



• CHANGES • SUPPORT & CARING • KI ENVISIONS • TZEDAKAH • GRATITUDE •

# Kol K.L.

learn. inspire. grow. together.



November 2022  
Tishrei / Chesvan 5783

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

## Kneset Israel Pilots Jewish Theological Seminary Initiative: *Finding Comfort & Renewal in Jewish Sources—November 18 & 19*

Kneset Israel welcomes Rabbi Naomi Kalish, Director of the Center for Pastoral Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, to teach the congregation on November 18-19, 2022. Selected to pilot JTS' Pastoral Education Shabbat: Hayei Sarah: Finding Comfort and Renewal in Jewish Sources, Kneset Israel has chosen to build the initiative into a weekend celebrating the ways individuals in our community care for and support each other. We are excited to welcome Berkshire Minyan participants throughout the weekend, especially on Friday evening.

Over the past ten years, Kneset Israel has partnered with the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring extraordinary Jewish Studies scholars to the Berkshires in July and August. This pilot program with the Center for Pastoral Education represents a broadening of that connection and its extension beyond the summer season.

**Hayei Sarah: Finding Comfort and Renewal in Jewish Sources** is designed to



*Rabbi Naomi Kalish*

foster caring connections in communities, using Jewish traditions and texts as sources of consolation and healing. The weekend includes inspiring presentations by Rabbi Kalish on themes related to visiting the sick and building a caring community, musical services, blessings for those who engage in these important mitzvot, and delicious communal meals.

### Schedule and Registration

The schedule for the weekend includes:

#### Friday night—Nov. 18 / 5:45 p.m.

- **Musical Minyan**
- **Shabbat dinner**  
\$20/adult, children free.  
Reservations required. Register at [knesetisrael.org/rsvp](http://knesetisrael.org/rsvp) by Monday, November 14
- **Presentation by Rabbi Naomi Kalish**

#### Saturday morning—Nov. 19 / 9:30 a.m.

- **Shabbat morning services**
- **D'var Torah by Rabbi Naomi Kalish**
- **Kiddush Luncheon** (no charge)

For more information, contact Kneset Israel at (413) 445-4872 or [office@knesetisrael.org](mailto:office@knesetisrael.org). All are welcome.

*Community Shabbat dinners at KI are supported by a Rekindle Shabbat grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.*

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איכה הנני

Our best response. G-d's first call to human beings.

Hineni Ayeka

Here I am. Where are you?

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learn. inspire. grow. together.

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## From the Editor

### KOL K.I. in Transition

*A farewell from...*

With the seasons changing and 5783 upon us, transition is a theme of the times. A few months ago, Nan Bookless, our graphic designer/production maven, approached the Rabbi and me with her decision to retire from KOL K.I. Not long afterward, Phil Coleman, innovator and interviewer for our/his Spotlight On column, also announced his retirement. We will miss his elegant writing style, wit, and wisdom.

Nan will work on production for the next few months, but we will have limited content. You will notice that this issue and the combined December/January issue are smaller than usual. We will use this time to assess KOL K.I. as part of the totality of KI communications, and hopefully transition to a new production team. Please participate in the community conversations, KI Envisions (see page 5 for dates and times) to express your opinions about this subject.

This and the next issue will bring you announcements from the Rabbi, his column, the President's column, Member Mitzvahs, our calendar of candle lighting, services, classes, events, and yahrzeits, and acknowledgments of donations. Any news not included here will come to you in the weekly K.I. E-News.

Let me say to Nan, it has been a privilege to work with such a talented colleague who is both creative and generous with her time and energy. Kol K.I. will be a different publication without her. I am grateful for the opportunity we had to collaborate.

—Dee Griswold

And now, a few words from the mavens themselves ...

#### From Nan:

Dear KOL K.I. readers,

After much thought, I have decided to step down from my position at KOL K.I. Six years ago, KI hired my business, BookMarc Creative (co-owned by Liz DeMarco and me), to redesign the synagogue's logo and collateral. At that time, we designed and produced this bulletin with the talented Susan Miller as editor. Four years ago, I retired from my graphic design career and took over full responsibility for the look, feel, and production of our little publication. When Susan retired, Dee Griswold graciously stepped in as editor.

Monthly publications tie one to a strict schedule—tight deadlines include typesetting and layout, submission for a few rounds of editing and proofreading, and preparation for the printer. One gets one week off, and it starts all over again. And working a month ahead I never know what month it is. (It's October, right? Oh no, that's when I'm writing this.) Although Sylvia Stein (z"l), our founding editor, was content with never taking a vacation during the first half of the month for her entire tenure, I have some other plans.



*continued on page 10*

# From the Rabbi

## Ever-Dying Yet Ever-Vibrant

*An age old challenge confronts Knesset Israel*

*This column is a shortened version of Rabbi Weiner's sermon from the second day of Rosh Hashana. The full sermon is available at [knessetisrael.org/livestream](http://knessetisrael.org/livestream). Find the service for the second day of Rosh Hashana and fast-forward to hour 2:26.*

Our synagogue is changing. The Jewish community of the Berkshires is changing. The year-round population of central Berkshire County continues to age and become less prosperous. There were almost 2000 students in Pittsfield's two high schools when I arrived in the Berkshires; in 2021-22, enrollment was hovering just north of 1500. The wider community flirts with poverty. Knesset Israel's Hebrew school includes sixteen students in grades 1-7. That's nine nuclear families, and two or three students per grade. This year, there is no kindergarten and no preschool. When I came to Pittsfield, we had about six bar and bat mitzvahs a year. In 5783, the new Hebrew year, there will be two.



Rabbi David Weiner

were here or identified with our messaging, values, and programs. But if the numbers have decreased precipitously, at least for now, we will have to grieve, then come to terms with a new normal.

It turns out that our doubts have a lot of company. Indeed, throughout history, Jewish people have had a keen sense that we might not be here forever. Simon

Rawidowicz, a professor at Brandeis in the mid-twentieth century, wrote a moving address on this theme in 1947 and revised it over the following decades. Entitled "Israel: The Ever-Dying People," the sardonic, yet reassuring essay begins with a stark observation: "The world makes many images of Israel [the people, not the State], but Israel makes only one image of itself: that of a being constantly on the verge of ceasing to be." (For the full text of his essay, see [bit.ly/everdyingpeople](http://bit.ly/everdyingpeople).)

Rawidowicz's essay recounts the laments of generations of Jewish ancestors, all of whom believed that they were the last of the line. Perhaps the most surprising quote comes from Maimonides, the ingenious 12th century scholar, gifted polymath, and prolific reinventor of Judaism. It turns out that Maimonides thought he would be the last Torah scholar on the planet: He once wrote the Jews of Southern France: "This I have to tell you, that in our difficult times there are none left who care for the Torah and Talmud except for you and your neighbors. All other places are dead and dying, as far as the Torah is concerned. There are three or four decaying centers in Palestine, one in Syria, a few in Babylonia. Little is

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The world makes many images of Israel  
[the people, not the State], but Israel makes only  
one image of itself: that of a being constantly  
on the verge of ceasing to be.—Simon Rawidowicz

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Anxious existential questions hover not far below the surface of this congregation—people who gather in the pews, leaders who sit on the board, dues and finance committees, Hebrew School teachers who wonder how to engage and motivate a class of three 10-year-olds, when one of them stays home with the flu. What's going on? What does this mean? Is this the end of 130 years of Knesset Israel and about 160 years of a Jewish community in Pittsfield? What is the purpose of a synagogue with our demographics? Is this our fault? How much longer do we have?

KI's strategic planning committee is turning its attention to a question of scale. How many fewer Jewish families are there today in the central Berkshires than there were a few decades ago? If the numbers have decreased incrementally, perhaps we are seeing the impact of KI's weaknesses or even deliberate choices. What we would most need to do is build programs that will connect with unaffiliated, under-the-radar young Jewish families living in the area, who would find their way to KI if only they knew we

### KOL K.I. PUBLICATION NOTES

Editor: Dee Griswold • Photo Editor / Production: Nan Bookless • Printed by Your Color Connection

*We welcome submissions. Publication will be at the discretion  
of the editorial staff and may be subject to editing.*

Submit articles VIA EMAIL to: Dee Griswold at [deegriswold@gmail.com](mailto:deegriswold@gmail.com)

Send high resolution photos VIA EMAIL to: Nan Bookless at [chama2194@icloud.com](mailto:chama2194@icloud.com)

*continued on page 5*

# From the President



learn.

Lifelong learning at KI  
Hebrew School for our children

Stimulating classes  
and programs for adults



inspire.

Connect with each generation

Share through leadership  
Tikkun Olam...repair the world



grow.

Start where you are  
Cultivate new insights  
Seek guides to the unfamiliar  
Nourish mind, heart, and soul



together.

Supportive calls to other members

KI Cares to help during illness

Make a minyan



visit

[knessetisrael.org](http://knessetisrael.org)  
for opportunities

## L'Shana Tova

Share your thoughts about KI's B'nai Mitzvah Program—Jesse Cook-Dubin



Jesse Cook-Dubin



## B'nai Mitzvah

The B'nai Mitzvah Program at KI is one of a kind. The congregation encourages our children to lead as much of the service as they can handle, and then gathers to support them as they do it. Rabbi Weiner, Elisa Snowwise, Jeff Cook, and a small army of one-on-one tutors build on what our 7th graders have learned in Hebrew School, Junior Congregation, and Jewish summer camp. Most of the kids end up surprising themselves and their parents with what they are able to accomplish, and in front of a large crowd of congregants at that. Starting right away, we invite post-b'nai mitzvah teens to lead services, read Torah, tutor younger students, and assist in our Hebrew School. KI's program gives our children a lifelong foundation in confidence, Jewish values, and goal-setting.

As we go through our strategic planning process, I encourage everyone who has seen the growth in our children to attend the upcoming community conversations—KI Envisions—and talk about how important the B'nai Mitzvah Program is. (See page 5 for the dates and times.) KI has many competing priorities, and finite resources. The same funding is required to teach 16 children (the approximate current size of our Hebrew School in Grades K-8) as two or three times that number. The B'nai Mitzvah Program is especially resource-intensive due to what we ask of our kids.

As the father of two children who have now been through KI's B'nai Mitzvah Program, with two more in the pipeline, I believe the B'nai Mitzvah Program is worth continuing to invest in because of the unparalleled impact it has on the lives of our children. I know many of you feel the same way. I hope you will make yourselves heard.

Thank you to Rabbi Weiner, Elisa Snowwise, Jeff Cook, Jeff Siegel, and so many others for the incredible education you gave our son Reese, whose bar mitzvah was October 15. Thank you to the congregation for showing up to support him. It was a blessed day in the life of our family and a tremendous accomplishment for Reese. We cannot imagine his teenage years without this unique and effective program.

## 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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## From the Rabbi

*continued from page 3*



November is your month to get involved. KI Envisions—the strategic planning process—includes two community conversations this month.

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studied in Yemen and other Arab countries....The Jews in India do not even know the written law. All that is left to us is you, in Southern France. Be strong and fortify yourselves...the survival of Israel and Torah depends on you alone."

A thousand years before Maimonides bemoaned our fate as a people, the sages of the classical era promulgated an idea they called the diminishment of the generations, that as each rabbi passed away, virtues, strengths and insights were lost, never to be recovered. And before them, every single one of the Biblical prophets believed that our people's waywardness would mark the end of the story of the Jewish people. And Moses? In Deuteronomy, Moses laments repeatedly that the Israelites' conquest of the Promised Land may fail, landing them in exile. Even Abraham bemoans his lack of progeny and whines about how he will be the end of the covenant, forced to bequeath his property to a servant instead of a child. We can't go back any farther in Jewish history than Abraham. Even before there were Jews, there was existential anxiety about the Jewish future.

However, for a people that has been dying for so many generations, we Jews have done well for ourselves. While po-

ets were busy composing their last testaments to their dying people, they and their contemporaries were also writing the next chapters of the Jewish story. We remember the era of Maimonides not as the end but as the Golden Age of Spain—the most fruitful era for Jewish life between the first century and the late twentieth. Rawidowicz suggests that, far from discouraging us, "our people's existential dread has motivated us—always fearing the end, never afraid to make a new beginning, to snatch triumph from the jaws of defeat."

We come by our pessimism and anxiety honestly, but we can't let that blind us to opportunities and possibilities. Questions about the needs of our community and what path to take forward are motivating KI's current planning process. Services and Hebrew School no longer suffice to keep Knesset Israel vibrant. Intellectual and cultural programming like the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival helps. Music, shared meals, and involvement in the South Community Food Pantry have grown more important, and our summer season is magical. KI has grown by over thirty households—mostly recent retirees—in the last two years, and many of the newest summer congregants are not

Baby Boomers but Generation X, more athletes than culture buffs. What are our next steps to sustain our community and renew its vibrancy? KI's vision for Jewish life, rooted in kindness and mitzvah, the pursuit of wisdom and justice, warmth and mutual support, study and music, education and ritual, tradition and inclusivity, is vibrant and compelling. We have partners like the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. We have a devoted, brilliant, multigenerational community of leaders and volunteers. We are blessed with responsible fiscal managers and generous donors. The primary limit is our own creativity.

**November is your month to get involved. KI Envisions—the strategic planning process—includes two community conversations this month:**

■ **Tuesday evening, November 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m. on line.**

■ **Sunday afternoon, November 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in person at KI.**

***Please RSVP ([knessetisrael.org/rsvp](http://knessetisrael.org/rsvp)) and come to one of them.***

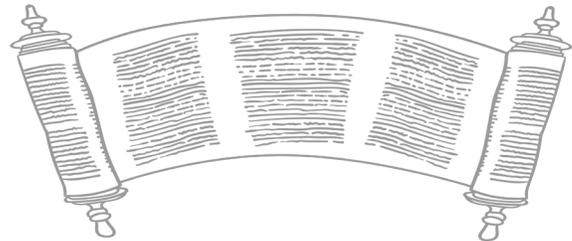
Each discussion is a time to listen and pick each other's brains. The planning will lead to focus groups and then towards action. Let's work together towards the best next steps for Knesset Israel and the Jewish community of Berkshire County.

Rawidowicz concludes his essay with words that might also inspire us: "A people dying for thousands of years means a living people. Our incessant dying means uninterrupted living, rising, standing up, beginning anew. We, the last Jews! Yes, in many ways it seems to us that we are the last links in our particular chain of tradition and development. But if we are the last, let us be the last as our parents and grandparents were. Let us prepare the ground for the last Jews who come after us, and for the last Jews who will rise after them, and so on until the end of days!"



## Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday, November 4 .....	5:24 p.m.
Friday, November 11 .....	4:16 p.m.
Friday, November 18 .....	4:10 p.m.
Friday, November 25 .....	4:05 p.m.



## Weekly Services

- **TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENING DAVENING**  
ON ZOOM..... 7:00 p.m.  
ZOOM ID # 934-910-554
- **FRIDAY KABBALAT SHABBAT** .....5:45 p.m.  
IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAM
  - November 4—*Family friendly Shirei Shabbat service followed by a delicious dinner.*
  - November 11—*Traditional Kabbalat Shabbat.*
  - November 18—Hayye Sarah: Finding Comfort and renewal in Jewish Sources—*Musical Minyan, Shabbat dinner.* Dinner: \$20/adult, children free. Reservations required. Register at [knessetisrael.org/rsvp](http://knessetisrael.org/rsvp) by Monday, November 14 (See page 1).
  - November 25—*No service at KI.*

- **SATURDAY SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**  
IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM ..... 9:30 a.m.  
followed by kiddush.
- **SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN**  
IN PERSON ..... 8:45 a.m.

Remember to send your donation for KI's  
 ► Thanksgiving Angels tzedakah. Please send a check to the KI office with a "Thanksgiving Angels" notation.

## ► Need to Say Kaddish?

We encourage people who are looking to say kaddish to:

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

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

## ► Safety Protocols

Please read the weekly K.I. E-News for KI's up-to-date COVID safety protocols. Attend services and programs only when you are feeling well. Should you be exposed to Covid-19, please follow the rules prescribed by the CDC and your physician.

- **Livestreaming of Shabbat services and special events in the sanctuary will continue. Indoor funerals may also be streamed, at the discretion of each family.**

Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement... Get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.

—Abraham Joshua Heschel

## Adult Education

### ■ PSALMISTRY: APPROACHING PSALMS WITH DEVOTION

Mondays, 3-4:30 p.m. facilitated by Rabbi Pam Wax  
(Began on October 24). Register at [knessetisrael.org/rsvp](https://knessetisrael.org/rsvp).

### ■ HEBREW & PRAYER

Tuesday mornings, facilitated by Rabbi David Weiner  
This ongoing class blends Hebrew reading, practice, vocabulary, grammar, and deeper discussions of content with the aim of helping participants grow in their understanding of the siddur.

November 1, 22 & 29—10-11:15 a.m.

November 15—11-12:15 p.m.

November 8—No Class.



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## Important Meetings

### ■ KI ENVISIONS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Tuesday, November 15—7:00-9:00 p.m. Gather on Zoom to discuss KI's paths forward. Minyan and small-group conversations.

Sunday, Nov 20—2:00-4:00 p.m. Gather in person to discuss KI's paths forward.

RSVP at [knessetisrael.org/rsvp](https://knessetisrael.org/rsvp).

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## Save the Dates

### ■ JEWISH VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE / JEWISH ANGELOLOGY AND THE ANGEL OF DEATH

Mondays, December 5-January 2, 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
Facilitated by Rabbi Pam Wax.

### ■ HANNUKA COMMUNITY SHABBAT SERVICE & DINNER

Friday, December 16, 5:45-8:30 p.m.  
Family-friendly Shirei Shabbat service at 5:45 p.m. followed by a delicious dinner from 6:45-8:30 p.m.

### ■ TRADITIONAL JEWISH LEARNING

Thursday mornings, 10:45 a.m. - noon facilitated by Rabbi David Weiner and Project Zug\*

Traditional Jewish learning combines study in pairs or small groups and larger lecture/discussion formats. We will explore several different themes, drawing on the resources available to us through Project Zug. There will be video lectures to watch between classes.

Hybrid classes in person in the KI Library or on Zoom:  
[bit.ly/thursdaymorningadulted](https://bit.ly/thursdaymorningadulted)

Zoom Meeting #828 5580 9361 / Passcode: Teshuv

#### • *Out of the Ruins: Jewish Wisdom on Resilience*

Last class Nov. 3.

#### • *Tzedakah: The Jewish Approach to Giving*

November 10 & 17 / December 1, 8, 15

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, developer of this course, asks: Why do you give? How does your Judaism affect your giving habits? This course will explore what Judaism has to say about the need to give charity: Who needs to give? How much should we give, and to whom? We will explore these issues together through traditional sources and modern answers.

\*To register for this class, you must sign up for Project Zug. Please email Diana at [office@knessetisrael.org](mailto:office@knessetisrael.org). She will sign you up.



**About Project Zug.** Knesset Israel has signed up for an organization membership with Project Zug ([projectzug.org](https://projectzug.org)). Powered by the Hadar Institute ([hadar.org](https://hadar.org)), the project gives direct access to curated high quality Torah resources and a guided learning framework that enables Jews to build deep connections to each other and to our tradition. Its unique combination of facilitation and flexibility allows students to learn on their own schedule with an accessible structure and guidance.



## Jewish Theological Seminary Initiative *continued from page 1*

### About JTS, the Center for Pastoral Education, and Rabbi Naomi Kalish

The Jewish Theological Seminary is a preeminent institution of Jewish higher education, training thoughtful, innovative leaders who strengthen communities with a vision of Judaism that is deeply grounded in the Jewish past and thoroughly engaged with contemporary society. JTS also provides high-caliber lifelong learning and professional development to its alumni, adult learners, and Jewish communities throughout North America.

Every day, spiritual leaders are called on to provide comfort, guidance, and support to people in crisis. The Center for Pastoral Education at JTS has set a new standard in preparing them to receive these calls, through a transformative

Selected to pilot JTS' Pastoral Education Shabbat: Knesset Israel has chosen to build the initiative into a weekend celebrating the ways individuals in our community care for and support each other.

educational process that is grounded in Jewish tradition and open and relevant to people of all faiths.

Rabbi Naomi Kalish is the Harold and Carole Wolfe Director of the Center for Pastoral Education and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Education. Prior to coming to JTS, Rabbi Kalish taught Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at New York–Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) to students from diverse religious, denominational, national, and cultural backgrounds. Rabbi Kalish has served on the Interprofessional Education Faculty at Columbia

University Medical Center, where she has taught a course, Spirituality and Healthcare, to students in diverse healthcare education programs. She has taught chaplaincy and pastoral care courses and programs for the Academy for Jewish Religion, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Yeshivat Maharat, and JTS.

Rabbi Kalish earned her BA from Tufts University, an MA in Jewish Philosophy and Rabbinic Ordination from JTS, and PhD in Education and Jewish Studies at New York University.

### MIDDLE EAST UPDATE 2022 Changing Strategies and Geopolitics



**Ambassador Dennis Ross**  
**Sunday, November 13 / 6:45 pm via Zoom**

Following Israel's recent parliamentary elections and America's congressional mid-terms, Ambassador Ross will provide an inside assessment of the changing strategies and geopolitics of the region. Q&A to follow.

Register online at:  
[tinyurl.com/MiddleEastUpdate2022](https://tinyurl.com/MiddleEastUpdate2022)



Jewish Federation  
OF THE BERKSHIRES

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



### COMMUNITY SECURITY TRAININGS NOVEMBER 9, 2022

In-person trainings will take place at  
Temple Anshe Amunim  
26 Broad Street in Pittsfield.

**Key Security Concepts  
and Greeter & Usher Training**  
**3:00 pm**

**Active Threat Response Training**  
**5:00 pm**

NOTE: Separate registration is required to attend each training. A light dinner will be provided for those registered for both trainings.

Register online at [jewishberkshires.org](https://jewishberkshires.org)  
or call (413) 442-4360, Ext. 10



Jewish Federation  
OF THE BERKSHIRES



# Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

■ Mazel Tov to Arlene D. Schiff for contributing a case study of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY program to the recently published book "Faithful Giving: The Heart of Planned Gifts," a new interfaith planned giving guide by James W. Murphy, published by Church Publishing Incorporated.

We are proud of her for her service and dedication.



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.

## November Birthdays *yom huledet sameach*

- Pilot Wright.....November 1
- Elaine Lipton .....November 3
- Rose Louise May .....November 4
- Ari Yantovsky.....November 4
- Judith Cook .....November 4
- Susan Kosowitz .....November 5
- Regina Karas.....November 6
- Alice Jonas .....November 7
- Jorge Rodriguez.....November 7
- Marjorie Safran.....November 8
- Alexandra Warshaw .....November 9
- Richard Gertner..... November 11
- Robert Fried ..... November 11
- Hannah Sarah Weeks ..... November 12
- Miriam Cohen..... November 12
- Murray Akresh ..... November 12
- Judy Seaman..... November 12
- Maxine Frank..... November 12
- Goldy Fried ..... November 13
- Patricia Finkelstein ..... November 14
- Ken Amron..... November 15
- Georgia Raser..... November 16
- David Finck ..... November 16
- Ariel Weiner ..... November 17
- Jeffrey Leppo ..... November 17
- Kara Thornton..... November 17
- Florence Winter..... November 18
- Melba Kurman..... November 19
- Judith Monachina ..... November 21
- Jonathan Denmark..... November 21
- Joyce Glaberson..... November 22
- Michael Cohn..... November 23
- Nina Rone..... November 25
- Seth Wax..... November 25
- Adam M. Goodman ..... November 27
- Carrie Wright..... November 27
- Cindy Kaplan..... November 28
- Fredric Rutberg ..... November 29
- Jacob Fried..... November 30

## November Anniversaries *yom nisuyim sameach*

- Roger & Beth Kruvant ..... November 8
- Alan & Carol Cohen.....November 11
- Lisa & Bernard Silverman.....November 13
- Linda & Phil Halpern.....November 14
- Michael & Roberta Cohn.....November 17
- Shira & Jorge Rodriguez.....November 19
- Edwin & Cindy Helitzer .....November 21



Your community wants to share  
in the joy. Write a short piece  
about you, your family,  
your friends (surprise them).

Special Birthdays, Milestones,  
Awards, Books Published...  
any and all nachas.

Send the article to  
[deegrswold@gmail.com](mailto:deegrswold@gmail.com)

High resolution  
photographs welcome.

## From the Editor *continued from page 2*



I like to think of life as an art project. After decades of living by deadlines, and recently realizing how short life is, I needed a break—basically to retire from my “retirement.” My new retirement will include more reading, making art, going to plays and classes, and listening to music. Gardening, traveling, lunch with my friends, and doing the daily Wordle are just a few of the plans I have, should I stay healthy and able. Of course, I plan to continue to be active in our KI community.

Many thank yous are in order. Apologies if I miss someone. To Rabbi David Weiner, Diana MacFarlane, Jesse Cook-Dubin, Richie Simons, Phil Coleman, Kara Thornton, Myrna Hammerling (z”l), Don Sugarman (z”l), and all of our contributors over the years. Even if you missed the occasional deadline—with the exception of Phil who submitted his columns months ahead—we wouldn’t be a publication without you.

Thank you to Dee for making sure that all of our commas are in the right places and for reminding me to breathe. We will forever disagree about whether online is one word or two, but that doesn’t detract from my sincere admiration for her stellar editorial skills and dedication to the quality of the publication. It’s been a lively and educational collaboration.

To our readers—it’s been a pleasure to help bring you the essential information

you need to participate fully in the life of Knesset Israel. I hope the aesthetics, fillers, and interest pieces enhanced your experience with KOL K.I.

And so, as my beloved father Max (z”l) would say...zei gezunt.

—Nan Bookless

---



### From Phil

Thank You Devoted Readers,

It’s hard to believe that my Spotlight On column here in Kol K.I. has been such a success! I know that many of you have enjoyed my interviews with our members over the past 6 years, and enjoyed being my subjects as well. We’ve delved into all age groups, discovered many talents, and traveled around the world with our wonderfully diverse congregation.

It’s been a fantastic pleasure to have accomplished this with all of you. However, as everyone knows, we do get older, so sometimes we reach a point and give up things that are dear to us. I am at that point and will be retiring soon as your devoted columnist. Robin and I look forward to our future which hopefully will include lots of travel and spending time with family.

I wish to thank everyone who has supported me along the way, especially

Susan Miller, Dee Griswold, and Nan Bookless. Without your outstanding skill in putting Kol K.I. together every month, I would not have had such good luck with the column.

Certainly as well, my sincere thanks to all of you who took the time to tell your stories, share your memories, and tell us why you love KI. I enjoyed every bit of it!

It’s been a great ride and I’ll see you around KI.

My best,

Phil Coleman

---



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.

---

## Emergency Contacts

### PASTORAL CARE

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

### FUNERALS

Knesset Israel’s funeral arrangements are handled with Flynn-Dagnoli Funeral Home. Please call 413-663-6523 or 413-442-1733. You can also email flynn-dagnoli@albany.twbc.com.



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## Of Interest



**Any changes in KI's health and safety protocols** will be updated in the K.I. E-News.

**Get all the weekly announcements** in the K.I. E-News. To submit, write a short paragraph with the what, where, and when and email it to Diana at [office@knessetisrael.org](mailto:office@knessetisrael.org). Include an image if you have one. Deadline: Tuesdays for Thursday E-News.

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

**The Book of Life.** KI's guide to everything, including burial and lifecycle policies, is on the KI website: [knessetisrael.org](http://knessetisrael.org).

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

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

**A summary of the weekly parsha** appears at the bottom of the weekly K.I. E-News.

### **K.I. Cares**

If you or another KI member you know is experiencing serious illness requiring support, please contact the Care Committee by emailing Diana at [office@knessetisrael.com](mailto:office@knessetisrael.com). We will be in touch with you.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:arlenedschiff@icloud.com).

### *Adopt an "Orphan" Headstone*

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

# Yahrzeits • November 2022 • Cheshvan/Kislev 5783

## 7 CHESHVAN - NOV. 1

Anna Levine Davidov  
Adelle Lezberg

## 8 CHESHVAN - NOV. 2

David Zwerner  
Edith Nissenbaum  
Arthur F. Dershowitz

## 9 CHESHVAN - NOV. 3

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

## 10 CHESHVAN - NOV. 4

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

## 11 CHESHVAN - NOV. 5

Enid Fuhrman  
Arthur Hiller  
Sanford Lubin  
Rose Sagarin  
Michele Zuckerman  
Harry Rosen

## 12 CHESHVAN - NOV. 6

Bernard Charkow  
Gisela Ziskind  
Eli Taylor

## 13 CHESHVAN - NOV. 7

Celia Palefsky  
Samuel Klein  
Jacob Cohen  
Jack Lessoff  
Jacob Astrachan

## 14 CHESHVAN - NOV. 8

Golda Bus Sarah  
Madeline Alfred  
Benjamin Jonas  
Shirley Rudich

## 15 CHESHVAN - NOV. 9

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

## 16 CHESHVAN - NOV. 10

Myra Forman  
Anna Keslowicz  
Jacob Green  
Shirley Goldlust  
Riva Kutik  
Henrietta Gans  
Schulman

## 17 CHESHVAN - NOV. 11

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

## 18 CHESHVAN - NOV. 12

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



## 19 CHESHVAN - NOV. 13

Jordan B. Greenfield  
Sayde Levine  
Rose Broverman  
Maefsky  
Max Baz  
Max Skoletsky  
Georgiy Rabinovich  
Pauline Landa  
Marla Joy Lerner

## 20 CHESHVAN - NOV. 14

William Schifrin  
Rebecca Baz  
Reuben Sandler  
Eli Black  
Richard Smith  
Sylvia Klein Adelson  
Abraham Auslander  
Shulamith Auslander  
Jacob Baer

## 21 CHESHVAN - NOV. 15

George Garbowit  
Grace Martin

## 22 CHESHVAN - NOV. 16

Isaac Meyer Abeles  
Anna Bass  
Rose Gruberg  
Herbert Secunda

## 23 CHESHVAN - NOV. 17

Sidney Cohen  
Bessie Morgenstein  
Alix Kowler  
Rosalyn Suskind  
Seymour Baer  
Edith Marks  
Harriette Leeper  
Sally Lenhoff

## 24 CHESHVAN - NOV. 18

Andrea Lipton Becker  
Carrie Hyman  
Harry Buckheim  
Samuel Cutler  
Isadore Green

## 25 CHESHVAN - NOV. 19

Herbert Fishman  
Esther E. Altman  
Shirley Zuckerman  
Everhart  
Ruth Katz  
Esther Skoletsky

## 26 CHESHVAN - NOV. 20

Philip Katzman

## 27 CHESHVAN - NOV. 21

Sidney Bassen  
Debra de Rothschild  
Dorothy Silverman  
Sarah Skoletsky  
Sylvia Bender  
Harry Freadman  
Murray Levine  
Abraham Rosen  
Samuel Lipschitz

## 29 CHESHVAN - NOV. 23

Feyga Kirshteyn  
Sheila Goodwin  
Feigenbaum  
Irwin Moiseff  
Arthur Stein

## 30 CHESHVAN - NOV. 24

Sarah F. Cohen

## 1 KISLEV - NOV. 25

Sam Rothstein  
Violet Adelman  
Rachel S. Harris  
Gussie Selkowitz

## 2 KISLEV - NOV. 26

Rose Silinsky Cook  
Thomas Samuels  
William Sherman  
Carl Mass  
Tillie I. Robbins  
Herbert Pomerantz  
Mary Solomon Rose  
Frances B. Schiller

## 3 KISLEV - NOV. 27

Lee Bell  
Pearl Curran  
Eddie Sam Golos  
Oscar Lanzer  
Sarah Lubin

## 4 KISLEV - NOV. 28

Janice Whitcomb  
Jacob Bakst  
David Krancer

## 5 KISLEV - NOV. 29

Ruth Goldberg Lipton  
Kayla Levine  
Barbara Goldin  
Emma A. Simonson  
Sophie Stein  
Nathan Weltman  
Yale Garber  
David Carr

## 6 KISLEV - NOV. 30

Norman Kantrowitz  
Dr. Morris Geller  
Sheila R. Gitlitz  
John Sebestyen



# Funds & Endowments

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## HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL

In appreciation of Friendship and support of Peter and Ellen Cohen

*Stephen Feingold*

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Weiner's Thursday morning classes

*Murray & Barbara Akresh*

## BOBBY BRAUN MEMORIAL GARDEN

In memory of Lisa Marcus

*Ev Bastow*

## CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Norman Moskowitz with appreciation to the Cemetery volunteers

*The Moskowitz & Noonan Families*

## CEMETERY GATE AND ROADS FUND

In memory of Norman Moskowitz

*The Moskowitz & Noonan Families*

## ESTHER AND SAMUEL COHEN ENDOWMENT

In memory of Carol Cohen

*Amy Simons Abramovich*

*Beth & Bernie Abramson*

*Dave Pill*

*Diana Geller & Andy Geller*

*Elaine & Leonard Lipton & Family*

*Leslie Fishbein &*

*Thomas Sebestyen*

*Susan Geller*

## JOEL AND PHYLLIS CURRAN ENDOWMENT

In honor of Phyllis and Joel Curran's 65th anniversary

*Beth & Bernie Abramson*

## FLOWER FUND

In memory of Ruth and Bob Kerbel

*Rabbi Paul & Melissa Kerbel*

## HARRY AND ENID FUHRMAN ENDOWMENT

In memory of Eddie Skoletsky Enid Fuhrman Harry Fuhrman

*Richard Fuhrman*

## GENERAL FUND

*Sam & Raisy Weiss*

In memory of Asher Prives Bonnie Prives

*Loretta & Joel Prives*

In appreciation of being a part of the Ki community over the summer. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly that it was so wonderful of all of you to be there for me.

*Judy Robins*

In memory of Eileen Goldman

*Martin & Cindy Kaufman*

In memory of Sophie F. Rutberg Franklin L. Rutberg

*Frederic Rutberg*

In memory of Isidor Rosner Miguel Rosner

*Mimi Cohen*

## GENERAL FUND (CONTINUED)

In memory of Winifred Bell Sophie Goldner Max Raser

*Marian & Marshall Raser*

In honor of Rabbi Jan Kaufman

*Sue & Wayne Bizer*

In memory of Riva Kutik

*Zina Etkina*

In appreciation of Shabbat Aliyah

*Ken & Mary Lynn Kargman*

In memory of Sima Berezkina

*Alla Zernitkaya & Alex Kutik*

In honor of the Cook and Snowise Families

*Jill Meland*

In memory of Vera Stoskin Gangel

*Barbara Gershen*

## KIDDUSH FUND

*Shirley & Max Berman*

In memory of Bob Berend

*Rabbi Jan Kaufman*

In honor of Elaine Epstein's birthday

*Nan Bookless*

In memory of Ephraim Leibowitz

*Estelle Leibowitz*

In memory of Rebecca Solomon

*Marcia & Charles Mandel*

## KIDDUSH FUND (CONTINUED)

In memory of Ruth and Bob Kerbel

*Rabbi Paul & Melissa Kerbel*

In memory of Winifred Bell

*Eileen Goldman*

In honor of Ira Lieberman on his 80th birthday

Nan and Allan Lipton on their 50th anniversary

Rabbi Jan Kaufman on her new home

Susan Miller and her art installation at the Berkshire Museum

*Carole Siegel*

## LEONARD AND ELAINE LIPTON MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Anne R. Lipton

*Elaine and Lenny Lipton*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Rabbi Jan Kaufman*

*Roman & Larisa Rozenblyum*

Mazel Tov to Amy Abramovich and Emily and Dave Weilburg on the birth of Zachary Lee Weilburg

*Arlene and Gary Schiff*

In memory of Bob Berend

*Diane Weinstein*

*Harvey & Susan Frisch Lehrer*

*Carole Siegel*

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Deeds of giving are the very foundations of the world. —Mishna, Pirkei Avot 1:2

Thank you for your generosity.

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# Funds & Endowments

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## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (CONTINUED)**

In memory of Carol Cohen  
*Alan & Margie Metzger*

*Alexandra Warshaw*

*Andrea & David Reiser*

*Beth Wallace*

*Brenda & Fred Landes*

*Carole Siegel*

*Charles & Nancy May*

*Diane Weinstein*

*Fran Cohen*

*Harvey & Susan  
Frisch Lehrer*

*Hinda & Bill Haims*

*Joel & Phyllis Curran*

*Len & Alice Schiller*

*Lori Lowinger*

*Molly Novick*

*Nan Bookless*

*Nate & Maria Zuckerman*

*Patricia Green*

*Phoebe Sugarman*

*Phyllis & Stuart Sandrew*

*Richard & Marcie  
Greenfield Simons*

*Robert & Patricia Geller*

*Sheldon & Lee Rodman*

*Susan Staskin*

*Wen-Ching & Maureen Wu*

In memory of  
Eileen Goldman  
*Sheila Donath*

In memory of Jack Fleet  
*Robin Fleet, Phil Coleman,  
Sarah & Nathan Singer*

In memory of Julius Lubin  
*Ruth & Robert Waldheim*

Get well wishes Leila Bilick  
*Amy Simons Abramovich*

In memory of Lester Johnson  
*Jane Rosen*

Judaism is literally built upon gratitude.

The original Hebrew word for Jew,  
Yehudi, is a form of the Hebrew word for  
thank you—todah.

In other words, Judaism means  
“the path of gratitude.”

—Rabbi Brian Field

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (CONTINUED)**

In memory of Lisa Marcus  
*Ev Bastow*

In memory of Michael Lynn  
Hartley  
*Brenda & Fred Landes*

In honor of Noah Cook-  
Dubin's being recognized as  
one of Forty under Forty  
*Diane Weinstein*

In appreciation of Rabbi  
Weiner's support and  
leadership  
*Stephen Feingold*

In appreciation of Rambling  
with our Rav  
*Shirley & Max Berman*

In memory of Rhoda Amron  
*Diane Weinstein*

In memory of Robert Berend  
*Joe & Phyllis Curran*

In memory of Ron Mandler  
*Barbara Mandler*

In memory of Winifred Bell  
*Louis Skoletsky*

In honor of Phyllis and  
Joel Curran on their 65th  
anniversary  
*Carole Siegel*

## **SHIREI SHABBAT MUSIC EQUIPMENT**

*Anonymous*

*Matthew Mozian*

*Phil Coleman & Robin Fleet*

*Jane Rosen*

*Carole Siegel*

*Jonathan & Lara Denmark*

*Stu & Ellen Masters*

*Robert & Rhonda Sattin*

In memory of  
Alfred S. J. Goldin  
*Regina Karas*

In honor of Ira Lieberman's  
80th birthday  
*Jan & Harvey Zimblar*

In honor of Carole Siegel  
*Naomi Cohen*

In memory of Joel Bastow  
*Ev Bastow*

In memory of Denese Mann  
*Judy & Jeff Cook*

*Gayle & Herman Rotenberg*

*Robert & Rhonda Sattin*

*Lewis Schiller*

*Jan & Harvey Zimblar*

In memory of  
Marcia Rosenthal  
*Laura Rosenthal*

## **ED AND LORETTA SKOLETSKY ENDOWMENT**

In appreciation of  
recognizing our dad in KOL  
K.I. *No Obstacle Too Big*  
Louis Skoletsky

## **SOUTH COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

Refuah Shleimah to Allan  
Lipton  
*Joanna and Ellis Fribush*

In honor of Reese Cook-  
Dubin  
Joel & Phyllis Curran

## **THANKSGIVING ANGELS**

*Alan & Margie Metzger*

*Alexandra Warshaw*

*Alice & Martin Jonas*

*Allen & Rosalind Kopfstein*

*Beth & Bernie Abramson*

*Brenda & Fred Landes*

*Carole Siegel*

*Ev Bastow*

*Jane Rosen*

*Jill Wollins*

*Joanna & Ellis Fribush*

*Laura Rosenthal*

*Linda & Burton Edelstein*

*Lisa Hochman &  
Marc Rudoltz*

*Nan Bookless*

*Naomi Schwartz*

*Richie & Marcie  
Greenfield Simons*

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minimum is \$10. We welcome  
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## Member Musing

### Jewish Self-Help

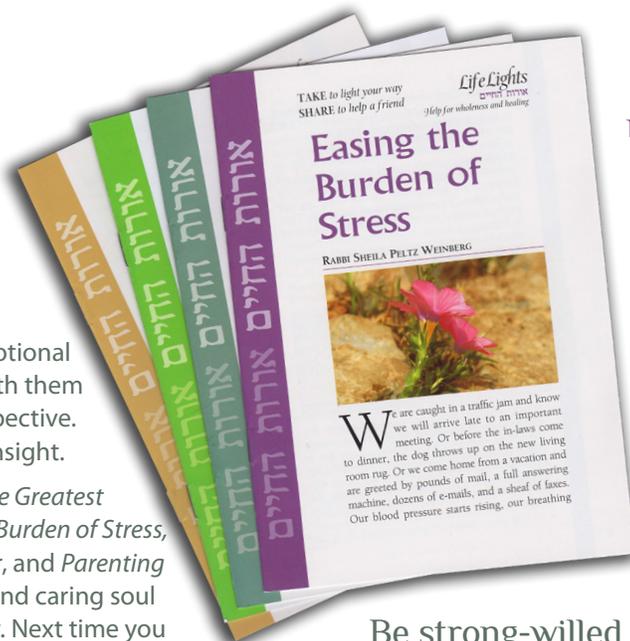
One of my retirement goals is to organize all of my paper piles. As I turned my attention to an end table, I came upon a collection of *Life Lights* pamphlets I had gathered from the Knesset Israel lobby.

*Life Lights* are informational, practical booklets about challenges to our emotional and spiritual lives and how to deal with them from a uniquely Jewish spiritual perspective. They are written with expertise and insight.

There are titles such as *Resilience—The Greatest Gift We Can Give Ourselves*, *Easing the Burden of Stress*, *Finding New Callings as We Grow Older*, and *Parenting a Teenager*. Each is written by a wise and caring soul who knows the human inner territory. Next time you are at KI choose a few titles that interest you.

The quotes on this page are among many sprinkled throughout the compelling content of these pamphlets.

—Nan Bookless



I can scarcely wait until tomorrow, when a new life begins for me as it does every day. As it does every day.

—Stanley Kunitz, at age 99

Those who have a 'why' to live can bear almost any 'how.'

—Victor E. Frankel,  
*Man's Search for Meaning*

Be strong-willed and stubborn if you want to get closer to G-d. How else will you survive all the difficulties that are sure to come our way?—Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, *Likutey Moharan* 1:22

One of the primary themes of Jewish prayer is gratitude. There is a tradition to begin each day with the prayer: *Modeh Ani* or *Modah Ani*—I am thankful. —Rabbi Shiela Peltz Weinberg