Renewal Service Is a Source of Connection and Inspiration

On a recent Saturday morning, the sanctuary was still except for the soft, slow sounds of a daf (a large Middle Eastern frame drum used in popular and classical music) and piano. A little while later, as 9 o’clock approached, congregants quietly entered and took their seats. Many closed their eyes and rested their hands in a meditative pose on their knees.

By the end of the one hour Renewal Service, over 50 people had gathered to share in the Shabbat morning practice of music, chanting and prayer that offers a guided space for reflection and renewal, weeping and hope.

The service combines snippets of ancient Hebrew prayers, music and explanations that create a special prayer experience meant to invite inner contemplation, gratitude, wrestling with hardship and standing for hope, all within the context of communal chanting.

It was started by Rabbi HaLevi and attracted a handful of participants its first year. Over time, more people started attending, and the service moved from the chapel to the main sanctuary.

“Renewal remains authentic by drawing primarily from the siddur (Jewish prayer book) in Hebrew, but is also accessible by lifting key phrases from paragraphs,” Rabbi Michael Ragozin explained. “I arranged Renewal to inspire reflection on our lives, our relationships with others, our concerns for the world, and our connection with God.”

Cantor Alty has also made his mark on the service by adding new instruments (acoustic piano, mandolin, daf, kalimba and harmonium), new musicians (Jeremiah Klarman, David Sparr, Jay Mahler, George Lernis), and by introducing many new songs.

Renewal Service reminds him of his Orthodox Flushing, New York youth, when

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Cantor Alty, Jeremiah Klarman and Rabbi Michael lead the Shabbat Renewal Service.
RABBI’S CORNER

Jews Strong

On Saturday, May 5th, our sanctuary filled to celebrate a bat mitzvah. Family, friends and rows of 7th graders gathered for this uniquely Jewish celebration of transition from childhood to young adulthood. A great-grandmother, the matriarch of her family, stood at the bima as her great-granddaughter was called to the Torah for the first time.

At this sublime occasion, as with all bnei mitzvah, joy, hope and life infused the sacred into our lives.

Not so only one week prior at the Chabad of Poway Synagogue. For the second time in a mere six months, an American white nationalist entered the most sacred of Jewish confines, firing an AR-15-type assault rifle at worshippers.

He murdered 60-year-old Lori Gilbert-Kaye of blessed memory and wounded three others. But the intent of his message reached far beyond the number of victims.

His chosen place for his heinous crime was the heart of the Jewish people, the synagogue. Attacking Jews in the institution that sustained us throughout the two millennia of our diaspora is a shot in the white supremacist movement and help in the fight to exterminate the white supremacist ideology or the threat of mass casualties. But we can’t count on that.

Instead, we can take direct action to protect ourselves. In addition to security enhancements, we must defeat the psychosis of victimhood. I loathe the idea that Jews should be totally dependent on outsiders for our safety and security. Rather, we must develop our own internal security corps that can work alongside other commercial security enhancements.

We must train ourselves to detect and neutralizes threats. We must become experts in life-saving techniques in case of fire, heart attack, or, God forbid, an Intentional Mass Casualty Event. Instead of waiting to be victims, wondering and worrying about “what if,” we must prepare ourselves to be guardians of the good and protectors of our people.

Lastly, we must not give the terrorists a victory by deserting the synagogue. Our house of gathering, where we celebrate, pray, and learn, has sustained us as a people through two millennia of exile. Our presence in shul is an imperative; our absence hands a victory to the white supremacists. Make one additional visit to Shirat Hayam and help in the fight to exterminate the white supremacist movement and their twisted, terrorist ideology.

Renewal Service

Continued from page 1

he and his family would head back to shul for a group sing-a-long on Friday evenings. “Shirat’s Shabbat Renewal service, where congregants are invited to enter a meditative spiritual place through prayer and music, brings me back to those mystical moments of my youth,” he said. “The service has many fans. “The Renewal Service has given me a new set of spiritual tools for self-improvement, and the motivation to use that energy to help those less fortunate,” Jason Sidman said. “I learn from Rabbi Michael’s words of wisdom and metaphors for living and loving so much that I now record them as ‘Ragozinisms’ on my iPhone notes and refer to them through the week,” Bethany Roditi enthused.

The service will receive recognition beyond the North Shore when USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) showcases it at their Biennial convention in Boston, MA on December 7, 2019. Watch for information as the date approaches and in the meantime, if you haven’t yet experienced the joy and peace of Shabbat Renewal Service at Shirat, come see for yourself what it’s all about next Shabbat at 9 am in the sanctuary.
Cantor’s News
Wish I Can Pray the Hate Away*

But I can’t. A man entered the Poway-California, Chabad Shul during Passover, brandishing an assault rifle, desecrating holy life and worship, again. Six months to the day of the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, bullets aimed to kill and maim Jews in prayer, again.

Those bullets ended the the life of Lori Gilbert Kaye, disfigured Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein and injured Almog Peretz and Noya Dahan. We pray for the soul of Mrs. Kaye. We pray for the healing of her family and for the wounded. We pray and grieve again. But praying is not enough.

Our country is spiraling in a gun violence epidemic, paired with the alarming rise over the past several years of violent white nationalism. The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that there are more than 1,000 active hate groups currently operating in the US, most of them White Nationalist. Hate-fueled violent extremists are networking globally and are granted- in this country- easy access to assault weapons. And yet, efforts to combat both gun violence and violent extremism have been systematically defunded by the federal government, in cynical political maneuvering that makes us ever more vulnerable to this kind of attack.

We pray. And we demand action. This spate of attacks calls for unequivocal condemnation from the highest offices. Funding for efforts to counter domestic terrorism must be a top priority for this administration. We need and deserve the country’s attention to the violent Antisemitism at the heart of White Nationalism, which threatens to undermine the social fabric of this country. Universal background checks on all gun sales and an assault weapons ban must top the legislative agenda- it’s literally our lives on the line. We shout for federal investment in mental health and detection of early signs of at-risk children.

In the meantime, we assure each and every member of Shirat Hayam, and all who walk through our doors, that your safety is our highest priority. We continuously review our security protocol and take every precaution necessary to protect our sacred space.

* This article is excerpted from Romemu and Ikar Synagogues

B’shalom,
Alty

Calendar (continued from page 1)

FRIDAY, JUNE 28
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, JUNE 29
Shabbat Synaplex™
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Schwartz

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
6:00 pm Minyan

THURSDAY, JULY 4
9:00 am Minyan
No evening minyan

FRIDAY, JULY 5
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, JULY 6
9:00 am Shabbat Services

New member Alexander Epstein and his friend, member Irena Karasik, who invited Alex to join her at Shirat.

T’rumot HaLev Welcomes Its First New Member

Alex Epstein became the first new member under T’rumot HaLev, our new voluntary dues model. When you see him at synagogue, please extend the radical hospitality CSH is known for!

This year, your membership pledge includes High Holy Day tickets. The office needs to receive your pledge form in order to send your High Holy Day tickets. Thank you in advance, and a special thank you to everyone who has already completed their membership pledge.
Sixth Graders Meet Their Israeli Pen Pals via Skype

On Sunday, May 5, most of the 6th grade students (and a couple of intrepid parents) arrived at the Shirat chapel at 7:30 am for sugary breakfast cereals and the chance to see and speak with their pen pals in Haifa, Israel via Skype.

All year long, our 6th grade students at Shirat and the Dinur School in Haifa have written letters, sent presents, and used Facetime and WhatsApp to learn about what it’s like being a Jewish kid in each country. Under the auspices of CJP and the Boston-Haifa Connection program, the students have been expanding their world and asking questions about Jewish identity, forming indelible links with real people in the State of Israel.

“Their studies about Israel have become far more personal because now they know real Israelis, kids just like them,” said CJE Director Janis Knight.

That morning, both classes got to chat and wave and giggle (lots of giggling) at one another. The Dinur students asked where CJE kids found kosher for Passover foods, and learned about the Stop & Shop strike. They explained their school week is 5.5 days a week (Sundays, too!), eliciting groans. Everyone discovered that “Fortnite” is the universal language for after school activities. “Watching a bunch of 11- and 12-year olds doing Fortnite dances at one another was hysterical to watch, but we all knew it meant their connections were real,” Knight added.

The last thing they did was to sing Hatikva together as one group of Jewish kids and teachers. The connection, across 5,500 miles, was palpable.

CEE Plans Outdoor Classroom

Andrea Bernard, CEE Director, is delighted to share the map of the outdoor classroom she and her staff are in the midst of creating.

“At Shirat Hayam, we strive to provide our children with exceptional learning experiences both indoors and out. Our outdoor classroom is a family funded natural learning space, which provides our children with the opportunity to explore the world around them,” she explained. Through generous donations and DIY materials, Shirat CEE families have designed and implemented a spectacular learning environment. The focus of the outdoor classroom is to encourage exploration and discovery while utilizing the natural elements around us.
CJE Thanks All Who Make It Possible

“The world abides because of the breath of school children at their studies.”

—Talmud Shabbat 119b and is attributed to Judah Hanasi

If you walk down the halls of CJE on a Tuesday afternoon or a Shabbat morning, you know the joy of hearing laughter, singing, Hebrew prayers, and Torah debate. CJE Director Janis Knight thanks everyone who has made this possible this year through their passion, energy, love of the Jewish People and the Children of Israel, and love of Shirat Hayam.

A Todah Rabbah (many thanks) to:

CJE faculty members this past year:
Sandy Abramson, Phyllis Eidelman, Stefanie Gladstone, Courtney Gray, Lynne Greenberg, Alex Hogan, Andrea Katz, Halie Pica, Rabbi Michael Ragozin, Rachel Rosenbaum, Rachel Shwartz, Susan Yackolow, Yael Sokolow, Jason Stark, Tracy Todd, Cantor Aly Weinreb and Marcy Yellin.

The wonderful teen madrichim members:
Graduating seniors Sophie Jeffries and Yelena Jeffries.
Team Madrichim members Jason Gladstone, Joe Katz, Samara Krawitz, Ellie Levine, Max Lewis, Tess Mintzer, Julia Rebello, Max Schapiro, Anna Sokolov, Ely Wallen, and Jonah Weinstein-Zanger.

And these CJE parents, who have been supportive, reflective, and active on various committee endeavors:
Jessica Gelb, Lori Kreevoy, Alex Shube, Jason Sidman, Julie and Steven Tapper, Emily Weise and Sara Weisman.

Knight also thanks the following staff members for their support and hard work:
Cheryl Schwartz, Barri Stein, Gus, Yanira, Eridania and the rest of the crew.

Eli Talkov Leads Morning Minyan on his 90th Birthday

Eli Talkov celebrated his 90th birthday by leading morning minyan and sharing a delicious and beautiful cake lovingly made by Doris Villa. Congratulations, Eli, and many more!

CSH presents
THE 3RD ANNUAL GREAT SHAVUOT BAKE OFF KUGEL

Saturday, June 8, 2019
Congregation Shirat Hayam
7:00 p.m. service
7:30 p.m. tasting & judging begins

Our judges will cast their votes on the best kugel as we follow the Shavuot custom of eating dairy and celebrating the giving of the Torah.

Questions?
Call Cheryl at 781-599-8005, x10 or email cheryl@shirathayam.org
55 Atlantic Ave., Swampscott, MA

Join Rabbi Michael, Cantor Ally and a host of special musical guests for our monthly musical Friday night service.

JOIN US at Congregation Shirat Hayam!
55 Atlantic Ave., Swampscott, MA 01907
No registration necessary.

QUESTIONS?
Please call Barri at 781-599-8005, x11
CONDOLENCES
Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

NON-MEMBERS:
Theresa Pill
4/19/2019
Mother of Shari Kane

Norman Honigbaum
4/24/2019
Father of Marcy Eisen

DONATIONS

BRODY MINYAN FUND
In memory of Mary Valle, mother of Susan Goldberg
by Herb & Arlene Leventhal
In memory of Ira Rosenberg
In memory of Bruce Sachar, uncle of Dawn Ehrlich
In honor of Gloria Sax’s granddaughter, Zoe Finamore,
becoming a Bat Mitzvah
by Natalie White

In memory of
Brother, Michael Kagan
by Robin Cooper
Mother, Sarah Shapiro
by Carol Denbo
Sister, Joan Kahn
by Michael Dubinsky
Father-in-law, Joseph Dunn
by Linda Dunn
Son, Joel Gibbs
by Thelma Gibbs
Uncle, Sam Greenbaum
by Maury Greenbaum
Aunt, Rose Goldstein
Aunt, Jennie Goldstein
by Myra Gulko
Aunt, Sarah Fagan
by Evelyn Handis
Mother, Lillian Gerber
by Sally Hooker
Mother, Ann Kaplan
by Bobby Kaplan; Sandra Shalit

Donations / Condolences
Received April 1 – April 30

In memory of Great Aunt, Beatrice Scholnick
by Beverly Kahn
In honor of the children
by Vera Belsitsky; Douglas Breithaupt; Leon Firtel; Jonathan & Deborah Golub-Sass; Larry & Lori Groipen; Robert & Martha Gurman; Derrick & Danielle Lima

CJE FUND
In memory of Gerald Stahl, brother of Faye Neilberg
by Harold & Marilyn Epstein

FEFFER SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In memory of
Brother, Howard Feffer
Mother, Edith Feffer

GENERAL FUND
In memory of Ira Rosenberg
by The Gabe Family; Stephen & Helyne Hamelburg; Dan & Judy White
In appreciation
by Christopher & Jennifer Hockert
In appreciation of those who made Purim donations
by Roslyn Hoffman; Toby Sloane
In honor of Cookie Kupersmith
becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Israel
by Bobby & Lois Kaplan
In memory of Mary Valle, mother of Susan Goldberg
by Brian & Rosalyn Moore; Robert & Anne Selby
In memory of Great Aunt, Beatrice Scholnick
by Beverly Kahn
In honor of the children
by Vera Belsitsky; Douglas Breithaupt; Leon Firtel; Jonathan & Deborah Golub-Sass; Larry & Lori Groipen; Robert & Martha Gurman; Derrick & Danielle Lima

KIDDUSH FUND
In memory of Ira Rosenberg
by Charleen Alper; Stephen & Ethel Harris
In honor of Gloria Sax’s granddaughter, Zoe Finamore,
becoming a Bat Mitzvah
by Harvey & Helaine Cotton; Daniel & Bette Shoreman
In honor of Cookie Kupersmith
becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Israel
by Jack & Phyllis Karas
In honor of Jason & Rachel Stark’s new home
by Lois Ogan
In honor of Carolyn Perlow’s grandson, Max, becoming a Bar Mitzvah
by Phyllis Sagan
In honor of Roberta Soltz becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Israel
by Lewis & Reggie Weinstein

In memory of
Brother, Hyman Tassel
by Frances Babbitt
Grandmother, Rhoda Cashman
by Robert Cashman
Father, William Bornstein
by Helaine Cotton
Father, Hyman Epstein
by Arthur Epstein
Mother, Belle Tarlow
by Leslie Freedman
Father, Louis Kleven
Mother, Gertrude Kleven
by Gail Gelb
Aunt, Mary Grab
by Maury Greenbaum
Uncle, Elliott Kaplan
by Ethel Harris
Mother, Sara Liebman
by Lois Kaplan
Father, Michael Kushner
by Gitte Kushner
Husband, Gus Nathan
by Beverly Nathan

In memory of
Father, Nathan Leidner
by Charles Leidner
Grandfather, Philip Lewis
Uncle, Israel Lewis
by Constance Lewis
Father, Jacob Karmin
by Millie Olson
Mother-in-law, Dorothy Sloane
by Toby Sloane
Mother, Anne Soltz
by Robert Soltz
Aunt, Eva Cohen
by Edith Spector
Uncle, Abraham Simon
by Sandra L. Spector
Sister, Beatrice Rosemark
Brother, Morris Stein
Wife, Ruth Stein
Mother, Rose Stein
by Albert Stein
Sister, Sheila Baseman Costello
by Deborah Sudenfield
Father, Harold Greenbaum
by Dorothy Tatelman
Father, Bernard Stoller
Uncle, Mason Kantrowitz
by Natalie White

BUT & BECKY SHEPARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In memory of Ira Rosenberg
by Herb Goldberg

CANTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of
Father, Abraham Berkowitz
by Lois Sargent
In honor of those who made Purim donations
by Roslyn Hoffman; Toby Sloane
In honor of Cookie Kupersmith
becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Israel
by Bobby & Lois Kaplan
In memory of Mary Valle, mother of Susan Goldberg
by Brian & Rosalyn Moore; Robert & Anne Selby
In honor of Michael Bourne and Karen Ponchner’s son, Jacob Bourne,
becoming a Bar Mitzvah
In honor of Gloria Sax’s granddaughter, Zoe Finamore,
becoming a Bat Mitzvah
by George & Janna Schwartz

CENTER FOR EARLY EDUCATION OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FUND
In memory of my husband, Edward
by Elaine Groipen
In memory of Ira Rosenberg
by Larry & Lori Groipen
In memory of Great Aunt, Beatrice Scholnick
by Beverly Kahn
In honor of the children
by Vera Belsitsky; Douglas Breithaupt; Leon Firtel; Jonathan & Deborah Golub-Sass; Larry & Lori Groipen; Robert & Martha Gurman; Derrick & Danielle Lima

In memory of
Brother, Hyman Tassel
by Frances Babbitt
Grandmother, Rhoda Cashman
by Robert Cashman
Father, William Bornstein
by Helaine Cotton
Father, Hyman Epstein
by Arthur Epstein
Mother, Belle Tarlow
by Leslie Freedman
Father, Louis Kleven
Mother, Gertrude Kleven
by Gail Gelb
Aunt, Mary Grab
by Maury Greenbaum
Uncle, Elliott Kaplan
by Ethel Harris
Mother, Sara Liebman
by Lois Kaplan
Father, Michael Kushner
by Gitte Kushner
Husband, Gus Nathan
by Beverly Nathan
Join us for an evening of food, friends, and music

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

Celebrate the Installation of CANTOR ALTY WEINREB and raise funds to support the music programs at Congregation Shirat Hayam

Who: Cantor Alty Weinreb and musical guests
When: Sunday, June 23, 2019, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Where: CSH, 55 Atlantic Avenue, Swampscott, MA

Dinner and Wine/Beer Reception
Dessert buffet following program

RSVP: by Monday, June 17, 2019
Tickets: $65 per person
Children over 14, $30
Children under 13, free

Register Online: https://cantorinstall2019.eventbrite.com
Every issue, The New Wave spotlights a congregant as a way to help us get to know each other better by putting a face with a name. This month, Ruth Estrich shares her story.

**What was your childhood like?**
I grew up in Swampscott and Marblehead, your typical baby-boomer and a second generation Ashkenazi Jew. I could walk from my house to three conservative and one reform congregations, and my social life was filled with the Jewish kids who were members. My father was a well-known lawyer in Lynn and my mother was a housewife who grew up in Salem. I am the oldest of three, and my family belonged to Temple Israel, where I had my Bat Mitzvah and was very involved in Hebrew School and the junior congregation. I was probably the most religious in my family – it always called to me – and went to Shabbat services every Saturday morning, attended Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, graduated from Hebrew High School and then taught Hebrew high school at a synagogue in Peabody.

**What brought you to Shirat Hayam?**
I have moved back to the North Shore twice in my adult life – once in my 40s and again just recently after retiring from a company in Philadelphia where I was Chief Strategy Officer of a billion-dollar healthcare firm. For the first return engagement, I was the single mother of a 10-year-old and immediately joined Temple Israel, where Dorian had his Bar Mitzvah on the exact spot where I celebrated my own rite of passage. From Philly, I stayed connected locally by regularly attending shulcast services and I even joined both the CSH trip to Cuba in 2009 that presented a Torah to a Havana synagogue, and Rabbi B’s 2011 trip to Israel. I bought a condo in Marblehead on the harbor seven years ago, making my dream to someday return and actually be in the same room with the ruach rally band instead of dancing around by myself in my Philadelphia den a reality!

**How are you involved at Shirat Hayam?**
I have been back now for less than a year, and Shirat Hayam is a major focus of my new life. My first weekend back, I went to the renewal service, looking up at the same Ner Tamid I knew as a little girl at Temple Israel. A woman walked into the room; I put out my hand and introduced myself, telling her my name and that I had just moved back. The woman responded as if startled, “I moved back a few years ago. I’m Bethany Naseck (Roditi).” We had been childhood best friends! I had been missing Bethany for almost 60 years, and here she was. Shirat Hayam had brought us back together!

The Renewal Service continues to be the heart of what calls me to Shirat Hayam. It is by far the best hour of my week. It reminds me to be grateful, heartful and generous. It reminds me that I am exactly where I am supposed to be. The Shirat Hayam community is a very special place and it is a privilege to be part of it. I am so grateful to all who have welcomed me with open arms, not just because of my history here, but because of who they are.