capacity and is not accepting new students at this time.
May 16, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8

save THE DATES!

■ LIVESTREAM THEATER:

IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL—A ONE WOMAN SHOW

based on the highly-acclaimed book by Amos Oz and adapted for the stage by Israeli actor and playwright TAMIR
Sunday, April 25 7:30 p.m.
WATCH any day, any time, as often as you wish thru May 31st!

■ ZOOM TALK-BACK EVENING WITH TAMIR & GUESTS

Wednesday, May 19 7:30 p.m.

SEE FULL DETAILS ON PAGES 10 AND 11

May & Shavuot 2021 Calendar



May Service Schedule:

■ TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENING DAVENING

Includes mourner's Kaddish

No Service Tuesday May 18 (see Shavuot above)

ZOOM 7:00 p.m.

Zoom ID # 934-910-554

■ KABBALAT SHABBAT / FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES

LIVESTREAM & *IN PERSON* 5:45 p.m.

May 7, 14, 21 (No Service May 28)

■ SHABBAT / SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES

LIVESTREAM & *IN PERSON* 9:30 a.m.

■ SUNDAY MORNING DAVENING

Includes mourner's Kaddish

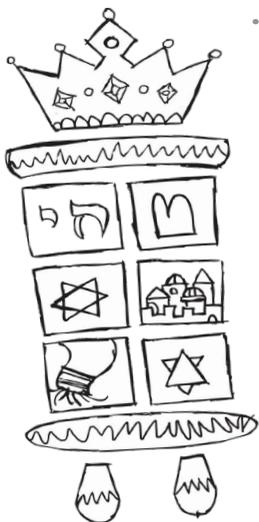
LIVESTREAM & *IN PERSON* 8:45 a.m.



Candle Lighting

MAY CANDLE LIGHTING:

Friday, April 30	7:33 p.m.
Friday, May 7.....	7:41 p.m.
Friday, May 14	7:48 p.m.
Sunday, May 16.....	7:50 p.m.
Monday, May 1	8:52 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18.....	8:53 p.m.
Friday, May 21	7:55 p.m.
Friday, May 28	8:02 p.m.



Shavuot

EVENING OF SUNDAY, MAY 16 THROUGH THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, MAY 18

Shavuot is the two-day festival that celebrates the anniversary of the giving of the Torah. K.I. will hold joyous services both mornings of the holiday. On Monday we will chant the Ten Commandments and on Tuesday we will recite Yizkor.

Shavuot Morning Services

■ Monday, May 17 9:30 a.m.

■ Tuesday, May 18 9:30 a.m.

(Yizkor no earlier than 10:15 a.m.)

IN PERSON & Livestream: knesetisrael.org/livestream



On this day, the Children of Israel are transformed into a living, breathing nation, on their journey to the one land they will forever be able to call home.

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature, and G-d.

—Diary of Anne Frank

What was a great idea for a few communities...has now become a national success story run by Arlene Schiff at HGF. —Gideon Bernstein

A Joyous and Glorious Ascent

continued from page 1



Arlene Schiff

and monetary incentives to motivate Jewish organizations to secure after-lifetime commitments, often referred to as 'planned giving' or 'legacy giving,' from their most loyal donors in order to build their endowments.

The program's top goals and priorities are to 1) transform the philanthropic culture of the North American Jewish community so that legacy giving becomes the norm; 2) incorporate legacy giving and strong stewardship practices into Jewish organizational culture; 3) develop camaraderie and respect among Jewish organizations to share the goal of legacy building for the entire community; and 4) provide all donors with the opportunity to be philanthropists by giving them the chance to do something significant for valued organizations that they might never have thought possible."

As stand-alone objectives, these are indeed impressive. But even more impressive is the fact that the Life and Legacy program has helped to activate them in more than 71 communities. Thoughtful words have been converted into powerful actions. Partnering organizations report unprecedented success in accomplishing all of them, and donors have written many letters to the Grinspoon Foundation expressing their great satisfaction at having found a way to make a significant difference in shaping the future of their cherished Jewish organizations.

Why has the Jewish Funders Network focused their attention on Life and Legacy? They have awarded the program, and by extension, the Grinspoon Foundation with the **2020 Shapiro Prize for Philanthropic Collaboration**. According to Arlene D. Schiff, *"the Shapiro Prize, awarded biennially by the Jewish Funders Network, recognizes alliances of forward-thinking Jewish funders who collaborate to have an impact on their chosen fields of interest. It was established in honor of JFN founding board member, Sidney Shapiro, who died in 2007, and who was regarded as one of the leading lights of American Jewish philanthropy."*

Since its creation in 2012, Life and Legacy has established 71 partnerships that have helped to obtain after-life commitments from 29,000 donors totaling more than 1 billion dollars. This is an astounding accomplishment for Arlene and the two legacy community consultants who comprise her staff. Their four-year curriculum to train and support those who commit to the program is brilliantly conceived. Under normal circumstances, Arlene and her team regularly travel to more than 60 cities in North America.

While these achievements are extraordinary, the Jewish Funders Network cites the *"unexpected byproduct of deep collaboration amongst local community organizations who previously 'competed' or didn't communicate; mutual support between Jewish community foundations and federations across the country; the seeding of new creative scalable initiatives in various communities and most notably becoming a program that helped make Jewish community foundations become much more relevant to their donor bases."*

JFN also credits the Life and Legacy as *"a role model, an inspirational story of funders building long-term, multi-pronged collaborations to address critical issues in the community."* Gideon Bernstein, chair of an Orange County California collaborative

Kol K.I.

that has partnered with Life and Legacy, had this to say about the experience: "What was a great idea for a few communities with success in solving the never-ending challenge of endowing their local Jewish partners has now become a national success story run by Arlene Schiff at HGF."

Prior to taking on the leadership of Life and Legacy in 2013, Arlene served as CEO of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. It should come as no surprise that she brought this program to the attention of the Federation board and it voted to partner with the Grinspoon Foundation to secure a more viable future. The effort continues under the leadership of Dara Kaufman, who has done a remarkable job of increasing the number of campaign dollars and expanding programming and services. In the *Bershire Jewish Voice*, you will find a list of those who have committed to an after-life gift to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. My wife, Lisa, and I are included. Our modest commitment makes us feel valued and part of something special. I thank Arlene for giving us that gift and I am grateful that she has chosen to use her extraordinary talents to shape a brighter future for the Jewish people on a national scale.



Gideon Bernstein and Harold Grinspoon

Arlene and the program she leads have conducted a fruitful climb into the future on a path that is never-ending and changing. But the need for financial resources to support our cherished Jewish organizations is a constant to which Arlene has committed. May future generations reap the full benefit of her joyful journey. May she and the Grinspoon Foundation be lifted up by the love, respect, and pride of our grateful congregation.

L'dor V'dor

“from generation to generation”

...means that we learn from the past in order to create a future. We are merely temporary characters in the huge story of life.

Our loved ones teach us and set an example for us and we carry it forward as best we can.

—David Gregory



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

•
Call Naomi Schwartz at
413-841-0006.

אֵינְנִי הֵנִי

Our best
response.

God's first call to
human beings.

Hineni Ayeka
Here I am. Where are 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 flynnagnoli@albany.twcbc.com.

CARE COMMITTEE

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

Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs



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
 Beam with new insights
 Seek guides to the unfamiliar
 Nourish mind, heart, and soul



together.

Supportive calls to other members
 K.I. Cares to help during illness
 Make a minyan



visit
knessetisrael.org
 for opportunities

Birthdays

yom huledet sameach

- Maya Dahari May 1
- Barry Leeper May 2
- Burton Edelstein May 3
- Evie Cook-Dubin May 3
- Jill Wollins May 4
- Howie Fuhrman May 5
- Roselyn Kolodny May 6
- Eric Glaberson May 6
- Alice Schiller May 6
- Alberta Gerschel May 6
- Dana Caleb Sebestyen May 6
- Kendall Lamm May 7
- Dorothy Margolin May 9
- Adele Cukor May 11
- Ellen Rosenblatt May 12
- Kayla Bellmore May 12
- Jeffrey Cook May 13
- Gary Schecter May 13
- Gail Weis May 14
- Suzanne Woller May 14
- Robert Sutter May 14
- Joseph Weiner May 14
- Anna Yantovsky May 16
- Robert Ferren May 17
- Anthony Segal May 21
- Barbara Hayden May 21
- David Weiner May 21
- Beth Kruvant May 22
- Heidi Ferren May 22
- Norman Moskowitz May 23
- Shelley Berend May 24
- Joel Prives May 25
- Mark Snowise May 26
- Roberta Smith May 27
- Sharon Karlin May 27
- Roger Kruvant May 28
- Morton Taubin May 30
- Evelyn Zwerner May 31

Anniversaries

yom nisuyim sameach

- Jonathan and Lara Denmark May 4
- Allan and Nan Lipton May 8
- Sergey and Natalya Yantovsky May 18
- Cindy and David Bell-Deane May 24
- Jane and Alex Rosen May 24
- Thomas Sebestyen and Leslie Fishbein May 26
- Rick and Renee Robbins May 27
- David and Janet Rothstein May 27
- David and Lea Finck May 28
- Edwin and Roselyn Kolodny May 31



Your community wants to share in your good news. Send KOL K.I. interim editor Wendy Griswold the details about any happy news we can celebrate with you. Wendy Griswold: deegriswold@gmail.com. High-resolution photographs welcome.

From the President

Our Ticket To Holiness

Look to the future with faith and optimism

Quite frankly, every time I hear of someone who is choosing not to get the COVID vaccine (other than for medical reasons), I am perplexed. If there is something we can do that potentially could prevent even one person from getting sick, should not that be the end of the question? I came to the conclusion that my views come from my Jewish DNA.



Richard Simons

As Jews, we are inculcated with the value of caring for our neighbor. We are a communal people that continue to strive to achieve a world based on justice, compassion, and caring. Our rituals surrounding life cycle events, Shabbat and holiday observance, and learning, are rooted in the community.

During the last Shabbat of April, we read parashat Kedoshim. In that portion, G-d instructs us to be holy. Interestingly enough, we are not holy simply because we are born Jewish. Being born into the Jewish people does not provide a ticket for holiness. Instead, we reach holiness by our actions—by revering our parents, by caring for the widow, by treating the disabled with dignity, by providing for those who need our help, and by dealing with people honestly.

Our shul community represents all of those values. We care for each other. We place an importance on our communal health and welfare.

These are the values that continue to inspire and guide us each day.

I pray that the vaccination rate in our community continues to grow so that we can be together in person again.

Enjoy the Berkshire spring! Hope to see you soon on Colt Road.

Passing The Blue Pencil

continued from page 2

From Deb Guinan: I produced KOL K.I., working with editor Sylvia Stein from 2001 until she retired in 2014. At that time, Susan came on board. My first thought was that she had really big shoes to fill, since Sylvia and I worked together like a well-oiled machine. Susan hit the ground running and was quickly up to speed, working with me to produce the newsletter. She didn't miss a beat. Her attention to detail, great organizational skills, and creative eye were key in getting KOL K.I. published on time each month. I enjoyed her calm manner, thoughtfulness, and kindness as we worked together until early 2017. Congratulations, Susan, on a well-deserved retirement from KOL K.I. All the best to you. Enjoy!

From Liz DeMarco: I have not only had the pleasure of working with Susan on KOL K.I. over the past few years, but I have also had the honor of designing her website, susanmillerarts.com, featuring her incredible artwork. In her capacity as editor of the bulletin, her quick wit and dry sense of humor often made me laugh out loud—which was no small feat given KOL K.I.'s often tight deadlines. And as an artist, I was (and still am) in awe of her amazing talent. In fact, I am the proud owner of a Susan Miller print that graces my living room. Congratulations on your retirement Susan, and here's to your next creative endeavor!

From Nan Bookless: I have worked with the unflappable Susan Miller for 4 of the 8 years she has been editor of KOL K.I. It is not easy to make transitions when you work intimately with a small team, but Susan did so with grace as she, Liz, and I traversed the changes in the bulletin's design, production, and team. I say unflappable because Susan was/is the perfect Zen to my high strung Nanxiety. There is built-in stress in gathering content, editing, and producing a printed piece on deadline, and Susan was the calming, quiet force that helped keep things flowing and in perspective. She is also a thorough, timely, and respectful editor. As mentioned above, Susan brought her tasteful aesthetic, thoughtful perspective, and much appreciated dry humor into the mix. Thank you, Susan, for your years of service to KOL K.I. L'chaim!

Blessed are you, Eternal our G-d,
Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us,
and for enabling us to reach this season.

Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Mel ekh ha-olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiymanu, v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.





Shavuot & Paper Cutting

A forgotten art form

When I first met the wonderful American Jewish poet Marge Piercy, she asked me about Shavuot and paper cutting. Someone had sent her a piece of paper cut art and the gift evoked old memories of her grandmother's holiday observances.

There is an undeniable human impulse to beautify—to adorn and embellish things that we hold dear. I've come to realize that investing energy and resources to make things aesthetically pleasing can be deeply spiritual—so that our values become visible from the outside.

In Judaism, we call this *hiddur mitzvah*, the beautification of a commandment. One way that Ashkenazi Jews beautified their homes for Shavuot was by creating and displaying paper cuttings. Called in Yiddish, *shevuoslakh* (or *shavuosl*) and *royzalakh* (or *raizelach*—literally meaning little Shavuots and little roses. In her poem, *Snowflakes, my mother called them*, Piercy recalls, "Grandma tacked hers/ to the walls or on window/ that looked on the street/ the east window where the sun/ rose hidden behind the tenements"—with the rising sun evoking the rose of the Shavuot *raizelach*.

Paper cutting was not unique to Shavuot. But for Ashkenazi Jews, there was a particular link between paper cutting and Shavuot, which stems from an old practice of decorating homes and synagogues with flowers, branches, boughs and trees. In *shtetl* culture, cut flowers were a luxury—pricy and perishable. And Jewish culture was deeply literate, so paper—especially used paper—was always around and available for artistic repurposing.

Most striking, however, is the disappearance of this Shavuot folk custom with the 20th-century movement of Jewish populations to North America. Piercy reflects, "I had lost it all/ until a woman sent me a papercut ... and then/ in my hand I felt a piece of the past/ materialize, a snowflake long melted,/ evaporated, cohering ... once/ again ... made of skill and absence."

—by Sara Horowitz; edited from *Canadian Jewish News* (May 23, 2017)

Above: Detail of papercutting by Naomi Shiek, woodlandpapercuts.com

TAMIR & Guests

Zoom Talkback:

The guests, the link, the how-tos

If you have been reading KOL K.I. for the last several months, you probably are aware of the theatrical performance *In the Land of Israel—A One Woman Show*, which began its Livestream debut on April 25, and will be available for viewing through May 31. The poster on the next page outlines the particulars of this exciting community event.

On Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m., there will be a free talkback evening with TAMIR, her friend/guest Samuel "Mooly" Dinnar, and Albert Stern, editor of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*.

You might be wondering how TAMIR chose her characters and developed her interpretations of them, or about her appearances with author Amos Oz. We are sure you have many insightful comments and questions.

Submit questions by email to astern@jewishberkshires.org by Tuesday May 18.

For a link to the talkback, visit knessetisrael.org/amosozplay

Samuel "Mooly" Dinnar is an instructor at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School and a lecturer on Engineering Leadership at MIT, with a 30-year track record as a global hi-tech executive. He is the founder of Meedance, providing training, consulting, and dispute resolution services to businesses and individuals. Dinnar is Boston-born, with years of experience working across cultures and teaching around the world. He holds degrees in aerospace engineering and computer sciences from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, and is a lover of literature and theater in both English and Hebrew. He is also an affiliated instructor with Shakespeare and Company. (www.samueldinnar.com)

• DON'T MISS THIS LIVESTREAMED THEATRICAL EVENT! •



TAMIR

more about TAMIR at actressTAMIR.com

IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

a one-woman show

based on the highly-acclaimed book by Amos Oz and adapted for the stage by Israeli actor and playwright TAMIR this performance was pre-recorded at Knesset Israel

TAMIR has recreated a stunning and sensitive portrayal of six diverse 1980s Israeli women: a Zionist farmer, a religious zealot, a Catholic nun, an Israeli right-wing extremist, a Palestinian Arab, and an Eastern European immigrant. All of their stories are real. TAMIR will take the viewers on a journey through Israel's human landscape as she transforms from one character to another right in front of us.



Viewing is free, unlimited, and open to the entire Jewish community starting

SUNDAY, APRIL 25 • 7:30 PM

WATCH any day, any time, as often as you wish through May 31

ZOOM TALK-BACK evenings WITH TAMIR & GUESTS

Wednesday, May 19 • 7:30 PM

Information about registration, how to submit questions, and more can be found in the May-June Berkshire Jewish Voice and in your synagogue's publication.

▼ HOW TO WATCH ▼

- View from several sources: 1) On the K.I. website: knessetisrael.org/amosozplay;
2) On K.I.'s TV channel (Roku/Kindle Fire TV/Apple TV/Boxcast App)—search through the feed to find it;
3) On K.I.'s Livestream page: knessetisrael.org/livestream—search through the feed to find it.



This event is made possible through a generous grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation & sponsorships by Knesset Israel, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, & Temple Anshe Amunim.

Of Interest

Wheels for Wellness Rolls Out

Drive neighbors to vaccinations and health appointments



Knesset Israel is a founding organization of and has active members in the Berkshire Interfaith Organization (BIO). Bio needs your help in order to launch one of our signature actions—Wheels for Wellness. The program connects volunteer drivers with neighbors who need a ride to health-related activities, including vaccination.

One of the great injustices in our community is widely unequal access to transportation, especially for getting to the doctor or clinic. We all now have direct action that we can take to address this—and we're ready to roll once we have drivers in place.

The opportunity and mitzvah to drive is open to anyone who is fully vaccinated for COVID and between the ages of 55 and 80 years old. Riders can be of any age. Masks will be required until the pandemic is officially deemed to be over. Mileage reimbursement is available for those who want it.

There is a pent-up demand for this service, so the more drivers the better. Drivers at similar programs across the state report how satisfying it is to help others in this way and how much they appreciate getting to connect with new people in their communities.

Please call 413-395-0109 to learn more or to sign up.

The program is a collaboration of BIO, Berkshire Community Action Council, Berkshire Fallon Health Cooperative, Berkshire Health Systems, Community Health Programs, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. That's how needed and important this project is for our community.

Notices & Updates

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

Help alleviate food insecurity. K.I.'s Social Justice committee has been working closely with South Congregational Church to deliver food. We have a constant, pressing need for more people who can drive every week and for people who can commit to helping out occasionally when extra hands are needed. Deliveries are on Mondays at 11:30 a.m. They take about an hour, and masks are required. For more information email Nancy Cook at splynter100@gmail.com.

The K.I. Shabbat Central website is live. Visit knessetisrael.com and click on "KI Shabbat Central" at the bottom of the home page. You will find candle lighting times, updated information about accessing services, prayer and yahrzeit lists, Torah readings, links to Divrei Torah, e-Siddur download, and more. Think of it as a Shabbat Announcement Book optimized for the web.

Submit a musing! 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.

For the time being, please do not call the K.I. office and leave messages. They will not be retrieved in a timely manner. Instead, email office@knessetisrael.org, as this is currently the best way to communicate with Diana.

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



No one has ever
become poor
by giving

—Anne Frank

SUPER TZEDAKAH WEEK

2021 Community Campaign Kickoff - May 23-28

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY!

Your gift to the Jewish Federation's 2021 Community Campaign – whatever it is you can give – will help bring dignity and care to the vulnerable and elderly, build and strengthen the Jewish identity of our children and young adults, support vital community programs, and create meaningful Jewish life across the Berkshires and beyond.



Three easy ways to make a gift:

- Respond to the solicitation sent to your home.
- Pledge or donate online at jewishberkshires.org.
- Call Federation at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10 or email federation@jewishberkshires.org and they will record your pledge and send you a confirmation.

Thank you for making a difference!

Dignity Drive – Combat Feminine Hygiene & Incontinence Poverty

Bring dignity to a neighbor in need by dropping off new packaged menstrual and incontinence products at the following locations between May 1-28 to be distributed to local food banks and social service organizations.

- The Co-op Market, Great Barrington
- Concepts of Art, Lenox
- Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Pittsfield
- Williams College Bookstore, Williamstown



Get the Scoop... Jewish Community Day

High Lawn Farm, Sunday, May 23 from 1-3 p.m.

Enjoy free homemade ice cream and fun for ages 0-99! Explore the farm, meet the cows, check out the artisanal cheese shop and learn the history of this Berkshire gem all in a socially distanced outdoor setting. PJ Library story time, farm craft, and hula hoop fun for the young and young at heart. Rain Date June 6.

Register for these events at jewishberkshires.org

Mitzvah Madness LIVE! May 23 at 5 p.m.

Grab the kids and grandkids to explore all the ways they can make the world a better place. This virtual but interactive program with *mainstages* theater will stretch their imaginations, and get their bodies moving. PJ Library families will receive an at home mitzvah project as well!



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Spotlight On

Jonathan Denmark

The evolution of a musician—a conversation with Phil Coleman



Jonathan Denmark performing at K.I. and with wife, Lara Denmark, at a K.I. Purim event.

Please welcome my very good friend and musical cohort, Jonathan Denmark! Jon was the first person I interviewed five years ago when I started this column for Kol K.I. I thought it would be great to visit with him again as so much has transpired with music at K.I. and in Jon's own musical growth.

ties, such as Livestream and Zoom. How has technology changed and improved upon what we do with music at Knesset Israel?

Jon: We quickly learned that singing together or playing musical instruments over Zoom was impossible. I credit Rabbi Weiner for envisioning the Livestream setup, and the powerful impact it had during the pandemic. In fact, it's because of the Livestream and high-tech sound system that we were able to put on the incredible Chanukah concert this year. I was so proud of that event. It raised thousands of dollars for the Hebrew School and was performed just as COVID numbers were starting to peak again in December. The timing was perfect and people were ready for an uplifting experience. That exceeded all of my expectations. Having high quality sound and video actually provides us with an opportunity to reach people in new and creative ways. It is absolutely critical to lean on the technology, when appropriate, to reach people where they are, even after the pandemic.

Hi Jon! It's been a wonderful and ever-evolving decade plus of our signature Purim concerts. I know I've been part of every one except the very first, and it's a thrill every year. Our virtual Purim this year was terrific and the band really rose to the occasion. We have a lot of great memories of Purims past. Take us through a few of your favorite Purim highlights, the concerts themselves, or even some of the best songs over the years.

Jon: The Purim concerts are, by far, my favorite nights of the year at K.I. A lot of work goes into these concerts: literally months of picking songs, lyric writing, learning music, and rehearsing. I think, for all of the band members over the years, it's also one of the most exciting events for them. Every year, when we play the last note, we are already talking about a theme for next year. It's actually interesting that one of the last events held at K.I. before we shut down due to COVID was the 2020 Purim concert. So, it was a bit depressing that a year has gone by and we had to come up with a plan for the concert this year. *Songs of Strength* was born as a way to continue to satisfy the musicians' need to exercise their creativity and provide an uplifting experience for the community. Each year has its highlights. I loved covering *The Beach Boys*, as it was so accessible for congregants of all ages. I really enjoyed the challenge of taking on Michael Jackson. My favorite was the two-set Woodstock concert we pulled off. I loved every moment of that one.

Music at K.I. has really come a long way from those first baby steps, and includes a lot of technical upgrades—a new sound system, and now some very modern necessi-

Your own musical journey just keeps getting better. What are you listening to

Spotlight On

and playing these days outside of synagogue music?

Jon: I have had an amazing musical journey during the pandemic. The world slowed down so much last spring. I saw a development occurring in the world of live music. People were beginning to play Livestream concerts on Facebook and YouTube. You could watch a live concert and communicate with a community through social media as the concert was happening. I was very intrigued, and with a bit of time on my hands, I started playing Facebook Live concerts, called *The Living Room Sessions*. Every other Saturday, in the spring, I would play a concert. I wrote new music, dusted off originals that I wrote more than 20 years ago, and covered a lot of unique artists. My concerts were full of digital looping, layered effects, and a lot of improvisation. I hadn't had the time to focus on my own music like that for years. It was amazing. I wrote a song for my kids, called *Alone Together*, that was recognized and featured in a local event—the Berkshire United Way Help-a-Thon.

You are a multi-instrumentalist—guitar, keyboard, mandolin, and even some banjo last year. Your vocals have really matured and you are a fine songwriter, too. What's on the agenda for the future—any new projects, ideas, or gear coming up?

Jon: For about a year before the pandemic I was studying 5-string banjo and exploring a ton of bluegrass music. I've always played bluegrass-style guitar and have written several bluegrass songs, but this really got me into the music of Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs. I've also been listening to a ton of *The Grateful Dead* music, and that inspired me to cover a Dead song for the *Songs of Strength* virtual Purim concert. I've been recording keyboards on a friend's blues album, which has been a lot of fun. But I also continue to find opportunities to play music and create productions at K.I.

I'll be looking forward to bringing the K.I. community together through music quite frequently when we are permitted to gather again in larger numbers. And it's interesting that you asked about gear. I am actually in the process of working with Martin Guitars, designing a custom acoustic/electric guitar. We are picking out woods, components, electronics, and many other options to build a beautiful instrument that will fit my playing style and hopefully sound great in the K.I. sanctuary!

You have also learned to expertly lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service we do for Shirei Shabbat. How important is Jewish and synagogue life to you both musically and personally?

Jon: Well, "expertly" may be a stretch, but I enjoy leading Kabbalat Shabbat. I led a few times over Zoom this year and that translated to the Livestream. I prefer others to lead—that allows me to focus on high quality music and singing, but it's been nice to learn the service leader role. Music and the community are what connect me to synagogue life. I consider myself culturally Jewish. I love the holidays, rituals, gathering with friends and family, and celebrating Jewish traditions. I also participate on the Cemetery and Budget Committees, two areas that are meaningful to me. I love watching my children grow while learning Jewish values from the amazing Hebrew School teachers.

Speaking of Shirei Shabbat, it's still the most popular draw at K.I. We've added musicians of all ages and the talent level remains superb. It's been an amazing run, close to 100 services by now. It's still a thrill to play with this group, and the music is always fresh. What do you see for the future and how can we bring in some of our younger members to this dynamic group?

Jon: Every time we gather for Shirei Shabbat and enjoy a community dinner after the service, I am completely calm and satisfied. It's an amazing tradition, and I can't wait to get back to enjoying those monthly gatherings. You have done an amazing job at pulling in different leaders and musicians and always keeping it fresh. I think we do have a few younger musicians who are ready to join the Shirei Shabbat rotation. I've tried to engage them a bit over the past couple of years. Keep your eye out for Joe Weiner and Reese Cook-Dubin, and check out their performances on piano and violin during the Chanukah concert. We are really very lucky. There are so many incredible musicians and vocalists in this small congregation. It's so rewarding and it feels great when you hear people mention that we are the synagogue in the Berkshires with the amazing music! I'm really optimistic for our future.

I'm very optimistic, too, Jon. This was a great interview. Thanks, old friend.

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.

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G-d is closest to those with
broken hearts.

—Jewish Proverb



19 IYAR - MAY 1

Abraham J. Swirsky

20 IYAR - MAY 2

David Landa
Matilda Novick
Milton Seaman
Harry Haselkorn

21 IYAR - MAY 3

Jean Ruth Goldstein
Isadore Goodheartz
Emanuel Cohen

22 IYAR - MAY 4

Bruce Bookless
Shifra Perlman
Ana Rosner
George Slaminsky
Irene Staskin
Molly Rosenshein
Irving Wolfe
Abram Kuskin
David Nissenbaum

23 IYAR - MAY 5

Hyman Less
Evelyn Tigges
Sophie Mandel
Abigail Toby Landa
Shlomo Martin
Anna Samel
Molly Battle

24 IYAR - MAY 6

Emma Gilbert
Abraham Katz
Maurice S. Marmulstein
William Ovitsky
Norman Palefsky
William S. Altman
Louis B. Horowitz

25 IYAR - MAY 7

Paul Mandel
Fannie Shalett
Jennie Jaffee

26 IYAR - MAY 8

Risa Graubard
Esther Honigsbaum

27 IYAR - MAY 9

Howard Wax
Sylvia B. Bookless
Samuel L. Rosenberg
Jacob Jack Cohen
Diane Reife
Annie Meiowitz
Gustave Secunda

28 IYAR - MAY 10

Reba Kaufman

29 IYAR - MAY 11

Sadye Sokolove
Vladimir Zeygerman
David Miller
Helen Miller
Stanford Gogel

1 SIVAN - MAY 12

Selma Lebenbaum
Theresa Levinson

2 SIVAN - MAY 13

Joseph Strul
Meyer Paskowitz
Anne Cohen
James Weisberg
Alexander Hirshberg
Harold Marks
Helen Krawet

3 SIVAN - MAY 14

Max Morgenstein
Marion Kahn
Anna Fainer Bookless
Violet Schottenfeld
Ida Edelstein
Arthur Rosenstock
Henrietta Garbowitz
Stanley Fishman

4 SIVAN - MAY 15

Doris Levine
Arthur Green
David Zuckerman
Ida Klein
Sidney Schlichter
William Abramowitz
Mary Garbowitz

5 SIVAN - MAY 16

Jerome Goldenberg
Edythe Rosenthal
Laeita Israelite
Anna Levinson Brochin
Udell Rudnick
Ethel Krancer
Ida M. Braun

6 SIVAN - MAY 17

Ida Pill
Norman M. Israelite
Minerva Alperin
Jacob Rosenblatt

7 SIVAN - MAY 18

Harry Green
Mary Kay

8 SIVAN - MAY 19

Lester Wax
Norman Rosenthal
Bettie Skole Kravetz
Katherine Johnson
Bentze Rozenblyum
Morris Secunda

14 SIVAN - MAY 25

Fannie Abramowitz
Albert Bashevkin
Israel Boxer
Beatrice Safran
David Minsky

15 SIVAN - MAY 26

Rose Kauderer
Rose Freeman
Isabelle Kosberg
Benjamin Rosenthal

16 SIVAN - MAY 27

Pauline Weinstein
Arthur Zuckerman
Lillian Schechter
Samuel Adelson
Abraham Samuel
Flashner

17 SIVAN - MAY 28

Etta Stoll
Gertrude Wiederkehr
Jerome Frank
Herbert Lebowitz

18 SIVAN - MAY 29

Marian Liverman
Adelle Goldblum

19 SIVAN - MAY 30

Ralph Levine
Stanley Shapiro
Sarah G. Cohen
Sarah Katsh
Elizabeth Lipson

20 Sivan - May 31st,
2021

Irving Bashevkin
Chaim Levin
Samuel Feldstein
Dave Goodheartz
Linda Wood
Bessie Gorfinkle

9 SIVAN - MAY 20

Larry Dubin
Herman Wolk
Alan Lipton
Goldie Kraushar
Joseph Weiser
Norma Bell

10 SIVAN - MAY 21

Beckie Doz
Harry Aronovitz
Alfred Kornbluth
Gertrude Jaffe Rispler
Fae Model

11 SIVAN - MAY 22

Rabbi Avraham Soltes
Eric Weeks
Marsha Weltman
Robert Lewis
Dr. Howard Kanner
Serena Lefkowitz
Bernard Udel
Anna Lovitt Levine

12 SIVAN - MAY 23

Rebecca Stern
Ethel Bergman
Chaina Gold
Ira Milstein

13 SIVAN - MAY 24

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We welcome contributions in any amount. Contributions of less than \$5 are not publicized.

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In honor of all the volunteers who worked so well together to make the hamantashen fundraiser a great success in this challenging year of the Covid 19 pandemic

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We would appreciate your donations of new or gently-used, clean children's clothing (sizes up to "Youth Extra Large").



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