

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Rabbi Schultz shares Jewish book recommendations to help us make the most of summer and prepare for the fall holidays.  
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Cantor Harris reflects on how our present day Counting of the *Omer* not only highlights the connection between our physical freedom from bondage and our spiritual redemption but also prompts us to look inward.  
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## EREV SHAVUOT: THE INEFFABLE, POETRY ABOUT ISRAEL WITH RABBI HANNA YERUSHALMI



**Tuesday, June 11**  
**Program: 7:15–8:30 p.m.**  
**Evening service: 8:30–9:00 p.m.**  
**Dessert and coffee: 9:00–9:30 p.m.**

Hanna Yerushalmi is an ordained reform rabbi who served Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, Pennsylvania, where she worked as that congregation's first woman rabbi. She also served as the admissions director of Aleph Bet Jewish Day School in Annapolis and taught Hebrew at Anne Arundel Community College.

Currently, Hanna is a licensed professional counselor who works with couples and individuals around issues of intimacy. She is also the author of a recent book of poetry titled *A Strip of Land: A Collection of Poems About Israel*. She lives in Annapolis, Maryland, and, together with her husband, Rabbi Ari Goldstein, is raising four young adults, including their daughter who is doing a semester at Tel Aviv university.

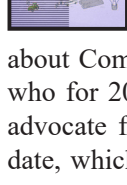
Rabbi Yerushalmi will join in conversation with our community and share some of her recent poetry about Israel with all of us. Open to all!

## TIKKUN OLAM SUMMER FILM SERIES

The Tikkun Olam Committee is thrilled to announce our **Summer Film Series**. Most of the films will be shown on Tuesday evenings in the social hall starting at 7:00 p.m. Each will be accompanied by a speaker who will answer questions and lead us toward further action. All dates and any possible changes will be announced in the weekly Hashavua. Snacks will be included!



**Tuesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.** *Wasted: The Story of Food Waste* addresses the huge costs of food waste to the environment, how it can help feed those in need, and what we can do about it. Sponsored by the Eco Justice Team.



**Sunday, July 7, 12:30 p.m.** *Disturbing the Peace* is about Combatants for Peace, a group of Israelis and Palestinians who for 20 years have worked together to overcome hatred and advocate for nonviolent solutions to the troubles in Israel. This date, which may change, is set to accommodate speakers from Israel and the West Bank. Sponsored by Kulanu.



**Tuesday, July 23, 7:00 p.m.** *My Name is Pauli Murray* is the story of a brilliant lawyer, known for her pioneering work for civil rights and gender equality whose mental health was affected by discrimination. Sponsored by the Mental Health Team.

**Tuesday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.** *Under G-D* conveys the Jewish challenge to abortion laws on the basis of separation of church and state. Sponsored by the Reproductive Justice Team.



## WELCOME! WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to their participation in our many programs and hope their affiliation will not only enrich their lives, but that of our congregation.

**Adrienne Gossett**  
Fairfield, CT

**Rebecca and James Dimond**  
Easton, CT

## SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

**Shirley Shapiro**, mother of Elaine Appelhof.

**Zora Bunin**, aunt of Samantha Borgan

**Sherman David London**, father of Michael London, grandfather of Jordan Spitzer-London

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## SHARING OUR JOY

In Celebration of:

**Barbara & Mark Edinberg**, on the birth of their grandson, Ezra Jesse

Edinberg, son of Rachel Blumenthal and Joel Edinberg, brother of Isaac.

**Rabbi Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch**, on the birth of their grandson, Sasha Aviv Weinberg Prosnit, son of Jacob Prosnit and Jenna Weinberg, brother of Micah.

**Andy and Carol Lubin**, on the marriage of their daughter Alison Lubin to William Morin and the marriage of their son Alex Lubin to Kelsey MacKinnon.

**Rachel and Ben Tornatore**, on the birth of their daughter Ava Camila, sister of Miles and Nate

## BULLETIN BOARD

### MITZVAH MORNING June 9, 2024; 10:00 a.m.

For the second year in a row, Mitzvah Morning will team up with the B'nai Israel Eco Justice Team for a community event.

We will meet on June 9 at 10:00 a.m. at B'nai Israel and work together to plant native shrubs, flowers, and bushes on the temple grounds. The goal is two-fold: To make the physical grounds of our synagogue more beautiful and appealing; and to further develop the Pollinator Pathway in the Bridgeport area.

Pollinators (birds and insects) are critical to the natural ecosystem as they are vital to plant reproduction and play a very important role in maintaining biodiversity. Pollinators have been threatened in recent years due to overdevelopment and heavy use of pesticides and herbicides by homeowners and municipalities. Building and maintaining Pollinator

Pathways will help ensure the health and safety of our local pollinators.

Attend this Mitzvah Morning event to help make our ecosystem healthier and more vibrant! You will help feed the pollinators and learn a lot about the natural world that exists (literally) in our backyards.

If you have garden gloves, shovels, trowels, etc., please bring them. Children who attend will be able to plant their own flowers to take home and can paint rocks to help decorate the garden.

We hope to see you there!

For more information on Mitzvah Morning, please reach out to:

Judy Blumenthal  
judygblumenthal@gmail.com

Annie Block  
annblock53@yahoo.com

### AARP DRIVING CLASS Wednesday, June 5

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
with Ernie Malecki

Please join our congregant, Ernest "Ernie" Malecki, on Wednesday, June 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for this one-day class designed by AARP for senior drivers. Please pre-register by calling the Temple office at 203-336-1858 or emailing Ernie directly at enmalecki113@gmail.com. The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members (checks payable to AARP). Passing this course can save you money on your car insurance.



**AMERICAN RED  
CROSS BLOOD  
DRIVE  
Wednesday, July 31  
1:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

Schedule your appointment by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-448-3543 or visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## SHAVUOT YIZKOR SERVICE

June 12, 10:00 a.m.

There will be a special Shavuot brunch following the service.

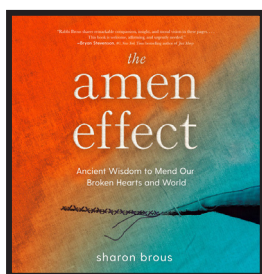


FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

## SUMMER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS 2024!

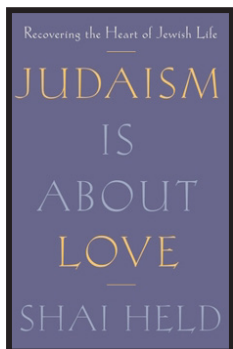
I have enjoyed each June sharing some of my favorite books from the past year with all of you. Summer is a great time to catch up on reading, and as August approaches, to begin preparing spiritually for the fall holidays. Here are some of my top Jewish book recommendations for summer 2024:

*The Amen Effect* by Rabbi Sharon Brous



Rabbi Brous is the founder and rabbi of IKAR in Los Angeles. She recently published a book based on a beautiful midrash from our rabbis about showing up and offering love to those in pain or in need. The book is spiritually nourishing, easy to read, and a call to all of us to show up for one another in our most challenging and difficult moments. The lessons from this book moved me deeply.

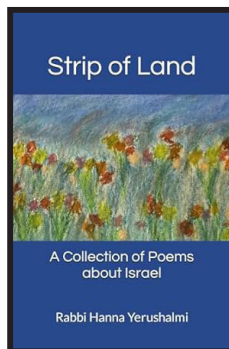
*Judaism is About Love* by Rabbi Shai Held



Admittedly this book may seem overwhelming when you take it out of the box, all 560 pages of it. Rabbi Held is one of the premier Jewish thinkers of our day, and his thesis is that at the core of Judaism is the notion of love. It is an idea that I believe all of us should consider placing at the center of our Jewish lives. The book delves deep into Jewish

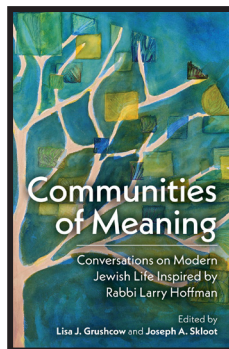
texts from the Torah onwards, offering a comprehensive look at the connection between Judaism and love.

*Strip of Land: A Collection of Poems about Israel* by Rabbi Hanna Yerushalmi



I started following Rabbi Yerushalmi on Facebook shortly after the events of October 7. Her writing gets to the core of the emotions of that day and the months that followed. Her writings about the hostages are especially heart-wrenching and poignant. She recently published this collection of poetry, available on Amazon. She is also our Shavuot speaker this year, I encourage you all to attend!

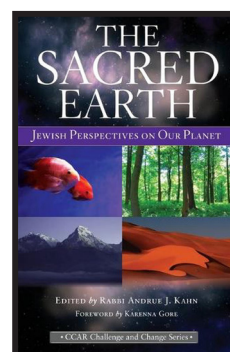
*Communities of Meaning: Conversations on Modern Jewish Life Inspired by Rabbi Larry Hoffman*



The anthology of essays honors the scholarship and thought of Rabbi Larry Hoffman. Many in our community have learned with and from Rabbi Hoffman, who worked with our community on Synagogue 2000 and joined us for Rabbi Prosnit's retirement and my installation. The essays are written by Rabbi Hoffman's students, colleagues, and friends, and are a wonderful collection to better understand his

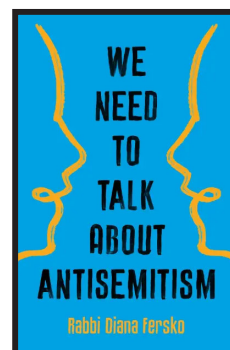
incredible contributions to Jewish liturgy and life.

*The Sacred Earth: Jewish Perspectives on our Planet*



This collection of essays, prayers, ideas, and poems is one of the latest anthology offerings from the CCAR Press (I encourage you to check out all of them). At a time when our planet feels particularly in peril, these essays offer guidance and Jewish teachings for all of us to engage more deeply in the work of protecting and honoring the sacred earth around us. This is a great book to add to your Jewish library.

*We Need to Talk about Antisemitism* by Rabbi Diana Fersko



I had the opportunity to interview Rabbi Fersko this past year at The Conservative Synagogue, along with my colleague Rabbi Jeremy Wiederhorn. I found Rabbi Fersko's book an important conversation starter about antisemitism, which as we all know has increased in our country since the horrific events of October 7. This book is accessible and encourages important conversations we all need to be having right now.



## SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

In person on Fridays at 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. where indicated.  
All services at this time can also be viewed on Zoom. The link is sent out in our weekly email.

### Friday, June 7

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service –  
in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion –  
Numbers 1:1-4:20  
Haftarah – Hosea 2:1-22

### Saturday, June 8

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service –  
in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study –  
in person and on Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Bet Mitzvah of Waylon  
Duguid, son of Jed &  
Marylse Duguid

### Friday, June 14 – Spring Celebration honoring Tikkun Olam Trailblazers

5:30 p.m. Festive Oneg  
6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service –  
in person and on Zoom

Torah Portion –  
Numbers 4:21-7:89  
Haftarah – Judges 13:2-25  
Celebration Dinner

7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, June 15

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service –  
in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study –  
in person and on Zoom

### Friday, June 21

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Beach Service –  
Lake Mohegan  
Torah Portion –  
Numbers 8:1-12:16  
Haftarah –  
Zechariah 2:14-4:7

### Saturday, June 22

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service –  
in person and on Zoom

9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study –  
in person and on Zoom

### Friday, June 28

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service –  
in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion –  
Numbers 13:1-15:41  
Haftarah – Joshua 2:1-24

### Saturday, June 29

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service –  
in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study –  
in person and on Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Bet Mitzvah of  
Andrew Nathanson,  
son of Jonathan & Jodi  
Nathanson

Our temple Caring Committee can provide rides to and from services to congregants in need of assistance.  
If you are in need of a ride for Shabbat or another synagogue event, please reach out to Chris Rocha at  
crocha@cbibpt.org, or call the temple office at 203-336-1858.

## PRESENTING THE FILM, *MY NAME IS PAULI MURRAY*

BY BETH LAZAR, CO-CHAIR OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TEAM

The Mental Health Awareness Team, in conjunction with B'nai's Tikkun Olam/Social Justice Committee, will present the film, *My Name is Pauli Murray* on Tuesday, July 23, at 7:00 p.m. Pauli Murray's name and legacy should be known by all Americans — right alongside their contemporaries, Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, and Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Pauli Murray was a Black feminist female civil rights lawyer, activist, poet, teacher, reverend, and author of two books: *Proud Shoes* and her autobiography, *Song in a Weary Throat*. It was Murray's legal argument and research that challenged the whole

system of segregation and was the basis for the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

Murray had a long-term romantic relationship with a woman and considered herself a man trapped in a woman's body.

### Why is the Mental Health Awareness Team presenting the Pauli Murray film?

Because Pauli Murray checked herself into a psychiatric ward/mental hospital on multiple occasions. She/he is an example of how societal oppression can affect a person's mental health. Pauli

Murray was dealing with the oppressions of racism, sexism, and homophobia, which affected their mental health. Pauli Murray is an example of a person who contributed a lot to the betterment of society, despite having mental health problems and spending time in mental hospitals.

After the film, congregant and lawyer Rod Brown will lead a discussion on the legal and historical impact of Pauli Murray's life and work. Please come to this event and learn about Pauli Murray. Free snacks and drinks.





## YOU SHALL COUNT FOR YOURSELVES

BY CANTOR SCOTT HARRIS

“From the day after the Shabbat (*Pesach*), from the day when you bring the Omer of the waving — seven Shabbats, they shall be complete. Until the day after the seventh sabbath you shall count, fifty days... You shall convoke on this very day — there shall be a holy convocation for yourselves — you shall do no laborious work; it is an eternal decree in your dwelling places for your generations.” Leviticus 21:15-16, 21.

The period from *Pesach* (Passover) to Shavuot is a time of great anticipation. We count each of the days from the second day of *Pesach* (Passover) to the day before *Shavuot*, 49 days or seven full weeks, hence the name of the festival, Counting of the *Omer*; *omer* being a unit of measure. On the second day of Passover, an *omer* of barley was cut down as a grain offering and brought to the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, we no longer have the Temple, and we no longer physically count out barley to fulfill the mitzvah. So, each night from the second night of *Pesach* (Passover) to the night before *Shavuot*, we recite a blessing and state the count of the *omer* in both weeks and days. So, on the 16th day, you would say, “Today is sixteen days, which is two weeks and two days of the Omer.”

The counting reminds us of the important connection between *Pesach* and *Shavuot*: *Pesach* freed us physically from bondage, but the giving of the Torah on *Shavuot* redeemed us spiritually from our bondage to idolatry and immorality and is called “the time of the Giving of the Torah,” rather than the time of the receiving of the Torah. Our sages point out that we are constantly in the process of receiving the Torah and that we receive it every day, but it was first given at this time, and it is the giving, not the receiving, that makes this holiday significant.

The Festival of *Shavuot* or “weeks,” is the second of the *Shalosh Regalim* (*Shemot* [Exodus] 23:14); with both historical

and agricultural significance (the other two are *Pesach* and *Sukkot*). Not only is *Shavuot* not assigned to a specific date, but there is no real explanation given in Torah as to the meaning of the day, nor how it is to be observed ritually. In Biblical times, the period of counting seven weeks marked the transition from barley, the very first grain crop of early spring (at *Pesach*) to the beginning of the summer grain (wheat) harvest at *Shavuot*. Agriculturally, it commemorates the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the Temple, and is known as *Chag ha-Bikkurim*, the Festival of the First Fruits. From a religious perspective, it celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, and our sages came to refer to *Shavuot* as *Z'man Matan Torateinu*, the Time of the Giving of our Torah. The day is identified as a holy occasion, to be observed as a Sabbath, and specific sacrificial offerings were to be brought to the Temple. But beyond that, there is no special ritual prescribed, like *matzah* on *Pesach* or *lulav* and *etrog* on *Sukkot*.

As *Shavuot* evolved, the account of the revelation at Sinai and the Ten Commandments are read. Among Ashkenazic Jews, a custom also developed associating *Megilat Ruth* (the Book of Ruth) with *Shavuot*. There are a number of links that make this an appropriate text. Particularly, the setting of the story at the harvest time and Ruth's conversion to Judaism are seen as analogous to the Israelites' acceptance of the covenant at Sinai. In addition, King David, who tradition teaches was born and died on *Shavuot*, is identified in the book as being descended from Ruth.

**At CBI we observe *Shavuot* on Wednesday morning, June 12, at 10:00 a.m., when we will gather for a festival service, which will include *Yizkor*.**

However, we do still count the days of the *omer*. Rather than just a physical act

of counting, it has become a spiritual act that invites us to look inside ourselves and search for ways to reconnect with the teachings that have kept our people together since the beginning of Jewish time. During the counting period, we move from our time as an oppressed people enslaved by Pharaoh toward the moment when our people stood at Sinai ready to receive the Torah. Each day of the *omer*, we can rise a little more from enslavement in our world. Yet again, our tradition gives us a hopeful ritual that provides the opportunity to reflect upon where we have been and where we want to be.

You'll notice that I look a little different during this time as well. In place of shaving, I choose to spend that time looking inward, focusing on one of the 48 *Middot*. To learn about the middot, visit: <http://www.reformjudaism.org/study-48-middot>.

Each day I reflect on the way I live my life as it pertains to a specific *Middah*, where I have fallen short and where I need to improve as an individual from the inside, hoping that by the time *Shavuot* arrives, I will be mentally prepared to receive the Torah.

Of course, the reason for celebrating *Shavuot* goes beyond custom or even history. This festival allows me to remember that Judaism is ultimately based on the concept that I can see myself in a unique relationship with God, a covenant entered into at Sinai creating nothing less than a partnership between God and me; that I am obligated to participate in this process of creating a world redeemed; that I have accepted the responsibility of teaching the way of justice and righteousness as best I can; and that I will continue to lift and hold up the message for all to see, a message clearly laid out in the Torah, one that together, we celebrate on *Shavuot*.



## ALEXA COHEN/DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION CENTER

### SENIOR CONNECTIONS



One of the Kehilah Chug (activities) projects called Senior Connections connected the 4th, 5th and 6th grade students with residents of Mozaic's Assisted Living Household. Dennis Magid, formerly president and CEO of the Jewish Home for 30 years, and Alexa Cohen, director of the school, coordinated the effort. Arrangements were made and Amy Jackson of Mozaic enthusiastically welcomed us. Eight students and their parents were paired with ten residents. Our students met the residents in clusters and after introducing themselves, began interviewing them. The residents ranged in age from 79 to 106. One couple, in fact, had been married for 73 years. The following represents the students' experiences and findings in these highly enjoyable interactions.

#### **Zack Fierman:**

I met with 88-year-old Marilyn. She was born in Bronx, NY, and lived in NY and Connecticut. She shared that she hurt her arm and said:

*I moved here because I needed assistance, ....I enjoy reading books and became fascinated with nursing. At age 40, I enrolled in nursing school. I worked as a medical nurse and social worker. I studied at Hunter College and worked at Mt. Sinai Hospital. As a volunteer, I worked with people suffering from drug addiction. My favorite activity is watching Yankee games and, in addition, listening to the music of Frank Sinatra. When I was young, I loved jumping rope and playing box ball. My favorite food is hamburgers. I had 6 cats and 3 dogs.*

The advice she gave me was to get a good education.

#### **Noah Fierman and Graham Blair:**

We met with Richard, age 101. He is a very nice man, who was born in Brooklyn

and lived there until he was 11. His family then moved to communities around Bridgeport. In 1954, he joined the Army and then became a structural engineer. He did not like this work and began working at different metal companies. He enjoyed teaching kids about business and making and selling products. His most enjoyable vacation destination was Italy, and for weekends he traveled to Ogunquit, Maine. His favorite team is the Yankees and he regrets missing the game in which a Yankee pitcher pitched a no-hitter. He likes jazz, but not the current music. He loves it at Mozaic and receives everything he needs. He cannot read books or drive, so he appreciates all the help. Many family members are gone and he was candid that his children did not turn out how he hoped and that they lived far away. His advice to me was to get a good education and read, read, read. We had a great time with Richard and hope to see him soon.

#### **Zack Hudes:**

I met with Dan and Ruth. Dan: "We grew up in New York." Ruth: "My work was bringing up our children. I was a painter and did office work. I volunteered with the Jewish Federation. I am 96. The advice I would give you is to help other people. My greatest heirloom is my children. I have one sister and my mom had one sister." Dan is 103:

*We have 11 great grandchildren and our oldest child is 71. My best memory is getting married. My favorite instrument is the piano and in sports, baseball, tennis, and swimming. For foods, my wife's meatballs and chicken.*

His favorite colors are blue and pink and favorite car is the Honda.

#### **Emma Braden and Emma Maya:**

We interviewed Richard, who is 101 years old. He was born in New Haven

in 1923, moved here from Florida, and went to UConn. "I was a radiologist and worked in the Navy. One experience was being on a ship for 1 ½ years at sea." Richard likes the meals here and not having to cook. He likes ketchup, healthy eating, and getting exercise. One memory he cherishes is being with about 15 other residents, all at over age 100.

*I eat lots for breakfast — eggs, cereal, tea — and enjoy filling out menus and deciding what to eat next. I have been here since 2016; my wife passed in 2022. We were married for 73 years. I have a very close family with one daughter and a son living in Shelton.*

#### **Sienna Kerner and Myla Leviss:**

We interviewed Eileen. She was born in and has lived her entire life in Connecticut. As a doctor, Eileen made eyeglasses. Her favorite singer was Perry Cuomo and favorite game, Rumi cube.

*What I love most about living at Mozaic is not having to do housework and that I can eat anytime I want. My most important treasures are the pictures of my family. The best advice I can give you is to listen to your parents and important friends. My husband was in the liquor business. My favorite food is steak. I never went to college, nor had any pets. We married at 25, had 6 kids and 19 grandkids. I am 96 and have been at Mozaic for 3 months. I like basketball. My favorite colors are red and blue; my favorite holiday is Christmas and no, I do not like make-up.*

#### **Jacqueline Glick and resident Rosemary:**

*I was born in Ansonia, lived in Shelton and Derby, and also in Baton Rouge. My husband was*

*Continued on page 7*



## SENIOR CONNECTIONS (CONTINUED)

*a chemical engineer, and I was a customer service representative for UniRoyal. I like anything Elvis and like to read, but don't enjoy movies. What I like best about Mozaic is everyone is so understanding and warm. My best advice is to obey your parents. We have two kids and six grandchildren. My favorite food is pizza and restaurant is Roseland. My favorite color is purple. Advice — always stay busy after school. I love to travel, and my favorite place was Italy. When we were there, we met the Pope. In addition, we've been to Germany and Paris. I was born in 1945. My son is an electrical engineer. I have two grandchildren. One is getting married in July and the other in October.*

### Mila Warshaw:

Interviewed Joan, age 96. She is one of the most amazing people I have ever met. Joan was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and lived in Westport, before moving to Mozaic. When she was young, she would stand outside and watch the printing press print papers. She always wanted to be a journalist. Joan went to Penn State and Georgetown University and has a bachelor's degree, plus two master's. As an adult, she became a journalist and reported on African stories and news and worked on editorials.

*I have only lived at Mozaic a few months and am still getting used to the facility. I do like the people and organization. I love doing art, hearing classical and guitar music, tennis, skiing, and travel. Traveled*

*to Ireland and spent time with an Irish family. I had a smart father and believe don't compete with men. My advice is to study hard, be genial, and figure out what is real; value the most difficult situations and live your principles: it will keep you out of hot water.*

Again, it was a pleasure meeting the one and only Joan Fox! Note: These are the findings of a very perceptive 4th grader.



## BONIM PRESCHOOL SPRING CELEBRATION: "COCKTAILS UNDER THE STARS"

On May 5th, the Prosnit Patio and pavilion were transformed into a cocktail party under the stars. The Bonim parents enjoyed a delicious buffet of appetizers from Italian Kitchen, danced to the music of DJ Cannon, and roasted marshmallows while they waited to see which raffle prize they won. The Bonim Parent Committee, chaired by Ilana Roby and Jessica Cohen, worked tirelessly to obtain almost 100 items for the raffle. Thank you to all who helped make this evening so special. The highlights were an adult tricycle (the winner actually rode it out of the building as soon as he won it), a children's Trek bicycle, a lottery ticket basket, restaurant gift cards, class baskets, and the most coveted item was a child-sized workbench and tools. Congratulations to

all the lucky winners. The event was a great way to build community and have fun at the same time. The proceeds from the ticket sales and raffle tickets will go to buy a bicycle garage for our new playground.





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# JUNE DONATIONS

(We greatly appreciate all donations to our special purpose funds.)

## **Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund**

**Ken & Lori Berger**, in loving memory of my mother, Cecelia Davis.

**Dennis & Andrea Feinberg**, in memory of our father, Leonard Feinberg.

**Joe & Liz Heyer**, in honor of Sylvia Neigher officiating at Presley's Bat Mitzvah on April 4, 2024.

**Bernie & Janice Jacobs**, in appreciation to Steve Borden for all of your help.

**Barbara Kauders**, wishes for a very Happy Passover.

**Kehilah Parent Committee**, with thanks from the Kehilah Parent Committee for a year filled with learning & fun!

**David & Carolyn Kretz**, in honor of Sam & Josh Kretz, thank you!

**Aleksey & Raisa Ledvich**, in memory of father, Peter Ledvich.

**Mark Schiff**, with thanks.

**Robert & Susan Sussman**, in loving memory of father and grandfather, Robert Fiedler.

## **Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund**

**Sharon Field**, in appreciation for the amazing women's seder.

**Barbara Kauders**, wishes for a lovely Passover.

**Kehilah Parent Committee**, with thanks from the Kehilah Parent Committee for a year filled with learning & fun!

**David & Carolyn Kretz**, in honor of Sam & Josh Kretz, thank you!

**Judith Lessler & daughters**, in appreciation for the women's seder.

**Dennis & Jan Magid**, our deepest appreciation to Rabbi Marion for your wonderful tradition of the women's seder; Judy Blumenthal & Liane May for chairing & planning this wonderful event; wishing a speedy recovery to Louise Bobrow, our love & best wishes. **Mark Schiff**, with thanks.

**Arnold & Serena Sher**, in appreciation for the women's seder; with thanks to Judy Blumenthal & Liane May for helping to make the women's seder a success.

## **Cantor Scott Harris Discretionary Fund**

**David & Alexa Cohen**, in celebration of Cantor Scott's installation. B'nai Israel is lucky to have such a wonderful new clergy member.

**Barbara Kauders**, wishes for a very happy Pesach.

**Kehilah Parent Committee**, with thanks from the Kehilah Parent Committee for a year filled with learning & fun!

**David & Carolyn Kretz**, in honor of Sam & Josh Kretz, thank you!

**William & Caren Schwartz**, in appreciation to Cantor Scott Harris.

**Jonathan & Cleo Sonneborn**, in honor of Cantor Harris's installation.

## **Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund**

**David Abbey & Deborah Goodman**, in honor of the birth of Sasha Aviv Weinberg Prosnit, grandson of Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch.

**Mark & Barbara Edinberg**, in celebration of the birth of Sasha Aviv, son of Jacob Prosnit & Jenna Weinberg, grandson of Rabbi Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch.

**Jim & Lisa Greenberg**, mazel tov on the birth of Sasha Aviv, grandson of Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch.

**Donald & Wendy Hyman**, in honor of the birth of Sasha Aviv Weinberg Prosnit, son of Jake & Jenna.

## **Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund**

**Susan Bauchner**, in loving memory of my sister, Ellen Kaplan Gittleman.

**Arnold & Serena Sher**, in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch, on the birth of grandson Sasha Aviv, son of Jacob Prosnit & Jenna Weinberg.

**Howard Weisman & Nina Silberman**, in honor of Jim & Wendy on the birth of their grandson Sasha, mazel tov.

## **Music Fund**

**Anonymous Donor**, in honor of the life of Brenda Hershkowitz Levenson.

**David Abbey & Deborah Goodman**, in honor of the birth of Ezra Jesse, grandson of Mark & Barbara Edinberg.

**Carol Barsky**, in loving memory of my husband Nathan Barsky.

**Michael & Joni Greenspan**, in memory of the yahrzeit of my mother, Anna Levowich.

## **Enhancement Fund**

**Roger Mendes & Eliane Parangaba Mendes**, with thanks.

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**William & Caren Schwartz**, in appreciation to Cantor Scott Harris.

**Jodi Simons**, in honor of Chris, Ilene & Beth in the main office for their support & kindness.

**Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund**  
**Jeffry Ackerman & Andrea Goodman**, in celebration of the birth of Sasha Aviv Weinberg Prosnit, grandson of Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch.

**Robert & Paula Herzlinger**, mazel tov to the Prosnit/Bloch family on the birth of Sasha Aviv, son of Jenna Weinberg & Jake Prosnit.

**Jonathan & Cleo Sonneborn**, in celebration of Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch's grandson, Sasha Aviv Prosnit.

## **Bonim Preschool Enrichment Fund**

**Jeff & Nancy Oberman**, mazel tov to Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch on the birth of their grandson, Sasha Aviv.

**Robert & Twody Schless**, in memory of Twody's mom, Joy Stile.

## **Slepian Floral Fund**

**Robert & Susan Rosenblitt**, in loving memory of my beloved mother Sylvia Weintraub; we will love you forever.

## **Mazon**

**Robert & Helen Natt**, in memory of Delmar Bogner, father of Jake Bogner.

---

## JUNE DONATIONS

(CONTINUED)

**Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund**  
**Jeffry Ackerman & Andrea Goodman**, in celebration of the birth of Ezra Jesse, grandson of Mark & Barbara Edinberg.

**Gary & Gloria Mazo**, in honor of Jim Greenberg's 60th Birthday.

**Judith Stern**, in memory of A. Herbert Edelson, loving father.

**CONECT thru Social Action Fund**  
**Gary & Gail Felberbaum**, mazel tov to Rabbi Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch on the birth of their newest grandchild, Sasha Aviv, son of Jake Prosnit & Jenna Weinberg.

**Vision Loan Reduction Fund**  
**Jim & Lisa Greenberg**, in memory of John Selig, father of Kathryn Brown.

**Keshet Project**  
**Joyce Ilowitz**, in honor of Sherry Portnoy.

**The George Markley Chesed Fund**  
**Carol Barsky**, in memory of my sister-in-law Mildred Greenberg.  
**Jerry & Dale Demner**, in loving memory of the yahrzeits of Joseph Greenfield, father of Dale; Anna & David Slive, grandparents of Dale; Theodore Slive, uncle of Dale; Morris Hirsch, brother-in-law of Jerry.  
**Steven & Jill Elbaum**, in memory of John Selig, father of Kathryn Brown.  
**Jonathan & Cleo Sonneborn**, in memory of our grandmother Hannah Hofheimer.

**Laura Sydney-Pulton**, in memory of John Selig, father of Kathryn Brown.

**Daniel & Lori Underberger**, in memory of Jake Bogner's father & Sophie Bogner-Beauchemin's grandfather, Delmar Bogner.

**Marilyn Weinstein**, in memory of my mother, Sarah R. Strogoff.

**Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund**  
**Thomas Carroll**, in honor of Shari Nerreau.

**Yakhani Caring Fund**  
**Mark & Barbara Edinberg**, in memory of Delmar Bogner, father of Jake Bogner.  
**Jonathan & Cleo Sonneborn**, in memory of Delmar Bogner, Jake Bogner's father.

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## JUNE EVENTS

**Kids Going to College? Come Share How You Are Feeling.**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 7:30–9:00 p.m.**

Are your kids going to college this fall? Are you feeling worried? Nervous? Need a place to talk with other parents feeling similarly? Join with Rabbi Schultz for an open-space conversation for parents of high school seniors heading off to college in the fall. RSVP to [bpryblek@cbibpt.org](mailto:bpryblek@cbibpt.org).

**\$25.00 per person, Limited to 25 Attendees, Reservations are a Must\*!**

Join us for a fun and festive night out with our Rosh Chodesh and Women of B'nai Israel community! On the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, which takes place during the Hebrew month of Sivan, it is traditional to eat a dairy meal. Join us at the Italian Kitchen as we learn about the connections between dairy, Torah, and Shavuot, learn the art of mozzarella making, and enjoy a

delicious five-course Italian meal, straight from the Italian Kitchen itself! Be sure to come hungry! **Guests are invited to BYOB.**

Please RSVP on ShulCloud to register and pay. You can also respond to Ilene at [ifeuerberg@cbibpt.org](mailto:ifeuerberg@cbibpt.org) and pay by check made out to Congregation B'nai Israel.

\*please let us know ASAP if you need to cancel your reservation so that we can make space for others.

*Continued on page 11*



**Rosh Chodesh June/Sivan Gathering**  
Co-sponsored by the Women of B'nai Israel: Mozzarella Making and Dinner at the Italian Kitchen!

**Wednesday, June 5th, 6:00–9:00 p.m.**  
**Italian Kitchen, 1700 Post Rd., Fairfield**



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# TIKKUN OLAM: HIGHLIGHTING THE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

BY REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS  
BARBARA EDINBERG AND BETH POSNER

## **Reproductive Justice Committee**

The current political climate threatens our reproductive rights and, as Jews, our religious freedom. According to our Jewish faith and specific text in the Torah, a fetus does not become a person until birth. The health and well-being of the pregnant person is the priority.

Since its inception by Rabbi Marion in 2022, when a group of congregants joined together to channel our frustration, the Reproductive Justice Committee has been productive. We educated ourselves about the post-Roe world, explored how we could be effective advocates for reproductive rights, and identified tangible programming needed in our community. We discussed a broader definition of reproductive rights that includes legal issues, social justice, and access to services. Our goals are to educate and advocate to protect all persons' rights in accordance with our Jewish principles.

## **Legislative Actions**

We have heard from guest speakers (on Zoom), who talked with us about abortion procedures and issues, the legislative process, and pending legislation. Reproductive rights are being challenged almost daily in many states. Two of our members have taken on the daunting task of keeping us current on the status of abortions and restrictions by state. We submitted public testimony to advocate for legislation to expand abortion access in our own state. Bills were passed by our legislature that provide legal protections for persons receiving and providing reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare services in Connecticut.

## **A New Class at Merkaz**

A huge accomplishment of the Committee was the development of a

reproductive justice class at Merkaz, taught by our own Rabbi Marion! This was an idea hatched at one of our first Committee meetings, and through the diligence of two of our members and a strong conviction and commitment by Rabbi Marion, the class was added to the Merkaz curriculum and offered this past spring. The well-received course, Real Talk with Rabbi Marion: Questions and Answers on Abortion, provided an open and safe space for students to ask questions and learn the facts about abortion, as well as to study the Jewish perspective and different viewpoints from other faith traditions. Rabbi Marion hopes to offer the class again next year.

## **Partnering with the Voting Team... Taking Action**

The legislative process has always been integral to reproductive justice, whether protecting it or restricting it. There is a pivotal election this fall. Many of us want to take positive and effective action to protect our rights and the rights of those living in other states with severe abortion restrictions. As a result, we are partnering with Congregation B'nai Israel's Voting Team. Our work educating ourselves on the issues and advocating for state legislation has led us to this point.

By working together with the Voting Team, we believe we can make a difference. One way to do this is by sending postcards to voters in other states. Postcards have been shown to be effective vehicles for bringing people out to vote. We will be working in conjunction with the broader Reform movement, either through the RAC (Religious Action Center) or NCJW (National Council of Jewish Women). These nonpartisan organizations have initiatives in states where reproductive rights will be on the ballot.

This summer, we will be hosting postcard parties at B'nai Israel. All who are interested are invited to join us. RAC and/or NCJW will supply the postcards and the script; we'll supply the pens and stamps. Join us for one hour or two. You may make some new friends and have an impact at the same time. More information will be sent out through Hashavua as the time gets closer.

## **Tikkun Olam: Highlighting the Reproductive Justice Committee By Barbara Edinberg and Beth Posner, Reproductive Justice Committee Co-Chairs**

On Tuesday, August 13, the Committee will be hosting Under G-d, a documentary focused on the Jewish response to the fall of Roe and the resulting lawsuits based on religious freedom. It is poignant and very relevant. The movie will be followed by a speaker and discussion, as well as action in the form of postcarding. This is an evening not to be missed! See the column in this bulletin and Hashavua for information on times and dates for this and other movies in the series.

We have been privileged to have a committee of "doers," which has resulted in tangible successes and increased knowledge about the issues. We need all of us working together to protect what we have in Connecticut and to help restore what has been lost in so many other states. Join us! Send us an email and we will add you to our list so you can be a part of this critical work!

Beth Posner  
(baposner@gmail.com)

Barbara Edinberg  
(bedinberg@gmail.com)



## B'NAI ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, June 10, is the 2024 annual meeting of Congregation B'nai Israel at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All congregants welcome.

### College Outreach Committee

The College Outreach Committee would like to reach out to all B'nai Israel college students. Please provide contact information to Karen Montagna at [kamontagna@att.net](mailto:kamontagna@att.net).

### Beach Services — We are returning to Lake Mohegan this summer! June 21, July 19, August 16, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for summer services at Lake Mohegan at 6:00 p.m. on June 21, July 19, and August 16.

Bring your beach chairs and enjoy Shabbat services overlooking the beautiful scenery of Lake Mohegan! (No Service at Temple or on Zoom.)

### Support Israel by Adopting a Tree!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to support Israel right now? Congregation B'nai Israel has partnered with My Tree in Israel, an Israeli organization that works to directly support Israeli farmers. When you adopt a tree with My Tree in Israel, you will receive back a portion of their harvest. You can choose either private label olive oil, whiskey, or wine, which will be shipped directly to you from Israel. Additionally, a portion of your donation is donated back to B'nai Israel, as well as to lone soldiers. You can learn more about My Tree in Israel here: <https://www.mytree.org.il/partnership-1/congregation-b'nai-israel-ct>.



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Congregation B'nai Israel, founded in 1858, seeks to be a vibrant Reform synagogue dedicated to the perpetuation of Jewish life and values within the framework of contemporary American Judaism. We are a gateway to Judaism for all. The Congregation B'nai Israel Bulletin publishes monthly 11 times a year (except July). To submit an article, announcement or ad to the Bulletin, please contact

Co-Editors, Amy Pressman at [apressman@cbibpt.org](mailto:apressman@cbibpt.org) or Lauren Tropp at [ltropp@cbibpt.org](mailto:ltropp@cbibpt.org). Submissions are due by the first day of the month preceding the publication month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length or style.

## SCAM ALERT

**If you receive a request from any member of our clergy or board to "do an errand" or "purchase gift cards," this is a scam. Please disregard the request and report it to the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at [CISA.gov](https://www.cisa.gov).**

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**The following members of  
the legal community join  
together in their support of  
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## KESHER CORNER

There are many programs for kids that address special needs until about 18 years of age. After that there are few programs for adults with disabilities. That's why The Keshet Project is so special. Yes, it challenges these adults. And even more important is that it offers many modes of creative expression. That's why our Lee and David Lester Keshet Drama Club for ALL Abilities is so important. Our Keshet friends are learning how to make props, read scripts, and pause one second for a beat. They are learning how to be aware of the group and interact with each person. They know there is one point person that directs the group, and there are no interruptions. What I've noticed over the course of this year, our first year of the drama club, is that everyone's attention span has increased. When we speak, we take our time and articulate each word. And we are learning how to listen. This shows up in a very sweet way, especially when we sing. Often our friends do not sing as a group,

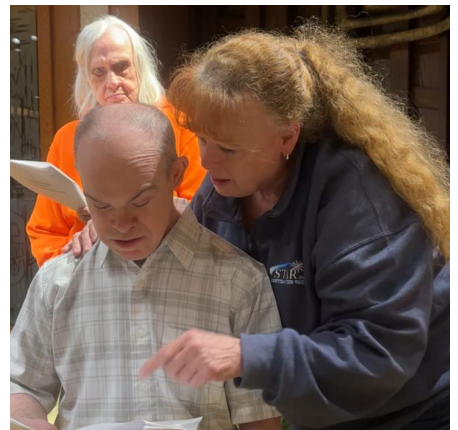
beginning and ending on the same beat. Well, we've been practicing this, and it's working. We begin and end each song together. No one has to stand out because they are louder or longer. We act as one.

We have the gift of performing for an audience in the near future. If you would like more details about this and would like to see the show, please contact us and we will place your name on the guest list.

We're still looking for donors for Keshet Players tee shirts, so if you are able, we would be grateful...and if you have any questions or ideas for our group, don't be shy.

All the best,  
Rhea, Sherry and Michele

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