Dr. Rachel Korazim: 2017 Scholar in Residence

Dorothy and Chaim Wildman Shabbaton, November 3-5, 2017

Dr. Rachel Korazim

Knesset Israel warmly welcomes Dr. Rachel Korazim as our Scholar-in-Residence for the 2017 Wildman Shabbaton, November 3-5, 2017. A freelance Jewish education consultant who focuses on curriculum development for Israel and Holocaust education, Rachel opens a window to Israeli society through the lens of literature.

Dr. Korazim, has a knack for sharing three dimensional snapshots of Israeli culture and history that bring the country and its people to life. Through stories, poems, and songs of the best of Israel’s writers, she invites listeners to engage with Israel. This is not the Israel of the prayer book, the pulpit, the news, or the Jewish Agency. Instead Rachel will introduce us to the Israel of the living room, an authentic and complicated experience that we can sink our teeth into.

No biographical list of her academic achievements can capture the sophistication, dynamism, and enthusiasm with which Rachel presents her material. Our weekend with Dr. Korazim promises to be one of the most enjoyable and thought-provoking scholar-in-residence programs Knesset Israel has ever presented. She has been a favorite teacher of Rabbi Weiner as he continues his professional development studies at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

We will have many opportunities to learn with Rachel over the course of her

continued on page 10

Solemnity & Joy

A month full of many holidays

- Our Jewish calendar this month contains the solemnity of Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur, joyous gatherings in the Sukkah, and self-reflections on Shemini Atzeret. The special moments shared on Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Hoshanna Rabbah will be celebrated here at Knesset Israel with appropriate solemnity and joy along with inspiring opportunities for personal growth. A description of the meaning of these holidays can be found on page 5.

- Everyone is invited! Every year we gather under our Sukkah during Tishri to celebrate the blessings of a plentiful harvest. The children have energetically decorated the K.I. Sukkah with colorful autumn symbols and edibles. All are welcome to participate in the mitzvah by having Kiddush in the Sukkah after services October 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13.
In This Issue

Wildman Shabbaton / Schedule ... 1 & 10
From the Rabbi.......................... 3
From the President/ Board Highlights ... 4
Calendar & Holiday Services ......... 6 & 7
Middle East Talk / Film Screening ...... 8
Musical Musings........................ 9
From Loneliness to Community ....... 10
K.I. Cares................................ 11
Yahrzeits, Funds & Endowments.... 12-15
......................................... and much more!

K.I. Staff

OFFICE PHONE  413-445-4872

RABBI DAVID WEINER Ext. 10
rabbie Weiner@knessetisrael.org

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

ED ROBINSON
bookkeeper@knessetisrael.org

MYRNA HAMMERLING Ext. 16
Director of Adult Education
and Programming
mhammerling@knessetisrael.org

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

EVE EDWARDS
Hebrew School Administrator
eve.edwards14@outlook.com

ELISA SNOWISE
B’Nai Mitzvah Teacher /Coordinator
elisasatki@gmail.com

BRANDI DAHARI
Youth Advisor
bdahari@berkshireschool.org

LIZ DEMARCO, Web Administrator,
liz@bookmarccreative.com

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

In This Issue

Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

Birthdays

[Infographic]

Spread the joy!
Send the KOL K.I editor news of births, awards, celebrations, and milestones to share with your community...

- Elie Hammerling .............. October 1
- Laura Frankenthaler .......... October 3
- Roberta Waller ............... October 3
- Thomas Sebestyen ......... October 5
- Aaron David Weeks ........... October 5
- Diane Weinstein .............. October 5
- Roney Weis ..................... October 5
- Adam Matthew Dukehart .... October 6
- Karen Jacobs .................. October 7
- Myra Kressner ............... October 9
- Mark Usow ..................... October 9
- Benjamin Dahari ............ October 10
- David Pill ..................... October 11
- Adam Weinberg .............. October 11
- Sarah Coleman .............. October 12
- Sophie Usow .................. October 13
- Amy Abramovich ............ October 14
- Peter Lanzer .................. October 15
- Lewis Schiller ............... October 15
- Aaron Siegel ................. October 15
- Sandra Snyder ............... October 15
- Nina Shelomentseva ........ October 16
- Laurie Brenner .............. October 17
- Leslie Kozupsky ............. October 17
- Benjamin Buissink .......... October 19

- Michael Jacobson .......... October 19
- Leonard Cohen .............. October 20
- Rochelle Weisberg ........... October 20
- Leslie Newson .............. October 21
- Margo Golos ................. October 22
- Lawrence Berke ............. October 23
- Eric Karlin ................. October 23
- Joseph Lerner .............. October 23
- Hanna Elizabeth Schiff .... October 23
- Micah Siegel ............... October 24
- Jesse Cook-Dubin .......... October 26
- Raphaella Kramer .......... October 29
- Jilly Lederman .............. October 29
- Rosemary Snyder ........... October 29
- Amy Brentano .............. October 31
- Jim Orlow ................. October 31

Anniversaries

- Elaine Hantman
  & Paul Rosenthal.......... October 9
- Nancy Stoll
  & Richard Woller.......... October 16
- Rochelle Leinwand
  & Morton Taubin.......... October 27
- Elisa & Robert Bildner .... October 31

learn. inspire. grow. together.
From the Rabbi

Reflections On My Shalom Hartman Institute Experience

Exploring the complexity of Israel; experiencing diverse perspectives; bringing it all home to K.I.

I am deeply grateful to the congregation for giving me the opportunity to study at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem in July. Every summer, this centrist Israeli think tank, program developer and Jewish education powerhouse gathers rabbis from across the religious spectrum for two weeks of Torah study and discussion of current issues in Judaism, Israel, and the broader Jewish community. Most colleagues during the Hartman session are American or Canadian, but there were also several European, Israeli and South American rabbis present as well. I find this conference particularly moving specifically because of the range of perspectives in the room, which gives me a better sense of what is happening throughout the Jewish world.

This year’s seminar focused on Israel’s milestones and their meaning, in particular the 1917 Balfour Declaration, the UN Partition Plan for Palestine of 1947 and the Six-Day War of 1967. Each morning my colleagues and I gathered in small groups to study and analyze ancient texts—Torah, Talmud, Midrash, etc.—as well as documents from the modern world: the Geneva Convention, international reactions to the foundation of the State of Israel and political manifestos from one perspective or another. I found that this close reading process often led to surprising insights and understanding, especially of positions with which I do not intuitively agree. Before lunch, world-class scholars who had worked for nearly fourteen months preparing their lectures, drew conclusions and arguments from the sources we had studied that morning.

Although the topic was fundamentally historical, classes were multidisciplinary and deeply relevant to the present moment. They incorporated literature, stories, poetry and music. There was ample opportunity for personal conversation in small groups about how the material was affecting participants. Evening sessions welcomed current scholars and leaders from across Israel to panel discussions that raised complicated questions. Furthermore, certain key questions were always in the background: How does the past shape our understanding of the present? How does the same process play out for someone who has a different ideology than I do? Can we find grounds for conversation and mutual understanding, especially since we are responsible for building a shared present and future for the Jewish people?

I have begun bringing pieces I learned at the Hartman program to the congregation. In late July, our Torah discussions focused on Jonathan Haidt’s Moral Foundations Theory (See yourmorals.org), a powerful lens for understanding how to listen to and talk with people of different cultures and political understandings. Tal Becker, the legal philosopher who is the longest-serving negotiator (on either side) in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, brought this to a seminar group in which I had the privilege of participating. Pieces of what I learned on an organized trip to the West Bank settlement bloc of Shiloh informed the way I think about Israel’s future, as well as about the way all of us choose the narrative that provides the meaning and direction for our lives. I look forward to exploring more of what I learned with the congregation as time goes by.

If you would like a taste of the scholarship of the Hartman Institute, you may find the organization online at hartman.org.il. Also please join us the weekend of November 3-5 when K.I. welcomes Dr. Rachel Korazim, one of my teachers from the Hartman Institute, for our Wildman Shabbaton.

One who studies Torah in order to teach, is given the means to study and to teach; and one who’s studies in order to practice, is given the means to study and to teach, to observe, and to practice.

—Rabbi Yishmael bar Yose

“Pirkei Avot–Ethics of the Fathers”
From the President

A Time to Think of Goals and Priorities

Moving forward together

Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur always leave me feeling refreshed. For me, the holidays reframe my priorities and help me focus on the year ahead, having learned lessons from the previous year. This year, I want to exceed my goals in three areas: 1. Always be present for my family, 2. Provide an exceptional work experience for my co-workers, and 3. Become an efficient and effective leader at K.I.

In order to attain my goals at K.I., I will gauge success in several ways.

- Membership—It is important to not only attract new members to our wonderful synagogue, but also to retain the current membership through effective programming, meaningful prayer experiences and other areas of engagement.

- Legacy—Last October, President Schiller wrote about our Endowment. Our growth has come from a positive return on our investments, but our utilization is at a point where our total fund balance is stagnant. To ensure synagogue life for future generations, we will need to build our endowment balance through donations and legacy commitments.

- Programming & Tefillah Engagement—Rabbi Weiner inspires me when he talks about one of his commitments to all members; that he is here to help congregants on their journey. That may be spiritual, religious, or something entirely different. I want to ensure that your desires are being fulfilled with programming that stimulates and entertains, and Tefillah that inspires you.

As I watch the leaves turn colors and fall to the ground this October, I’ll be thinking about change within me that will help me achieve my goals and the goals of our congregation. Perhaps you will find new adventures on your journey this year, and I hope part of that is experiencing something new at K.I.

Lara, Levi & Noah join me in wishing you a wonderful fall!

Jonathan Denmark

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.

August Board Meeting Highlights

Jan Zimbler introduced our newest members to the Board. A warm welcome to Michael and Allison Rosenthal and their son Mason, Estelle and Ephraim Leibowitz, and Brenda and Barry Leeper.

The new memorial board has been installed in the sanctuary through the generosity of the Helitzer family.

Jonathan Denmark reported on the great success of the Peter, Paul and Mary tribute concert, held in collaboration with Temple Anshe Amunim.

Judy Seaman was praised for stepping in for the first year to successfully lead the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival. She and her committee did an excellent job.

The BBQ for three generations earlier in August was reported to be a great success and will be repeated in the future.

Jonathan Denmark outlined the new policy of using name tags as an alternative to tickets for High Holiday services.

The 2018 Budget was presented by Treasurer Ed Helitzer, reviewed by the board, and accepted unanimously.
weekend in the Berkshires. Our schedule includes:

Friday, November 3
Shirei Shabbat service—5:30 p.m.
followed by dinner — 6:30 p.m.
(RSV required—$20 per adult, $15 per
teen, free under 13).

Friday, November 3—7:30 p.m.
Connections to the Land

The core Zionist narrative of Israel presents an unbroken, unwavering connection between the people of Israel and its land. True as that is, individuals have also expressed doubts, pain and critique as an aspect of their particular attachment to Israel. We will explore works by Yitzhak Shalev, Rachel, Nathan Alterman, Yehuda Amichai, Ephraim Kishon, Balfour Hakak, Lysie Doron and Amos Oz.

Saturday, November 4—8:40 a.m.
Jewish Fundamentals You Thought You Knew (for teens only).

Rabbi Weiner’s Teen Torah study class will enjoy a session with Rachel where she complicates their understanding of Shema, the binding of Isaac and/or the story of Hannukah using modern Israeli poetry.

Shabbat Morning Services—9:30 a.m.
During the service, at approximately 10:45 a.m., Dr. Korazim will address The Image of the Other. Arabs have been portrayed in Israeli literature from the very early days of the first Aliya. Their image constantly changes from romantic biblical figures to suspicious enemies, and even shows up as neighbors and critical witnesses to Israel’s ever changing reality. We will read short excerpts from works by authors such as David Grossman, A.B. Yehoshua and Sayvon Liebrecht.

Noon – Lunch 1:00 – The Other as Mirror
Having explored images of Arabs in Jewish Israeli literature in the earlier session, we will then juxtapose them with Arab Israeli literary works that depict a society in which they feel often disenfranchised. Poems of Yehuda Amichai and Agi Mishol will offer conflicting images of friend and foe. Sami Michael and Emil Habibi will present complementary views of life of Jews and Arabs living together on the same street in Haifa that they both love.

Saturday evening, Rachel will join the Knesset Israel Rosh Chodesh group at a time they will mutually determine to present Women’s Voices. This session will present a compilation of women’s poetry. Women poets express their nuanced connection to the land of Israel, offer their unique way of reading Torah, create new individual poetic prayers, and speak out in the political arena.

Sunday, November 5—12:30 p.m.
Berkshire Educators’ Lunch.

Educators from across the county who teach Israel-related curricula are invited to join Dr. Korazim at Knesset Israel for an exceptional professional development experience. RSVP to Knesset Israel for lunch at (413) 445-4872 x10.

In recent years there is a growing interest in Israel studies in all Jewish educational frameworks. However, a dilemma arises when teaching about Israel in Hebrew School classes. How should one address the desire to foster love of Israel while at the same time encourage open conversation and critical analysis of the complexities of life in Israel today? These contemporary questions join the older ones we always had, namely, what is the body of knowledge that we want our students to have so they can handle the issues and be able to make informed life choices about Israel?

What image of Israel do we seek to convey? What does it mean to teach Israel?

More about Dr. Korazim

Born in Israel, Dr. Korazim served in the I.D.F as an officer in the central training base for women and was later a member of the I.D.F delegation to Niger (West Africa). She is a graduate of Haifa University with a Ph.D. in Jewish education. Rachel has vast experience in Jewish education both in Israel and worldwide. As one of the founders and directors of a special program for soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds, she was responsible for creating the educational framework and training teachers for the implementation of the program.

Rachel was the head of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) delegation to Canada, 1985 to 1988. This is when she became involved with Jewish education worldwide; creating and implementing in-service training programs for educators, writing educational materials, counseling and teaching. This renowned educator is familiar, through many visits, with the Jewish education communities of the U.S., Canada, Latin America and Europe. Since 1990 she has invested a lot of time and energy in helping the emerging Jewish schools of Hungary. Rachel was also the Academic Director of Distance learning programs at the JAFI, Department of Education, until 2008.

Presently, Dr. Korazim teaches at Israel’s well known learning centers such as Pardes and the Shalom Hartman Institutes as well as numerous world Jewish communities.

In her free time, Rachel enjoys scuba diving in the cenotes of Playa del Carmen in Mexico and the amazing coral sites in the Red Sea. Rachel is also a very active grandmother of eight grand-children who all live in Israel.
October Calendar

CANDLE LIGHTING
Wednesday, October 4 – Eve of first day of Sukkot ................................................. 6:11 PM
Thursday, October 5 – Eve of second day of Sukkot ..................................................... After 7:09 PM
Friday, October 6 ................................................. 6:07 PM
Wednesday, October 11 – Eve of Shemini Atzeret ...................................................... 5:59 PM
Thursday, October 12 – Eve of Simchat Torah ............................................................. After 6:57 PM
Friday, October 13 ................................................. 5:56 PM
Friday, October 20 ................................................. 5:45 PM
Friday, October 27 ................................................. 5:34 PM

KOSHER MEAT DELIVERY
No orders for October due to the Holidays.

REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE
Sunday .................................................................................................................. 8:45 AM & 7 PM
Tuesday .............................................................................................................. 7 PM
Friday ................................................................................................................ 5:45 PM
Saturday ........................................................................................................... 9:30 AM & 5:30 PM

EVENTS & MEETINGS
Cemetery Committee Meeting ................................................. Tue., October 10 7:30 PM
Ken Pollack – Middle East Update (Shakespeare & Company) ........................................... Sun., October 15 7 PM
K.I. Board Meeting ................................................. Wed., October 18 7:30 PM
The Settlers (Provocative film) ................................................. Sun., October 29 10 AM

In compliance with United Conservative Synagogue guidelines, please refrain from conducting synagogue business via email and/or phone calls on Shabbat. Thank you!

6 ▶ KOL K.I. • OCTOBER 2017 • TISHREI – CHESHVAN 5778
Holiday Services

A Month Full of Holidays

What, when, and why—by Myrna Hammerling, Director of Adult Education and Programming

Sukkot 2017 begins at sunset on Wednesday, October 4 and lasts through the evening of Wednesday, October 11.

The conclusion of Sukkot marks the beginning of the separate holidays of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Sukkot is known as the “Festival of Tabernacles” and the “Feast of Booths.” It is one of Judaism’s three central pilgrimage festivals, along with Passover and Shavuot. It is a harvest festival arriving soon after the solemn days of Yom Kippur, expressing thanks for plenty by gathering within a Sukkah for a meal.

It is traditional to build a sukkah, a temporary hut to dwell in during the holiday. Our Sukkah was erected with joy by our school staff, their students, under the able supervision of Chris Goetz and others.

It is the custom to buy a lulav and etrog. Specific prayers are included in the services referring to their significance and instructions for shaking them.

Hoshanah Rabbah, the seventh day of Sukkot is a semi-holiday in its own right.

Still counted among the days of Hol Hamoed (intermediate days of the festival), this day’s name means “the great hoshanah.” A hoshanah is a series of seven liturgical poems calling upon God to rescue and redeem the Jewish people, primarily by sending rain.

Hoshanah Rabbah was viewed by the rabbis of the Talmud as a mini-Yom Kippur, a day on which the entire Jewish community is judged by God to be worthy or not of the seasonal rains. All seven hoshanot prayers are recited in seven hakkafot, or processions, around the sanctuary.

At the conclusion of the seven processions, a special ritual is conducted in which the branches of the willow (the lulav) are struck upon the ground. This is a symbolic attempt to rid ourselves of any remaining sins (the leaves representing these transgressions) that might influence God’s decision to send the seasonal rains.

On the evening following Hoshanah Rabbah, the festival of Shemini Atzeret begins.

Thursday night (October 12) begins Shemini (the eighth day) Atzeret (of assembly), the last festival in the summer/fall Jewish holiday cycle. It is a day without work—an extra day to gather with friends at the Temple.

Like other festivals, with Shemini Atzeret we associate liturgies of Yizkor (remembering the deceased) and Hallel (gratitude). Uniquely on Shemini Atzeret, liturgy shifts from its summer form (praying for dew) to its winter form (praying for rain).

In a sense, the calendar’s spiritual circuit begins again the very next day after Shemini Atzeret, on Simchat Torah, when we ceremonially begin Torah again with Creation and Genesis 1.
Of Interest

Middle East Update

No Easy Answers

On Sunday October 15, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will be hosting Kenneth M. Pollack, presenting “Middle East Update: 2017: No Easy Answers.”

Pollack is an expert on Middle Eastern political-military affairs, a former CIA intelligence analyst, and a former director of the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. He is currently a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

The program is free and open to the public.

Sunday, October 15 • 7:30 PM • FREE
at the Tina Packer Playhouse
Shakespeare & Company
70 Kemble Street, Lenox, Mass.

For more information, call the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, 413-442-4360, x10, or visit jewishberkshires.org.

BJFF Screening of “The Settlers” at K.I.

Save the Date! October 29th, 7:30 p.m. | Tickets $10 at the door

The members of the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival Screening Committee will sponsor a showing of the film “The Settlers” on Sunday, October 29th at 7:30 p.m., in the Esther and William Lipton Israel Library at Knesset Israel, immediately following the 7:00 p.m. Minyan.

“The Settlers” is an in-depth exploration of the occupied territories of the West Bank. Members of these communities are interviewed in the documentary, offering an up-close and often disturbing portrait. Shimon Dotan’s film chronicles the germination of the early settler movement after Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan in 1967, including the ideas and religious zeal that fueled it. The film explores the movement’s latest extreme element, opening, according to The New York Times, “a rare window into the reclusive and politically explosive ‘hilltop youth’ movement.”

The evening is an opportunity to get together with other film lovers to view a provocative Israeli movie. Thank you to Judy Seaman, Amy Herman, Susan Frisch Lehrer, Susan Miller, Laura Ferber Hazen, Fred Landes, Alan Metzger, Steve Rosenthal and Jan Zimbler for organizing this event!

Discussion led by Rabbi David Weiner and light refreshments will follow.
Greetings all, and I hope this finds everyone in the High Holiday spirit. Shana Tovah to everyone! This month I would like to talk about the idea of intergenerational music at K.I.—what we’re doing about it, some ideas for the future, and maybe just a little bragging on some of the amazing young folks who are the up and comers here in our music-centric congregation!

For those of you who missed the Hebrew School Shirei Shabbat that we did in the spring, you have another chance coming up for our Hanukkah Shirei Shabbat on December 15. This one promises to be absolutely awesome with a lot of contributions from our young people. And let me tell you, these are fine young musicians and their “chops” are really developing! We fully expect this event to completely sell out and pack the synagogue. Please put it on your calendar now, and it is not too early to reserve with Diana.

Beyond this, our goal is to bring these younger musicians slowly but surely into some of our events as regular musicians. We have some very fine young keyboard players, guitar players, and singers…and need I say more about our instant teenage drum sensation Colby Lederman who lit up the K.I. Band as we rocked out on the Rolling Stones this year? Colby will be back behind the kit next Purim, count on it!

In addition, we are exploring some ideas for smaller musical services, as well as joint services like the fabulous Shabbat Across the Berkshires we hosted in June. Stay tuned!

Also we are pleased to get the word out for the K.I. Coffeehouse which is definitely on for Sunday November 12 at 7 p.m. This program will be more than just a hoot, it will be a must-attend for everyone! Believe me, this is not just a talent show, our musicians and singers will be presenting a wonderful evening of original music, folk and pop songs, some old fashioned crooning, and plenty of dance music. Be there or be square! Please reserve with Diana or on our website.

Lastly, check out the great interview I did with the wonderful and multi-talented Sherri Buxton in my “Spotlight On” column this month. We are very blessed to have Sherri and I know you will enjoy the story.

My kindest best wishes to you and all your family this holiday season!

Spotlight On…Sherri Buxton

Tell me about your musical training and background. I’m sure you heard lots of different kinds of music growing up but you became a vocalist.

Sherry: My first solo was in elementary school during a talent show at my shul in Evanston, Illinois, where I grew up listening to Broadway shows and popular music. I went to musical theatre classes and camps in Chicago starting at age nine and began formal voice lessons at 11. Along with piano lessons and dance classes, I studied through college at Indiana University where I received a BMS in music. All through high school and college, I performed professionally doing cabaret shows, summer stock and musical theatre. After college, I moved to New York where I performed on Broadway and at cabaret venues.

What were some of your early influences, bands, and genres of music that you were listening to?

continued on page 11
From A Member

From Loneliness to Community

A personal thank you letter to Knesset Israel at Rosh Hashana — by Becca Prava

When I first moved to Pittsfield, it was under harsh circumstances. I was very ill and I was living in a nursing home where I was the youngest by at least about forty years, and in most cases more like sixty. Because of this I felt very alone and cut off. One month at the nursing home turned into two, then three, and the high holidays rolled around. As an observant Jew I felt even more alone and cut off from my community thinking depressing thoughts of spending the holidays without my immediate and extended family and friends from my Jewish community back in Springfield, MA. My mom brought me in a Machzor, my Bubbie and Grandpa sent me cards from themselves and my Shul back home. The Rabbi from my Shul at home called to wish me a Shana Tova, but nothing felt right. I felt alone and abandoned.

Then my cousin Harriet Samuels suggested to my mom that she have her friend pick me up from the nursing home and bring me to Knesset Israel for the high holidays. I immediately agreed, knowing from a deep place in my heart that Shul was the place I belonged on the holidays, but never imagined how connected to myself, God, and my fellow Jews in the community, I would feel as soon as I stepped foot inside K.I.

Laura Hazen picked me up from the nursing home on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and was so kind, sweet, and easy-going about my special medical needs that I couldn't help becoming close friends with her instantly—now I think of her as my “Pittsfield mom”.

When I walked into Knesset Israel people were accepting of me immediately. No one made me feel uncomfortable because of my wheelchair, feeding tubes, or IV lines, bags, and pumps. People came up and introduced themselves to me and made me feel completely welcome and at home. When I was asked where I lived and what brought me to Pittsfield and I had to explain about my disease and living in a nursing home no one made me feel less for any of that, they still didn’t treat me as disabled or lower than them and I really appreciated that.

As the service began it felt wonderful to open the Machzor and see all of the familiar prayers that are within and to sing along to the beautiful tunes along with all the other fellow Jews that filled the room and were so kind and welcoming to me. Our voices rose up in song and prayer together and I felt filled with a spiritual charge. I no longer felt alone or alienated. Now I felt a profound connection with myself, God, and the whole KI congregation.

I still feel this connection now, two years later, when I enter Congregation Knesset Israel on Shabbat and holidays or to learn during the week. I feel this connection when I am davening on Shabbat or holidays and my voice is singing along with everyone else's in prayer, I feel it when I am getting an Aliyah, I feel it when I am hearing the Torah being read, I feel it when I am listening to the Rabbi speak, I feel it when I am learning Torah with others, and I even feel it when I am just talking to my friends at Kiddush.

After my first experience at K.I. for the High Holidays I thanked Harriet profusely for her wonderful idea and suggested to Laura that we go to KI every week from now on. The next thing we knew, Laura and I had both signed up to be members. Rabbi David Weiner made us both feel like very important additions to the community and I was thoroughly impressed by both his intelligence and creativity in his Dvar Torahs on Shabbat and holidays.

Congregation Knesset Israel is the true meaning of community, from the way we welcome guests and newcomers by having them stand up after the service so people can greet them by name at Kiddush, to the way we made a ramp in the sanctuary so that people in wheelchairs, like myself, can get onto the Bimah. I’m proud to be a member of Congregation Knesset Israel.
Help is Close at Hand

K.I. Cares offers help during difficult times

K.I. Cares is an outreach program established to support our K.I. family. The wonderful team of volunteers are always ready in an instant to help anyone in the K.I. Community in need of support during a difficult time. The committee is dedicated to help our fellow congregants when the need arises, reaching out to those in temporary or lasting need, including those who may no longer be able to be active in congregation life.

To date, there are more than thirty generous intergenerational volunteer team members—teens, families, and individual adults. Tasks include preparing meals in the K.I. kitchen for freezing, whipping up a last minute meals, providing information about support services, providing rides to medical appointments and shopping, doing grocery shopping, locating durable medical equipment for use post-surgery or after an injury, as well as reaching out through phone calls to house-bound members.

We encourage families and friends to notify Diana McFarland in the synagogue office (413-445-4872 x10), Rabbi Weiner, or Jill Wollins (yoseffah@gmail.com or 339-222-1663), when you learn of a congregant having a difficult time. We especially want to know about individuals who may be less well-connected within the community so that we can provide support. If you know of someone who could benefit from short-term assistance, or regular check-in phone calls, please let us know.

It takes the caring and action of individuals to be a community. New K.I. Cares members are always welcome. You can volunteer for a short one-time assignment, seasonally, or provide help on an ongoing or as-needed basis. Please contact Jill Wollins, K.I. Cares coordinator, for further information.

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.

Musical Musings
continued from page 9

Sherry: I couldn’t get enough of Broadway shows and movie musicals. I also enjoyed singing classical music (opera and oratorio).

You’re a really fine professional vocalist and teacher. At what point did your realize that you were becoming very serious about music and that your career would be formed around it?

Sherry: Thank you for the compliment. My mother told me that I sang before I could talk. There was never any question that I would be anything BUT a professional singer. It’s the only thing I ever wanted to do. I think I was fortunate to have that passion at such an early age. I’ve also been fortunate to have been able to make music my career as both a performer and a teacher.

Where do you see Jewish music fitting into your repertoire? And what about Jewish music (such as what we play) do you like?

Sherry: My mother always sang Yiddish songs to me so hearing Jewish music is how I grew up. When I sing a Jewish song, or a song about Judaism, I feel as if I am “home”. My Yiddeshe Mama, Lechi Lach and Oseh Shalom are some of my favorites, but someday I will sing “How much is that doggie in the window” for you, as translated into Yiddish by my mom. It’s a riot.

What can we do or offer at KI that would enhance the musical experience for both the players and listeners? Each year we seem to be raising the bar so to speak, but there is always room for improvement… how can we make this even better?

Sherry: I’d love to see musical instruments become part of our Shabbat service in the sanctuary. I think we could do something simple and tasteful that would enhance our spiritual experience. Music has a unique way of connecting us with each other, our heritage, and our spirituality.
10/1 - 11 TISHRI
Ben Herman
Jacob Sandler
Murray H. Ike
Norma Spungen
Rose Ginsberg

10/2 - 12 TISHRI
Anna S. Greenwald Green
Asher Prives
Doris Kriger

10/3 - 13 TISHRI
Anna Lipschitz
Frieda Gorfinkle Effenbach
Jean Fink
Julia Levine Goldstein
Martin Harris
Rahile Kuskin
Richard Lipton
Ruth Slaminsky

10/4 - 14 TISHRI
Albert A. Alper
Bertha Aranove
Harriet Adelson
Helen W. Samel
Kenneth Spungen
Louis Jaffe
Max Novick

10/5 - 15 TISHRI
David Green
Harry Zalutsky
Irving Bookstaber
Lisa Marcus
Miguel Rosner Rosanne
Rothenberg Zelda Cutler

10/6 - 16 TISHRI
Dr. Solomon Greenfeld
Karpel Halperin
Ruth Lus

10/7 - 17 TISHRI
Hinda Cotton Fishelson
Isaac Shainblum
Samuel Barrocas
Stanley Morganstein
Sylvia Linker

10/8 - 18 TISHRI
Estelle Skole
Harold Tracy Spinrad
Harry Lipschultz
Vera Stoskin Gangel

10/9 - 19 TISHRI
Ada Black
Arnold Rose
Esther Malka Katz
Irving Keslowicz
Joseph Raser
Theresa Feldman

10/10 - 20 TISHRI
Celia Fishman
Elliott Weisberger
Matvey Mestechkin
Minnie Brodsky
Sylvia Stein

10/11 - 21 TISHRI
John Tender
Lillian Freedman Pincus
Rose Weissman

10/12 - 22 TISHRI
Jack Fleet
Lillian Goetz
Philip Kanter

10/137 - 23 TISHRI
Bernard Lotto
Daniel Jacobs
Isaak Kutik
Marylin H. Berenson
Rose Bitensky
Tillie Kaplan

10/147 - 24 TISHRI
Lester Johnson
Sally Ruth Miller

10/15 - 25 TISHRI
Elsie C. Reder Fuchs

Hattie Fein Savitt
Lina Mestechkina

10/16 - 26 TISHRI
Blanche Fingeroth
Joseph Reder
Julius Lubin
Mildred Gold Pollack
Rebecca Solomon

10/17 - 27 TISHRI
Hyman Cohen
Louis Adelson
Louis Brand
Sylvia Goodman

10/18 - 28 TISHRI
Esther Rose Zemmel
Irving Berkowitz

10/19 - 29 TISHRI
Joseph George Kronick
Seymour C. Kolman

10/20/ - 30 TISHRI
Abraham D. Simkin
Basya Kutik
Belle Rothenberg
David Rubenstein
Max Bookless

10/21 - 1 HESHVAN
Anna Gitelman
Hilda Cohen
Irving Reife

10/22 - 2 HESHVAN
Dr. Douglas Andrew Levy
Etta Kornbluth
Louis Jacobs
Newton Brenner

10/237 - 3 HESHVAN
Elizabeth Weitzen
Frieda Tobias
William Simons

10/24 - 4 HESHVAN
Abraham Tauber
Dora Borke
Fannie Goodman Paskowitz
Ida Levina
Sally Levinson Sharp

10/25 - 5 HESHVAN
Aida Marvin
Dorothy Leah Metropole
Dr. Robert Gladstone
Dr. Stephen Masters
Ida Minnie Tanenbaum
Goldstein
Jacab Perlman
Louis Bell

10/26 - 6 HESHVAN
Chasa Carr
Mary Carr
Sarah M. Weltman

10/27 - 7 HESHVAN
Adelle Lezberg
Anna Levine Davidov

10/28 - 8 HESHVAN
Arthur F. Dershowitz
David Zwerner
Edith Nissenbaum

10/29 - 9 HESHVAN
Abraham Sidman
Edwin Newman
Helen Feigenbaum
I. Jerry Harab
Sol Link

10/30 - 10 HESHVAN
Hope Shirley Dershowitz
Jack Krawet
Jerome Schlichter
Leonard Gottlieb
Louis Honigbaum
Myra Feldman
Warren Rich

10/31 - 11 HESHVAN
Arthur Hiller
Harry Rosen
Michele Zuckerman
Rose Sagarin
Sanford Lubin

Please support
Knesset Israel's
Minyan Services
Funds & Endowments

ADULT EDUCATION FUND
With gratitude for the Adult Ed offerings at KI
Josephine Brunjes
With get well wishes for
Naomi Schwartz
  Myrna and Elie Hammerling
In memory of Dora Goldberg
  Carole and Sol Israel
In honor of Myrna Hammerling—an inspiration and a wonderful teacher.
  Alice and Norman Klein

CEMETERY GATE CONTRIBUTIONS
IN MEMORY OF EDDIE SKOLETSKY
Maxine Bookless
Judy and Jeff Cook
Ellie and Michael Geller
Joan Grossman and
  Lawrence Ponemon
Robert Markowitz
Judy Moss
Steven and Eleanor Novick
Charlotte Shanblatt
Carole Siegel
Richard and Marcie Greenfield Simons
Susan Zuckerman

CEMETERY FUND
In memory of Henry Kamm
  Renee Kamm Goff
In memory of Sam Horwitz
  Nan and Allan Lipton
In memory of Martin Moss
  Judy Moss
In memory of Frances “Fay” Simkin
  Peter Simkin
In memory of Philip Turetsky
  Gary and Bernice Turetsky
In memory of Boris Berlin
  Etya Mizikovskaya
In memory of Rochelle Weisberg
  Rochelle Weisberg

CEMETERY GATE CONTRIBUTIONS
In memory of Adele Goldblum
  Nan and Allan Lipton
In memory of Dr. Kenneth Goldblum
  Nan and Allan Lipton
In honor of Judith Weiner becoming a U.S. Citizen
  Diane Weinstein
With get well wishes for Cindy Helitzer
  Diane Weinstein

CHESED FUND
Joseph and Barbara Lerner
In memory of Minnie Cohen
  Anita and Jerry Cohen
In memory of Riva Kutik
  Zina Etkina
Healing prayers for
  Marnie Rose Fischer Martin
In memory of Philip Alberts
  Kermit Goodman

GENERAL DONATIONS
In honor of Lara and Jonathan Denmark as they assume their new roles at KI
  Shelley and Bob Berend
In honor of Judith Weiner becoming a U.S. Citizen
  Linda and Burton Edelstein
With thanks for KI’s warmth and hospitality
  Jerrold and Ilene Feit
With gratitude for a warm welcome and honor of an Aliyah
  Renee and Steven Finn
R’fuah Shlaymah, prayers for healing for
  Jonathan Levine
  Kermit Goodman
In appreciation for a warm welcome on a recent visit
  Louis Grossman
In memory of Harry Levine
  Alan Levine
In honor of Joel and Phyllis Curran on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary
  Charles and Marcia Mandel
With gratitude for a place to observe yahrzeit
  Jeffrey Mehler

HARRY & ENID FUHRMAN FUND
In memory of Tillie Cohen
  Enid Fuhrman

HEBREW SCHOOL DONATIONS
In memory of Rita & Sol Toscher and their dedication to the education of Synagogue youth
  Jeanne Hirshberg and Mark Alimansky
In memory of Hedy Kamm
  Renee Kamm Goff
In memory of Ira Siegel
  Bernie and Beth Abramson
  Fran and Stan Ages
  Peter Bass
  Alison Charney
  Ed and Resa Cohen
  Judy and Phil David
  Gary and Julie Engel
  Renee Finn
  Joanna and Ellis Fribush
  Katie & Chris Garvin and Family
  Edward and Sandra Ginsburg
  Heather Glick and Michael Smerka
  Bonnie Gordon
  Brenda and Bobby Green

In memory of Rose Reingold and with thanks for the KI Minyan
  Myra and Larry Promisel
In memory of Claire Tauber
In memory of Ethel Martin Brown
In memory of Saul Tauber
  Miriam Rosenbaum
In appreciation of receiving an aliyah
  Michael Myerson
In honor of Joel and Phyllis Curran on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary
  Naomi Schwartz
In honor of Carol Siegel
  Liz Tapper and Peter Simkini

GOLDBLUM TEFILLAH
In memory of Gloria Leavitt
  David, Maurice, and Alan Leavitt
In memory of Ira Siegel (cont.)
Stephanie and Thomas Hirschen
Henry and Ann Horbaczewski
Lori and Jonathan Kreevoy
The Laufer Family
Lisa and Michael Lefkowitz
Elaine and Lenny Lipton
Charles and Marcia Mandel
Ellen and Stuart Masters
Andrew Meyer
Hope & Drew Meyer
Larry and Jane Pellish
Ellen and Cecil Pollen
Joel and Loretta Prives
Marian and Marshal Raser
Ruth and Steven Rosenthal
Sue and Jerry Schaufeld
Len and Alice Schiller
Albert and Marcia Schnier
Mickey Silverman, Dan Kraus
and The Silverman Group
Richard and Marcie Greenfield Simons
Judy and Manny Yvars
Gerry & Harriet Zocks

ISRAEL & THERESA PILL FUND
In memory of Ida Pill
In memory of Jerome Goldenberg
In memory of Theresa Levinson
   David Pill

KIDDUSH CHALLENGE
Richard and Marcie Greenfield Simons
In honor of Phyllis and Joel Curran’s 60th wedding anniversary!
   Bernie and Beth Abramson
In honor of Joel Wolk’s “Birthday of Antiquity”
   Michael Albert and Susan Merrill
In honor of the upcoming marriage of
   Michael Albert and Susan Merrill
   With get well wishes for Nina Rone
   Bobbi and Mike Cohn
Wishes for good health for Ellen Masters
   Howard Siegel and
   Phoebe Irene Dichner
In honor of Phyllis and Joel Curran’s 60th wedding anniversary
In honor of Shirley Light on the occasion of her 90th birthday
   Diana Geller and Andy Geller
In memory of George Grossman
In memory of Lucille Grossman
   Joan Grossman and Lawrence Ponemon
In memory of Shirley London Stahl
   Bruce and Karen Jacobs
In memory of Florence Simon Lebovitz
   Ruth Lebovits Markovits
In honor of Harvey Zimblber’s special birthday!
In memory of Ira Siegel
   Ellen and Stuart Masters
In honor of Joel Wolk’s 75th birthday
In memory of Benjamin Drate
   Ellen and Allen Rosenblatt
In honor of Judith Weiner becoming a U.S. Citizen
   Janet and David Rothstein
In honor of Joel Wolk on the occasion of his 75th birthday!
   Sandy and Alan Rubin
In honor of Ira Lieberman’s special birthday. Mazel Tov.
   Naomi Schwartz
In memory of Shirley Yanofski
   Len and Alice Schiller

CHARLES KOBritz FUND
Jane Widitor

MILTON KOLODKIN FUND
In memory of Milton Kolodkin
   Barbara Kolodkin

MADELINE GALANTER FUND
In honor of Joel and Phyllis Curran on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary
   Beth and Joel Radsken

MURRAY & CECILY LEVINE FUND
In honor of Dara and Ofer Kaufman on the occasion of their 25th anniversary
   Cecily Levine

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Gloria Kass
   Ileen and Lenney Cohen
In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   With thanks for David Dembowitz’s kindness
   Bobbi and Mike Cohn
Get well wishes to Nina Rone
In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Ellie and Michael Geller
In memory of Shirley Nudell Dolinger
   Lisa and Paul Green
In honor of the “JTS Lobby Team”
In memory of Ira Siegel
   Myrna and Elie Hammerling
In appreciation of all the Yahrzeit reminders
   Lynn and Michael Jacobson

Donation guidelines: Minimum donation to funds is $5. Endowment Fund contribution minimum is $10.
We welcome contributions in any amount. Contributions of less than $5 are not publicized.
Funds & Endowments

In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Elaine and Lenny Lipton
In honor of Ira Lieberman on the occasion of his 75th birthday!
   Nan and Allan Lipton
Mazal Tov to new U. S. Citizen, Judith Weiner
   Nan and Allan Lipton
Wishing a speedy recovery to Nina Rone
   Nan and Allan Lipton
In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Lesley Oransky
In memory of Sol Raphan
   Bob and Roz Rosenblatt
In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Ruth and Steven Rosenthal
In memory of Ira Siegel
   Arlene and Gary Schiff
In memory of Isidore Schlanger
   Martin Schlanger
With gratitude to Rabbi David Weiner for his compassion, support and kindness during this difficult time.
   Sharon Siegel and family
In memory of Ira Lieberman on the occasion of his 75th birthday!
In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Carole Siegel
In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Richard and Marcie Greenfield Simons
In memory of Florence R. Frankel
   Marilyn Simons
In memory of Phil M. Frankel
   Marcia Soltes
In memory of Herman Fink
   Gail and Roney Weis
In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Bobbi and Mike Cohn
In memory of Fay Simkin
   David and Margo Simkin
STANLEY & FAYE SIMKIN FUND
In commemoration of grandparents, aunts and uncles Yahrzeit observances
   Mark Lipton, PhD and Claire Lipton Zimmers
WILLIAM & ESTHER LIPTON FUND
   Bobbi and Mike Cohn
   In memory of Ira Siegel
   Mark Lipton, PhD and Claire Lipton Zimmers
WILLIAM & MARILYN SIMONS FUND
   With appreciation for Marilyn Simons for her voluntary dedication with sending KI Yahrzeit reminders.
   Mark Lipton, PhD and Claire Lipton Zimmers
   In memory of Audrey Schlanger
   Richard and Marcie Greenfield Simons

Key K.I. Contacts

CEMETERY
   Don Sugarman ............... 413-499-4478
cemetery@knessetisrael.org

DEVELOPMENT FUNDRAISING
   Bobbi Cohn ................... 413-443-6128

FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT
   Don Sugarman ............... 413-499-4478

MEMBERSHIP
   Jan Zimblmer ............... 413-448-8443

MARKETING
   Kara Thornton ............... 413-684-2298

MUSIC COMMITTEE
   Phil Coleman ............... 413-329-9224

MUSIC DIRECTOR
   Sherri Buxton ............. 413-243-2709

ADMINISTRATION
   Diane Weinstein ............ 413-442-7143

PROGRAMMING
   Stuart Masters ............... 413-443-4386

RITUAL, GABBAIM, MINYAN
   Alan Metzger ............... 413-443-4217

TREASURY, FINANCE AND BUDGET
   Edwin Helitzer ............. 413-499-1202

YOUTH
   Amy Abramovich ........... 413-499-6388

learn.
   Lifelong learning at KI!
   From Hebrew School for our children to stimulating classes and programs for adults…
   Lunch & Learn
   Discover your inner Torah
   Feed your spirit through artistic expression

inspire.
   Connect with each generation
   Share through leadership
   Tikkun Olam…transform our world.
   Beam with new insights
   Seek guides to the unfamiliar
   Nourish mind, heart & soul

together.
   Be a GLEE star at Shriei Shabbat
   Comfort a loss with Chevra Kaddisha
   Bond with other women in Rosh Chodesh
   Take care of each other on the Cemetery Committee

---

Kol K.I. • October 2017 • Tishrei – Cheshvan 5778 • 15
Chevra Kadisha needs both men and women to help perform this sacred ritual.

We understand your reservations, and would be happy to explain the details and explore if this is for you.

The peace and comfort a family feels knowing our community takes care of their loved one is a great mitzvah.

Contact Margie Metzger: 413-443-4217

**LOOKING FOR**

Mitzvah-oriented people for **Cemetery Committee. Help with Burial Prep & Tasks**: (set up site, parking, (casket, shovels, put things away, etc.)

Especially need people available during week day hours.

Don Sugarman (cemetery@knessetisrael.org) or call 413-499-4487

**How can I help the Thanksgiving Angels?**

- Donate many cans of corn (bring to K.I.)
- Volunteer on food distribution day, Nov. 20th
- Donate $ to purchase turkeys

(contact Myrna for more info: 413-445-4872 x16)