

Kol K.l.

learn. inspire. grow. together.



November, 2020
Cheshvan / Kislev 5781

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

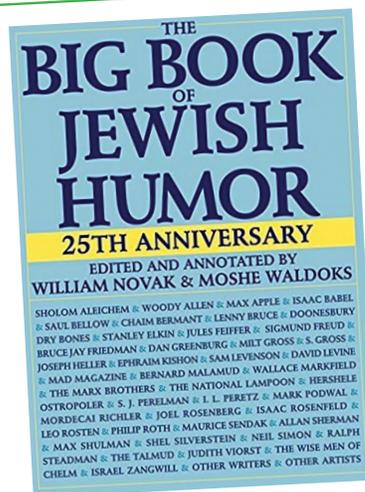
Bringing Light to November Evenings

Innovative programming to brighten moods and minds

In an effort to cheer up the congregation after the Havdalah services in the dark month of November, Knesset Israel will experiment with Saturday night programming for adults and school-age participants. Director of Adult Education and Programming, Myrna Hammerling, will be introducing a few programs to get a sense of what you might enjoy and to see how many of you will be drawn to these activities. Some of these programs are still in development as of this writing. We will be aided during this series with the technological assistance of Jan (Zoom) Zimblar.



November 3—Mind Games. *The Berkshire Eagle* runs a fun word game on their daily comic page. A recent one had the visual similar to the one here: the letters of the word, VOICE with five 1's in a row directly below each letter. You are asked to find a familiar phrase, saying, or name from this "visual clue." Did you guess "at the top of one's voice"? In the K.l. version, we will present participants with a 5"x5" square with 25 such puzzles.



After you have time to complete this array, we will reunite and review your answers. There will be some brain teasers presented from the book, *The Five Star Mind* by Tom Wujec.

November 10: Jewish Humor. You will be provided excerpts from *The Big Book of Jewish Humor* edited by William Novak and Moshe Waldoks and *The Joys of Yinglish* by Leo Rosten. Together we will explore samples of Jewish humor from different periods and sources. What makes one version funnier than another? What are some of the unique techniques of Jewish humor? There will be



Israeli Actress Coming to K.l.

In the Land of Israel—*One-Woman Show*, based on the book by Amos Oz
Adapted for stage by, and starring Israeli actress TAMIR! Livestreamed from K.l.

see page 7 for the details...

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Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

Birthdays

- Pilot Wright..... November 1
- Elaine Lipton..... November 3
- Judith Nishman..... November 4
- Judith Cook..... November 4
- Rose Louise May..... November 4
- Ari Yantovsky..... November 4
- Regina Karas..... November 6
- Alice Jonas..... November 7
- Marjorie Safran..... November 8
- Alexandra Warshaw..... November 9
- Anna Lotto..... November 9
- Miriam Cohen..... November 12
- Murray Akresh..... November 12
- Judy Seaman..... November 12
- Maxine Frank..... November 12
- Hannah Sarah Weeks..... November 12
- Rochelle Leinwand..... November 13
- Ken Amron..... November 15
- David Finck..... November 16
- Georgia Raser..... November 16
- Jeffrey Leppo..... November 17
- Kara Thornton..... November 17
- Ariel Weiner..... November 17
- Florence Winter..... November 18
- Judith Monachina..... November 21
- Jonathan Denmark..... November 21
- Joyce Glaberson..... November 22
- Michael Cohn..... November 23
- Nina Rone..... November 25
- Hunter Wallace..... November 25
- Carrie Wright..... November 27
- Adam M. Goodman..... November 27
- Fredric Rutberg..... November 29

Anniversaries

- Roger and Beth Kruvant..... Nov. 8
- Alan and Carol Cohen..... Nov. 11
- Michael and Bobbi Cohn..... Nov. 17
- Edwin and Cindy Helitzer..... Nov. 21



Your community wants to share
in your good news! Send KOL K.I. editor,
Susan Miller the details about any happy news
we can celebrate with you!
Susan Miller: sunpath2@gmail.com

KOL K.I. PUBLICATION NOTES

Editor: Susan Miller • Co-Editor/Photo Editor: Nan Bookless • Production: Liz DeMarco • 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: Susan Miller at sunpath2@gmail.com

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1 FOR DECEMBER ISSUE

From the Rabbi

Looking Back...Looking Forward

It takes a community

What a remarkable Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur! I am deeply grateful to everyone who helped create a meaningful week of services, recordings, teachings, and experiences for our community. Although I regret that we were unable to celebrate as we normally do, we were able to bring life to these holidays and renewal to our community. Especially in a year that threw so many curveballs—global, communal, and personal—I want to make sure to thank everyone who helped out. These are offered in no particular order—every bit of support was indispensable to the effort.



Rabbi David Weiner

■ **The ad-hoc committee of the board of directors:** Stu Masters (chair), Richie Simons, Alan Metzger, Don Sugarman, Susan Staskin, Ed Helitzer, Myrna Hammerling, Laura Rosenthal, Jeff Siegel, and Alexandra Warshaw. These devoted leaders laid the foundation for our approach to the season, consulted regularly so that we would meet our objectives, and volunteered for a number of projects along the way. Mark Snowise provided ongoing scientific and medical advice.

■ **Shlihei Tzibbur and Torah/Haftara Readers:** Laura Rosenthal, Jeff Siegel, Elisa Snowise, Joe Weinberg, Fred Landes, Marcie Greenfield Simons, Eve Edwards, Yael Snowise, Mark Snowise, Dave Pill, Richie Simons, Dana Sebestyen, and Jenny Gitlitz. All adjusted their preparations to this unusual year; several were guided by Sherri Buxton.

■ **Gabbaim:** Alan Metzger and Ed Helitzer; Marcie Greenfield Simons and Jeff Siegel join Alan on the Service Assignment Committee.

■ **Support in the sanctuary:** Dana Siegel, Dave Pill, Mark Snowise, and Joe Weiner helped with ark openings, dressing the Torah and other challenges resulting from my leg injury, in conjunction with the social distancing protocols.

■ **Communication:** After Judith Weiner introduced Knesset Israel to the Padlet app, Diana Macfarlane prepared the wonderful online Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur “Central” sites that helped everyone access services and related resources. Susan Miller

and Nan Bookless carefully edited and designed Kol K.I.; Liz DeMarco updated the Knesset Israel website; Susan Zuckerman, Jesse Cook-Dubin, Noah Cook-Dubin, and Colin Ovitsky helped with Facebook marketing and advertising.

■ **Recordings:** Don Sugarman, Chris Goetze, and Judy Seaman helped on the technical side. Jeff Siegel, Jonathan Denmark, Colin Ovitsky, Noah Cook-Dubin, Right Light Productions, Bobbi Cohn, Sherri Buxton, Laura Rosenthal, Marcie Greenfield Simons, and Jane Rosen made recordings that circulated widely.

■ **Technology:** Chip Winnard, of Wood Bros. Music, upgraded our microphones and installed camera equipment. Don Sugarman and Chris Goetze assisted, and Al Saldarini consulted. Box-Cast hosts our live stream and recorded videos. The work was supported by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and an allocation from the K.I. board of directors.

■ **Greeting & Cleaning:** Ken Conlow and Chris Goetze alternated warmly welcoming attendees to services, preparing the sanctuary, keeping the building clean, and maintaining our cameras, HVAC, and microphones.

■ **Dues:** Judy Cook led her committee in following up on billing and helping everyone in the community do their part to support K.I.'s work.

■ **Yom Kippur Appeal:** Rabbi Yaacov Rone recorded an evocative message from his winter home in Palm Springs. Nina Rone served as videographer with Judy Seaman consulting. Jesse Cook-Dubin followed up with a letter, and Richie Simons coordinated the project, assisted by Diana Macfarlane. Thanks as well to everyone who pledged support.

■ **Family Services:** Rebecca and Jesse Cook-Dubin developed services for this unusual year, supported by Judith Weiner.

■ **Attendance & Mahzor Distribution:** Alexandra Warshaw, ably assisted by Diana Macfarlane and several volunteers, worked hard to make the service accessible and communicate with prospective attendees.

■ **Security:** Stephanie Ilberg-Lamm (chair), Lew Schiller, Don Sugarman, and the security committee coordinated a grant

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.

continued on page 6

November Calendar



NOVEMBER SERVICES

Tuesdays & Thursdays..... (ZOOM ID 934-910-554)

Davening.....7:00 PM

Fridays(LIVESTREAM)

November 6 - Musical Minyan.....5:45 PM

November 13 - Traditional Kabbalat Shabbat.....5:45 PM

November 20 - Shirei Shabbat5:45 PM

Saturdays (LIVESTREAM)9:30-11:30 AM

Sundays (LIVESTREAM)8:45-9:30 AM

NOTE: No services on Thanksgiving weekend:

Thursday, November 26 or Friday, November 27

NOVEMBER CANDLE LIGHTING:

Friday, November 6..... 4:21 PM

Friday, November 13 4:13 PM

Friday, November 20 4:08 PM

Friday, November 27 4:04 PM

CLASSES

■ TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK with Myrna Hammerling

Tuesdays..... 10:30 AM

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

■ TOGETHER AND APART

Rabbi's Adult Education Class

Thursdays, November 5, 12 & 19..... 10:45 AM-NOON

No class on Thursday, November. 26 (Thanksgiving)

ZOOM ID: 863-269-457)

Cemetery Access Veteran's Day

The Kneset Israel Cemetery entrance will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM on Wednesday, November 11 to allow families and friends to visit the graves of veterans and other loved ones.

ZOOM & LIVESTREAM Instructions

Kneset Israel will make every effort to keep ZOOM numbers consistent. We will communicate any changes in the weekly K.I. E-News email. Please visit our website calendar and K.I.'s "COVID-19 Response" page.

The majority of our members and visitors will participate in Kneset Israel services, classes, and programming through their computers and devices (Zoom & Livestreaming). A few people, through advance arrangement only, will gather in person in the sanctuary.

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

If you are comfortable in periodically joining in prayer in the K.I. sanctuary, but have not yet done so, please get in touch with Diana or Rabbi Weiner to receive an update about safety and health protocols. ■ You may sign up to attend weekend services (Friday evening, Saturday & Sunday morning) up to three weeks in advance at padlet.com/KnesetIsrael/makeaminyan. You do not need to sign up in advance in order to attend, but it helps ensure we will have a minyan.

Questions? Please contact Rabbi Weiner or Stu Masters.

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

Option 2

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



Maintaining Minyan...It's Up to Us

A call for continuity, participation, and mutual support

The Need and the Challenge

Thank you for supporting Knesset Israel's services through the years and especially this past summer and fall. By gathering for prayer, Torah study, and community, K.I. maintains Jewish life in the Berkshires and supports the spiritual journeys of members and guests alike. In the spring, we could not responsibly come together for services, but now, with new protocols and technologies in place, we can. Whether we will, however, is up to us.

As we move forward with livestream services in this crazy Covid-19 era, we realize that, as a community, we must ensure there is a minyan present at each of the services held in the K.I. sanctuary. Without a minyan, we would need to leave out our most important prayers, including Bar'chu, the Torah Service, and Mourner's Kaddish. Low attendance will quickly lead to frustration for those who do attend, both in person and on livestream, and the end of K.I. Shabbat services. You are among those who have supported K.I.'s services over the years, so it seems appropriate to ask you to help.

Would you be willing to sign up to attend specific services? Perhaps two or three per month, or once a week?

This fall, we will typically schedule three in-person services that require a minyan in person per weekend and fewer on holiday weekends. Rabbi Weiner is available to discuss K.I.'s safety and health protocols—maximum attendance numbers, air circulation, cleaning, precautions around social distancing, and more.

While we are confident in our approach to addressing this challenge, we also respect everyone's decisions around preserving health and well-being and welcome questions.

Online Sign-up

Rabbi Weiner has created a simple online sign-up sheet to facilitate at least thirteen people committing to attend whichever services work best for them. Thirteen and not ten because, despite our best intentions, there are always reasons a few people, who plan to come, cannot attend.

For K.I. services to remain viable in this moment, we need to begin every weekend service on time with a minyan and maintain the minyan until the service ends. Should services become too large for our safety at any point, we will adjust our sign-up procedures.

Please sign up at padlet.com/KnessetIsrael/makeaminyan. The site will be updated weekly. You will find simple instruc-

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tions explaining how to add your name and the names of other adult members of your household who will attend a service. Should you need to, you can change or delete your name later.

Expectations

Once you confirm your plans, please consider your attendance a commitment. The people attending in person and watching the live stream are counting on you. Barring health concerns like a potential exposure to COVID-19, fever, or some other urgent matter, please follow through on your promise by:

- Arriving punctually—we need a minyan on time for all services to run smoothly.
- Participating actively.
- Observing all social distancing, hygiene, and mask rules while in and around the building.
- Remaining at K.I. through the end of the service.

We will be in touch when there are changes to safety and ritual protocols, which may become necessary as rules change in Massachusetts and as the prevalence of the virus in the Berkshires fluctuates.

Thank You In Advance

Many thanks for volunteering to participate in these services in person. It makes all the difference to the experience of holidays and Shabbat for those in our community who cannot attend.

—Richard Simons, Stuart Masters, Rabbi David Weiner

Kaddish

We encourage people who are looking to say kaddish to:

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



From the President

Live and On Screen

We continue to learn, inspire, and grow... together.



Richard Simons

Early in the summer, we were forced to confront the challenge of how to make High Holiday observance meaningful and accessible to our community. We quickly realized that a physical gathering in the manner in which we have assembled in prior years was not going to happen. Under Rabbi Weiner's leadership, we secured the necessary technology to livestream services and began to brainstorm how we could accomplish a live and/or virtual service.

I am so proud of what we were able to accomplish for the Holidays this year. At no point, did anyone suggest that we just can't have services this year. Instead, we figured it out. Were there glitches? Of course there were. Was it perfect?

Of course, it was not. But our community gathered—partly in person...and mostly online—to feel the power of the season and to achieve some spiritual and personal growth.

I cannot emphasize enough what our Rabbi accomplished. He curated the services in a way to allow those in the building to comfortably sit with masks. He devised the padlet on the website to provide many different experiences for our congregants to explore (i.e., various divrei Torah, musical presentations, and source sheets). With the assistance of the Ad Hoc Working Committee, he devised a way for us to hear the shofar and to enjoy the annual rendition of Kol Nidre by violinist Rob Weisberger. And he did all of this with a broken leg! Thank you, Rabbi Weiner, for everything you have done and continue to do for us.

Myrna Hammerling is working on ways for us to gather on Saturday evenings after Havdalah. Again, while this is no substitute for being physically together, it is a way to maintain connection.

Wishing everyone good health in the month ahead. Until we are able to gather in person, I will look forward to seeing you on the screen!

Kneset Israel Statement of Purpose

Welcome.

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

We are here to inspire through word and deed.

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

We are here to celebrate in community.

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

We are here to transform our world.



From the Rabbi

(continued from page 3)

application that allowed us to significantly upgrade K.I.'s security in advance of the holidays.

■ **Participants in person:** Despite all sorts of new rules, risks, and procedures, about 60-70 people participated in services in person over the course of the holidays, creating a warm atmosphere in the sanctuary and for online viewers.

■ **Participants online:** By tuning in to the livestream and Zoom, you connected with your community, made time for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, and discovered moments of inspiration and renewal.

I find that list inspiring, and I hope you do as well.

November at Kneset Israel tends to be a quieter month in our new Saturday evening social programming (see cover article); in live/livestream services on the weekends, and Zoom davening during the week. K.I. services and programs are a great way to find renewal for ourselves and support each other through the colder months.

The giving of the Torah
is a story of God
seeking to provide
humanity with the
opportunity to make
moral decisions.

—Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

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Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE 2020

Is There Light at The End of The Middle East Tunnel?



David Makovsky & Dennis Ross

Wednesday, November 18

7:30 pm

Two of America's most experienced diplomatic and Middle East experts will discuss the implications and impact of the recent groundbreaking peace accords between Israel, and the UAE, Bahrain and the European Muslim nation of Kosovo. Q&A to follow.

Register: www.tinyurl.com/MiddleEast2020

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to joining this virtual event.

Education and Programming

In The Land Of Isreal

A one-woman show dramatizing 6 diverse Israeli women

Date: December 20 | **7:00 pm** | **Livestream** (see page 4 for how to livestream)
Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Brought to us by K.I.'s irrepressible programming director Myrna Hammerling—this show portrays contemporary Israel through six diverse characters: a Zionist farmer, a religious zealot, a Catholic nun, an Israeli right-wing extremist, a Palestinian Arab, and a Romanian immigrant—all played by Israeli actress TAMIR.

TAMIR takes the audience on a journey through Israel's human landscape as she transforms on stage from one character to another. These characters present an unusually wide spectrum of political views and raise questions of universal human concern. More importantly, they examine Jewish identity and the essence of life in Israel. This is not a manicured presentation of Israel, but rather an examination of the fundamental issues of the country's existence.

The show is an adaptation of the book by Amos Oz, which is highly acclaimed in Israel and the United States. From the *New York Times*: "In the Land of Israel is brilliantly controlled, a careful if galloping report by an artist wearing a journalist's mask who portrays his country through conversations." From these conversations, the actress TAMIR has recreated a stunning and sensitive portrayal of the characters. The names of the characters have been changed to protect their privacy—but all their stories are real.



Rivka – an Israeli pioneer in the Moshav Bat-Shlomo

Rochel-Leah – an orthodox Jewess from Meah Shearim, Jerusalem

Sister Celestine – A French Catholic nun in Jerusalem



Yasmin – a Palestinian pharmacist and teacher from Nablus

Ze'eva – a right-wing Israeli extremist

Bella – a retired Rumanian immigrant in Ashdod

Light to Evenings

(continued from page 1)

breakout groups that may be asked to tell a funny story or joke to the larger group.

November 17: Understanding and Appreciating the Yiddish Language. You will be provided with introductory materials from Learning Yiddish in Easy Stages by Marvin Zuckerman and Marion Herbst and The Complete Idiot's Guide to Learning Yiddish by Rabbi Benjamin Blech. Myrna will compare their introductory approaches from each book, and we will discuss them. If there is an interest in turning this into a formal weekly Yiddish class—learning the language, its history, its built-in sense of humor, Myrna will take on its development. Or, we can decide to simply continue these meet-ups through December, using one of these books and becoming more comfortable with Yiddish. We can all stumble through together and have some fun.

New Mussar Group forming!
See page 11 for details

The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, an almost fanatical love of justice and the desire for personal independence—these are the features of the Jewish tradition which make me thank my stars that I belong to it.”

—Albert Einstein

Spotlight On

Lyrical Lisa Green

Gracious, grateful, and giving—Phil Coleman

Hello Readers! This month's Spotlight On features a remarkable and talented K.I. member. Read on to find about Rural Intelligence's Editor-in-Chief, Lisa Green!

Hi Lisa, and welcome to my column Spotlight On! It's great to have you. You are multi-faceted and blessed with numerous skills in marketing, writing, website creation, and editing. Tell me about some of your most memorable stories, achievements, or written pieces in your professional work.

Lisa: I've been writing professionally for about four decades (yikes), so that's a lot of copy. It's hard to pick out the most memorable. When I lived in New York, I did some freelancing for the marketing department at *The New York Times*, and even though I wasn't doing any big jobs, just walking in that building was a thrill. At *The Palm Beach Post*, one of my responsibilities was to edit the employee newspaper, and I wrote feature stories on the amazing people that worked there. One time I was shadowing the crime reporter. It started out as a quiet day... until there was a murder-suicide, and she had to sneak into and around the residential complex to do her reporting, with me following her. That made quite a story for me. As editor of *Rural Intelligence*, I've been fortunate to interview some people I've long admired—writers Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Dani Shapiro, Simon Winchester, and NPR correspondent Anne Garrels.

You've won a lot of awards for your work. What are some of the highlights that we should know?

Lisa: Most of them were from work at *The Palm Beach Post*, where as senior writer in the marketing department, I wrote a huge variety of materials. I won awards for several multi-character radio spots



Lisa Green

(a few in Spanish, with my co-workers' assistance); for work on a major advertising campaign promoting the newspaper ("Ask A Local," for those who may have been in South Florida at the time); and for the internal newspaper.

***Rural Intelligence* really grew into a major digital destination under your watch. Your website, in particular, is first-rate. Now in the days of Covid, it's much tougher. What are you doing to keep it vital, active, and moving forward?**

Lisa: Thank you! You're right that it's tougher now. Not only have I lost my staff and freelancers, but *Rural Intelligence* has always been so dependent on events to preview and report on, and those ground to a halt. Readers love our party pictures, but parties went away. When the quarantine started, I tried to offer stories about how people, businesses, and organizations were adapting to the pandemic. But *Rural Intelligence* isn't a hard news publication, and I suspect that a lot of readers come to us to get away from bad news. So I am focusing on the

things they want to read about—places to explore (even more important now), profiles of interesting people, and local trends. Life goes on even during the pandemic, and we want to remind readers why they live in this beautiful region.

I know you love the harp and are a Certified Music Practitioner. Please tell me about your musical training and what a Certified Music Practitioner does.

Lisa: I played piano up until about age 18, and dabbled in guitar, dance, and voice lessons. I had always wanted to play the harp, and when I found out about the *Music for Healing and Transition* program, I wanted to get certified and needed an instrument. Harp was the perfect (and predominant) instrument for that, so I started taking lessons right away. That was 14 years ago.

A Certified Music Practitioner plays music at the bedside of people who are sick or transitioning. We are trained to watch the patient to know what kind of music would be most relaxing or healing in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice facilities. I used a small lap harp for my work. After I became certified, I was not able to find a paying position and needed (and still need) to make a living. I also realized that I was really serious about becoming more proficient on the harp. I have the most wonderful teacher here in the Berkshires (Elizabeth Morse) who has taken me very far and made me switch from a lever harp to a small concert pedal harp, which I am very happy to be playing.

Is there a Jewish component to any of your work, professional or amateur, and how does Judaism fit into your life?

Lisa: I love playing Jewish music on the harp. I would like everyone to know

Spotlight On

about Sunita (sunitaharp.com), who is an American/Israeli harpist. She's my favorite harpist, and her arrangements are the best. (Buy her music!) I brought her to both Florida and the Berkshires for concerts, and when Paul and I went to Israel, she had us over for Shabbat dinner. Other than playing Kol Nidre with Paul a few years ago at K.I., I haven't performed Jewish music.

I was raised in an observant Reform family, and Judaism has always been very important to me. For some years I was so involved in our temple that I was there five days a week. Now I love being part of K.I., it and the people have become important constants in my life. I was in Rabbi Weiner's Torah chanting class last spring and recently did my first torah reading ever. It was really meaningful. I tried to make it sound musical!



At K.I. we have digital reach to our members through Zoom and Livestream, and hopefully, one day, will be able to feature live music again in the synagogue. Do you have any suggestions for improving or expanding the musical offerings at K.I.?

Lisa: Only that it would wonderful if we were able to bring in a full-time cantor. The temple at which I grew up employed both a cantor and a professional choir, and I think I was spoiled by that. However, I do love the enthusiasm of our congregation's singing!

Thank you, Lisa, this was terrific!

Education & Programming...



A New Year of Mussar

Developing character and virtue with Rabbi Pamela Wax

K.I. member Rabbi Pamela Wax will once again be offering a year of Mussar, the Jewish spiritual practice of developing one's character and virtues (middot). For each of our ten months, participants will delve into a new middah (e.g., equanimity, humility, patience, truth, generosity) or Mussar concept with study, conversation, and practice. If you are looking to explore how to make wise and compassionate choices, or how to find equanimity and keep faith in a topsy-turvy world, Mussar is for you!

We will meet on Zoom until we can safely meet in person. **An introductory session for potential newcomers will be held on Sunday, November 1, at 10 AM.** Please contact Pam at pwax@bcn.net if interested in joining our wonderful group and to receive the Zoom link.

Fee: \$180 -200. Accommodations will be made for financial hardship.

Day / Time / Place: Sundays | 10:00–11:30 AM | Zoom

Dates: November 8, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 14, April 11, May 16, June 13, July 11, August 8

Kristalnacht

25,000 Jews Under Arrest in Wake of Worst Pogrom in Modern German History; 4 Dead

From the archive of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency—November 13, 1938

The following article from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency archive was published a few days after the devastating attacks on Germany's Jewish citizens which took place November 9 and 10, 1938, and is now referred to as Kristalnacht. It brings into focus that terrible time and lays the groundwork for the Holocaust to come.

An estimated 25,000 Jews were under arrest today in the wake of the worst outbreak of anti-Jewish violence in modern German history, which left throughout the nation a trail of burned synagogues, smashed homes, wrecked and pillaged shops, and at least four known dead. Police seizures of Jews continued throughout the night and this morning. Three thousand were in custody in Berlin alone.

It was reliably learned that the police have been ordered to halt general seizures but to continue activities in cases of criminal charges. Such charges include spreading of "atrocious propaganda" and possession of weapons.

Jews who spent the night at the Alexanderplatz headquarters were herded into heavily overcrowded rooms. In the morning, scores of them, mainly part-Jews, former army officers and persons with emigration visas, were released. The bulk of the remainder reportedly have been interned at the Oranienburg concentration camp. All Jewish organizations, with the exception of the Hilfsverein, central aid society, have been closed.

Following yesterday's nationwide arrests of Jewish leaders, additional leaders were summoned to the Gestapo headquarters here this morning. Twenty arrested Jewish journalists were recalled and notified that the ban on Jewish publications would continue for three months.



At Koenigsberg, in East Prussia, 2,000 Jews were summoned to police headquarters, forced to hand over the keys to their homes and given a fortnight to leave the city.

Meanwhile, Nazi leaders were reported to be discussing measures for expropriation of Jewish fortunes throughout the Reich and deportation of all foreign Jews. Julius Streicher, Governor of Franconia and the Reich's high priest of anti-Semitism, was said to have been called to Berlin to head a "committee for anti-Jewish activities."

Associated Press and United Press dispatches from Berlin said that plans for restoration of a ghetto for Jews were under way by Nazi leaders. According to the reports, credited to Nazi informants, the Jews would be compelled to live and do business only in the ghetto of their city, with only a sufficient number of shops to supply Jewish needs being tolerated.

Goebbels Denies Regime Inspired Violence

Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, upon whose order the 14-hour wave of violence had been checked, denied today that the demonstration against the Jews were government-inspired.

In a statement to assembled foreign correspondents, the Propaganda Minister warned Jews abroad "in the interest of their co-religionists" to be "very reserved" in their future actions. Declaring legal measures would be taken against the Jews in a few days and the problem would be solved "in our manner," he said. "If I had organized them (the demonstrations) they would have had an entirely different character and an entirely different result."

Recalling previous official anti-Jewish demonstrations, Goebbels added: "I assure you it would not have been difficult

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for me to gather four or five or six thousand persons to demonstrate against Jewry. I repeat, we do not want to solve the problem by force but by legal means. however, I must state that our attitude will depend in large measure upon the attitude of Jews abroad and the best advice I could give them in the interest of their co-religionists is to be very reserved."

At the beginning of the interview, Goebbels told the correspondents he intended to dispel "misunderstandings" abroad concerning yesterday events. He denied reports that fire brigades had not tried to save burning synagogues, that the wrecked Jewish shops had been looted, or that police had failed to intervene, but admitted that "individual acts of looting" might have occurred. Goebbels expressed particular irritation with American press reports of the pogrom which likened the looters to gangsters and described the whole affair as being reminiscent of the Middle Ages. "Such journalistic methods," he threatened, "will prove a boomerang for their Jewish inspirers."

Attacks Rage 14 Hours

Controlled by the Nazi high command, bands of Nazis carried out nation-wide depredations against the Jews for 14 hours, in revenge for the fatal wounding of a German embassy official in Paris by a Polish Jew, before Propaganda Minister Goebbels called a halt and promised legal reprisals against the Jews. The attacks, however, continued several hours after Goebbels issued the following statement:

"The justified and comprehensible indignation of the German people over the odious Jewish murder in Paris expressed itself during the night in measures of reprisal against Jewish establishments and shops. I now appeal to the entire population, urging it to cease immediately all demonstrations and actions against the Jews. A definitive answer will be made to the Jewish attack in Paris by legislative means."

Two Jews were known to have been shot

dead, one at Polzin, Pomerania, the other at Barnstorf, near Bremen, where Nazi bands clashed with occupants of a Jewish training farm. The two other known deaths were suicides, a Munich banker and his wife leaping from a window of their home.

Nine of Berlin's twelve synagogues were set afire, at least two of them being completely destroyed. a synagogue in Munich was also razed by fire and at least three others were put to the torch in Franconia.

In Berlin, throughout the morning and

afternoon, bands of Nazis shouldered their way through gaping holes left in broken shop windows and completed the work of destruction begun by organized bands at four o'clock yesterday morning. They smashed fixtures, hangings and furniture' reducing the interiors of the shops to piles of refuse. Gaping crowds followed their progress while police, who were much in evidence after the noon hour, loitered in the neighborhood ignoring the proceedings. By mid-afternoon, it seemed that every Jewish shop in Berlin was doomed to complete de-

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25,000 JEWS UNDER ARREST IN WAKE OF WORST POGROM IN MODERN GERMAN HISTORY; 4 DEAD

BERLIN, Nov. 11. (JTA) -- AN ESTIMATED 25,000 JEWS WERE UNDER ARREST TODAY IN THE WAKE OF THE WORST OUTBREAK OF ANTI-JEWISH VIOLENCE IN MODERN GERMAN HISTORY, WHICH LEFT THROUGHOUT THE NATION A TRAIL OF BURNED SYNAGOGUES, SMASHED HOMES, WRECKED AND PILLAGED SHOPS, AND AT LEAST FOUR KNOWN DEAD. POLICE SEIZURES OF JEWS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND THIS MORNING. THREE THOUSAND WERE IN CUSTODY IN BERLIN ALONE.

IT WAS RELIABLY LEARNED THAT THE POLICE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO HALT GENERAL SEIZURES BUT TO CONTINUE ACTIVITIES IN CASES OF CRIMINAL CHARGES. SUCH CHARGES INCLUDE SPREADING OF "ATROCITY PROPAGANDA" AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS.

JEWS WHO SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE ALEXANDERPLATZ HEADQUARTERS WERE HERDED INTO HEAVILY OVERCROWDED ROOMS. IN THE MORNING, SCORES OF THEM, MAINLY PART-JEWS, FORMER ARMY OFFICERS AND PERSONS WITH EMIGRATION VISAS, WERE RELEASED. THE BULK OF THE REMAINDER REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN INTERNED AT THE ORANIENBURG CONCENTRATION CAMP. ALL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HILFSVEREIN, CENTRAL AID SOCIETY, HAVE BEEN CLOSED.

FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S NATIONWIDE ARRESTS OF JEWISH LEADERS, ADDITIONAL LEADERS WERE SUMMONED TO THE GESTAPO HEADQUARTERS HERE THIS MORNING. TWENTY ARRESTED JEWISH JOURNALISTS WERE RECALLED AND NOTIFIED THAT THE BAN ON JEWISH PUBLICATIONS WOULD CONTINUE FOR THREE MONTHS.

AT KOENIGSBERG, IN EAST PRUSSIA, 2,000 JEWS WERE SUMMONED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS, FORCED TO HAND OVER THE KEYS TO THEIR HOMES AND GIVEN A FORTNIGHT TO LEAVE THE CITY.

MEANWHILE, NAZI LEADERS WERE REPORTED TO BE DISCUSSING MEASURES FOR EXPROPRIATION OF JEWISH FORTUNES THROUGHOUT THE REICH AND DEPORTATION OF ALL FOREIGN JEWS. JULIUS STREICHER, GOVERNOR OF FRANCONIA AND THE REICH'S HIGH PRIEST OF ANTI-SEMITISM, WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BERLIN TO HEAD A "COMMITTEE FOR ANTI-JEWISH ACTIVITIES."

(ASSOCIATED PRESS AND UNITED PRESS DISPATCHES FROM BERLIN SAID THAT PLANS FOR RESTORATION OF A GHETTO FOR JEWS WERE UNDER WAY BY NAZI LEADERS. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, CREDITED TO NAZI INFORMANTS, THE JEWS WOULD BE COMPELLED TO LIVE AND DO BUSINESS ONLY IN THE GHETTO OF THEIR CITY, WITH ONLY A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SHOPS TO SUPPLY JEWISH NEEDS BEING TOLERATED.)



Emergency Contacts

PASTORAL CARE.

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

FUNERALS.

Knesset Israel's funeral arrangements are handled with Flynn-Dagnoli funeral home. Please call 413-663-6523 or 413-442-1733. You can also email flynndagnoli@albany.twcbc.com.

CARE COMMITTEE.

If you or another K.I. member you know is experiencing serious illness requiring support, please contact the Care Committee by calling the main office of Knesset Israel, 413-445-4872, ext. 10 and we will be in touch with you.



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

Call Naomi Schwartz at
413-841-0006

Kristalnacht

(continued from page 13)

struction.

Scenes of destruction took place in every quarter of Berlin. Plundering, smashing of furniture and even wrecking of Jewish homes occurred in the northeast quarter of the city, where the poorer Jews live. Late yesterday smoke was still pouring from the great Fasanenstrasse Synagogue, with firemen standing by to prevent the blaze from spreading to nearby buildings. The synagogue, which was put to the torch a second time after firemen had extinguished the first blaze, was gutted. Both edifices were valued at several million marks. Damaged to a lesser extent were the Oranienburger synagogue, Berlin's largest, and the Lutzowstrasse Synagogue, where raiders confined their attention to holy objects.

Throughout the city hardly a single Jewish shop or restaurant window was left intact as bands proceeded systematically from street to street, smashing panes with hammers and stoning these beyond reach. In some sections plundering followed swiftly.

The headquarters of the Zionist Organization, occupying an entire building on Meineckestrasse, were reduced to splintered wood and mounds of torn records. The building adjoining the Oranienburgerstrasse Synagogue, housing the Jewish community headquarters, was untouched.

Repeated calls to the police riot squads began frantically when the campaign was launched at four o'clock yesterday morning, but they went unanswered by order. The fire department, however, responded to calls and did its best to keep the flames from spreading.

A synagogue at Cologne was destroyed by fire. The Jewish community building in that city was wrecked and numerous arrests of Jews were reported. At Erfurt, in Thuringia, all male adult Jews were

I marvel at the resilience of the Jewish people. Their best characteristic is their desire to remember. No other people has such an obsession with memory.

—Ellie Weisel

reported imprisoned. Additional arrests were made at Braunschweig and Kottbus.

Several hundred Munich Jews were rounded up by the police and ordered to leave the country within a few hours or be sent to concentration camps. Since most of them had no passports, and those with passports had no visas, an indefinite stay at Dachau concentration camp was considered likely. Arrests of Jewish leaders were reported in Munich, Nuremberg and elsewhere. Scores of Jews fled Breslau, seeking safety in the countryside.

The Berlin raiders were mostly civilian-dressed and carried short daggers, signifying membership in uniformed Nazi formations. They spared the headquarters of the Reichs-Verband, the Hilfsverein and the Centralverein, principal Jewish representative and relief organizations.

While the campaign did not get under way until four a.m., preliminary forays occurred earlier and the process of destruction was still going on when children started off to school. Not until the first wave of destruction was over were police seen on the streets in any numbers.

The Nazi press dismissed the violence in two brief paragraphs, asserting: "Spontaneous demonstrations against Jews took place all over Germany as people gave vent to their feelings with respect to the death of Ernst vom Rath (third secretary of the German embassy in Paris). The windows of some Jewish shops were broken and synagogues, the center of inimical talmud learning, were set afire."

14 CHESHVAN - 11/1

Benjamin Jonas
Madeline Alfred
Shirley Rudich

15 CHESHVAN - 11/2

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

16 CHESHVAN - 11/3

Henrietta Gans
Schulman
Jacob Green
Anna Keslowicz
Riva Kutik
Shirley Goldlust

17 CHESHVAN - 11/4

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

18 CHESHVAN - 11/5

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

19 CHESHVAN - 11/6

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

20 CHESHVAN - 11/7

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

21 CHESHVAN - 11/8

Grace Martin
George Garbowit

22 CHESHVAN - 11/9

Rose Gruberg
Herbert Secunda
Isaac Meyer Abeles
Anna Bass

23 CHESHVAN - 11/10

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

24 CHESHVAN - 11/11

Isadore Green
Carrie Hyman
Andrea Lipton Becker
Harry Buckheim
Samuel Cutler

25 CHESHVAN - 11/12

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

26 CHESHVAN - 11/13

Philip Katzman

27 CHESHVAN - 11/14

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

29 CHESHVAN - 11/16

Feyga Kirshteyn
Arthur Stein
Sarah F. Cohen
Sheila Goodwin
Feigenbaum

1 KISLEV - 11/17

Violet Adelman
Rachel S. Harris
Sam Rothstein
Gussie Selkowitz

2 KISLEV - 11/18

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

3 KISLEV - 11/19

Oscar Lanzer
Pearl Curran
Sarah Lubin
Eddie Sam Golos
Lee Bell

4 KISLEV - 11/20

Jacob Bakst
David Krancer
Janice Whitcomb

5 KISLEV - 11/21

Kayla Levine
Emma A. Simonson
Ruth Lipton
Sophie Stein

There are three ascending
levels of mourning:
with tears—that is the lowest.
With silence—that is higher.
And with a song —
that is the highest.

—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Nathan Weltman
Barbara Goldin
Yale Garber
David Carr

6 KISLEV - 11/22

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

7 KISLEV - 11/23

Hazel Weinberger
Frances Abramson
Samuel Brecher
Michael Klein
Leslie Gelber
Morris Rothberg
Robert Kerbel

8 KISLEV - 11/24

Isaac Cohen
Ruth Weinberg Finck

9 KISLEV - 11/25

Joseph Binder
Doris Schifrin
David Margolin
Anna Goldblum

10 KISLEV - 11/26

Lena Klein Meierowitz
Dora Plotsky
Florence Tirrell
Robert C. Marmorek
Israel Cutler
Albert Finck
Bessie Fleischmann

11 KISLEV - 11/27

Anne Weller Chesney
Alan Rosen
Lena Raphan

12 KISLEV - 11/28

Martha Goldstein
Bella Rife

13 KISLEV - 11/29

Charles Kobritz
Jeffrey Mark Seelen-
freund
Sarah Pinsky
Morris Landa

14 KISLEV - 11/30

Rachel Smith
Brian Kriger
Edward Drosnin
Lillian Greenberg
Samuel Geller
Nathan Promisel
Jean Mandel
Sarah Baron Kolodkin

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

—Rabbi Harold S. Kushner



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Ev Bastow

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Sherry Sukel

Laurie Sukel

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Galina Sirota

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Samuel Pill

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on the marriage of
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*Natalya and Sergey
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Wishing Molly Souede and
the entire congregation a
New Year filled with good
health, much happiness and
abundant peace.

*Judy Zendell and
Wayne Groh*

Mazel Tov to

Ari Spungen Bildner and
Deborah Block on their
marriage

Joy Reines and Craig
Zimmerman on their
marriage

Refuah Shleimah

to Ellen Masters

Nan and Allan Lipton

In honor of Charlie Raser
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Sergey Yantovsky*

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Maxine Bookless*

*Richard and Marcie
Greenfield Simons*

Get well wishes to

Maxine Bookless

Amy Abramovich

In memory of Jack Krawet

Ann and Dave Krawet

In honor of Josh Landes'
engagement to Allison
Lerman-Gluck

Sarah Coleman's
engagement

the birth of Noa Yael,
granddaughter of Roy and
Leslie Kozupsky

Arlene and Gary Schiff

Refuah Shleimah to

Jan Zimble

Maxine Bookless

Bernie and Beth Abramson

In memory of

Milton Freadman

Charlene Kahn

Get well wishes to

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Maxine Bookless

In honor of Judy Moss's
special birthday

Diane Israelite Weinstein

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Matthew Rich

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Skip Paynter*

In memory of Laura Stoskin

Molly Novick

Get well wishes to

Maxine Bookless

*Richard and Marcie
Greenfield Simons*

In honor of

the engagement of our
daughter Sarah to Nathan
Singer

*Robin Fleet and
Phil Coleman*

In memory of Joel Fleet

*Robin Fleet, Phil Coleman,
and Sarah Coleman*

In memory of Anna Bass

Ruth and Robert Waldheim

In memory of Khinka Kogan

*Yefim Kogan and
Galina Dobrynina*

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In honor of

our son, David Wasser, who chanted all the High Holy days services at Temple Torat Ysrael in East Greenwich, Rhode Island

In honor of

our daughter, Andrea Wasser Schindler, receiving the Bugbee-Faulk Book Award for her extraordinary contribution to the Masters of Health Administration course at the University of Utah School of Medicine and for being selected to serve on the board of admissions for the University Medical School.

Terry and Art Wasser

HARVEY AND JANIS ZIMBLER ENDOWMENT

Get well wishes to

Jan Zimblar

Elaine and Lenny Lipton

*Richard and Marcie
Greenfield Simons*

Thank you for your generosity

Strange is our situation here on Earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose.

From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: that [we are] here for the sake of [others]—above all for those upon whose smiles and well-being our own happiness depends.

—Albert Einstein comes from “My Credo”



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Ancestors in Need!

Ahavath Sholom, the Orthodox Jewish congregation in Pittsfield, was founded in 1911. They established the cemetery on Churchill Street in 1912. The shul was closed in the 90's, and the Congregation continued essentially as a burial society.

Some families were contributing \$25 a year for maintenance costs, but as generations passed away, there was little, if any, money coming in. There is no formal entity "running" the cemetery. Judy Cook has been doing a mitzvah hiring and paying for general cleanup through an account set up by Harris Aaronson and Don Sugarman.

Susan (Schechter) Peled, a former native of Pittsfield who made aliyah to Israel, was visiting her parents' grave site and noticed the need for more serious upkeep. The terrain is uneven, stones are hardly readable, and some need foundational work.

This is where our community's first residents rest. There is even a children's section in the back. To honor and respect our ancestors, Susan proposed that we reach out to family and friends of those buried there, as well as to the community at large, to raise funds. Nan Bookless volunteered to be the state-side facilitator.

Susan obtained a quote of \$5,000 from Rich Atwood that will cover all of the initial work needed—including cleaning the headstones. With a need for seasonal clean-up, snow removal, and future stone work, we hope to raise even more. Every dollar will help!

To contribute, mail a check made out to Ahavath Sholom, to Judy Cook, 9 Palomino Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201. To send digitally, please contact Nan Bookless at nan.2194@icloud. Thank you for considering a donation.

For a list of those buried at Ahavath Sholom visit bit.ly/3j1UWYv

