

## Shirat Hayam's Rabbi Ragozin Is Awarded Two Prestigious Fellowships

Rabbi Michael has been selected to participate in LEAP and the Greater Boston Educational Leaders Cohort, two important fellowships that recognize and promote Jewish leadership, scholarship and identity.

LEAP (Leverage, Expand and Popularize) is an innovative partnership between UPenn's Katz Center and Clal (National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership). The selective program invites only ten rabbis each year to delve into some of the most pressing debates within US and Jewish history. The theme for 2020-2021 is "America's Jewish Questions."

"We are especially proud that Rabbi Ragozin will be joining us in this year's cohort, as he is one of the nation's outstanding congregational rabbis," said Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, Clal President, in a press release.

Rabbi Michael is excited to collaborate with his rabbinic colleagues in the virtual Katz Center classroom. "LEAP is an opportunity to learn from scholars who are conducting research under the umbrella of 'America's Jewish Questions.' For example, we learned with Melissa Klapper about the contribution and leadership of Jewish women in the suffrage, birth control and peace movements and attended a panel discussion about the history of activism within Reform

Judaism in response to the AIDS crisis.

"After each class, my diverse cohort of ten rabbis (congregational, day school, chaplain) and I discuss and process together through a very specific lens. We ask ourselves and each other, 'What is your primary job vis á vis the pandemic? What have you heard that helps you understand or do it better?' As much as we learn from the scholars, the conversations with my rabbinic colleagues are as, if not more, important," he said.

Boston Educational Leaders Cohort, sponsored by the Shalom Hartman Institute and Combined Jewish Philanthropies, aims to develop a cadre of 10-15 Boston-area senior Jewish educational leaders who will contribute to an organizational and communal culture shift. Sessions, which began in January 2021, will engage with urgent questions raised or accelerated by the Covid-19 crisis. The theme of the five Zoom sessions is "Moral Leadership in a Time of Crisis."

"In this period of unprecedented change, I am eager to explore Jewish identity and leadership with colleagues in a variety of leadership roles. Through our learning and discussions, I hope to formulate a more well-informed vision of the future of our Jewish community in a post-pandemic world," Rabbi Michael said.

## Cantorial Assessment Committee Update

Chair Ruth Estrich reports the committee has embarked on three interrelated activities: identifying congregational needs, reviewing the marketplace options, and conducting a financial analysis. Committee members are engaged and excited, collaborating with each other and networking with community and educational establishments to meet these internal objectives.

Shirat Hayam members have embraced the inclusive process, with almost 150 families participating in Town Halls, where they freely articulated needs, priorities and dreams for the next cantor. Nearly 200 people participated in the congregational survey, clearly providing their input as to what is most important to them. Interview

questions and evaluation criteria have been crafted based on this invaluable input, and applicants from various sources and network contacts have been solicited. To date, over a dozen candidates have been screened. Full-committee interviews with front runners are scheduled to begin shortly.

Stay tuned as the committee narrows the field and structures a pandemic version of a congregational visit. "We are excited for the congregation to meet our wonderful slate of cantorial candidates. We are so grateful for everyone's interest, participation and support and look forward to continuing together as we craft our new chapter," Estrich said.

## Calendar

*Minyan and Shabbat services broadcast online. Visit [ShirathHayam.org](http://ShirathHayam.org) for all links and updates.*

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**7:30 pm** 5-week Men's Mental Health Program with Michele Tamaren. [JCCNS.org](http://JCCNS.org) to sign up.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**7:30 pm** CSH Men's Club and Rabbi Michael discuss "The Role of Men in Contemporary Jewish Life." Go to [shirathayam.org/mens-club/](http://shirathayam.org/mens-club/)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**6:00 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat (See p2)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**9:00 am** Shabbat Services (See p2)

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**7:30 pm** Becky's Book Club *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout. Go to [shirathayam.org/book-club/](http://shirathayam.org/book-club/)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**12:00 pm** Shir Chesed "Chicken Soup for the Soul during Covid" (Email [jkreitzer@mac.com](mailto:jkreitzer@mac.com) for link)

**7:30 pm** Atlantic Ave. Limmud (Adult Jewish Learning) continues, "Enlightenment & Emancipation." (See p3)

*Continued on page 3*

## Silver Linings

Did you have an unexpected positive experience due to COVID-19 restrictions? Care to share it with your CSH family? The New Wave will start a "Silver Linings" column next month. Send your thoughts to [sackett.shelley@gmail.com](mailto:sackett.shelley@gmail.com) and put "Silver Linings" in the memo.

RABBI'S CORNER

Post-COVID Dreams and Possibilities



December 30, 2019.  
January 10, 2020.  
December 8, 2020.

Three days that changed the world. On December 30, shortly before midnight, the International Society for Infectious Diseases (a MA-based nonprofit) reported

that a number of people in Wuhan, China had been diagnosed with “unexplained pneumonia.” Then, on January 10, ten days before the first diagnosed case of COVID-19 in the US, Chinese scientists posted the genetic sequence of this new virus online. Finally, on December 8, 90-year-old Margaret Keenan became the first person in the world to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine developed from that first genetic sequence released 11 months prior.

Audaciously, our Sages teach, “The day the Temple was destroyed, the redeemer was born.” (Yerushalmi Berakhot 2:4). That is to say, the seeds of redemption are present in the destruction itself. So, too, with COVID-19. Before the virus was detected in America, scientists began analyzing the

genetic information which would lead to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

While the pandemic has caused immeasurable destruction and loss, the cure allows us to dream of the post-pandemic future of our community. What is the Shirat Hayam of which you dream?

The post-pandemic world is, thankfully, approaching, and it will be different than the one we knew. COVID-19 has been a change accelerator. Trends that may have taken years to materialize have been foisted upon us overnight. Moreover, many have been forced to consider what really matters most to us: how do we want to spend our time, our money? With whom?

The seeds of a vibrant future for Shirat Hayam are already present. Let us begin to dream of the unique role that our sacred community will play in our lives. Let us begin now the conversation to imagine our future, so that we may begin the work of taking our dream from potential to reality once we are vaccinated. Together, with our collective wisdom and energy, we can build upon Shirat Hayam’s unique strengths and flourish even more in the decade to come.

From the CSH President

In December, I wrote about the issues facing CSH and the importance of transparency. We have had our share of problems and we as a congregation have moved forward and dealt with them in the best way possible. As we start a new secular year — a brighter 2021— here are some positive developments currently happening at Shirat Hayam.

- CEE is growing with new families every month.
- CJE has been successful with online programs, and family activities; the Hanukkah outdoor candle lighting in particular really stood out.
- The clergy, the staff and I continue to look for new and exciting ways to bring Judaism to you, including exciting activities for Purim and Passover.
- One of the most encouraging things I have seen is the many volunteers stepping up to help; this makes all the difference.

I can see the light ahead. With the vaccine and new leadership in Washington, I think sometime this year we will be able to see each other again — in person. The most important thing is that CSH has advanced and moved forward with the help of each and every one of you. I wish you a healthy and happy new year!

—Mark Messenger

Men’s Club Delivers Meals on Christmas Day

Neither sleet nor hail nor rain nor snow could keep CSH Men’s Club members from delivering meals for GLSS (Greater Lynn Senior Services). Thanks to Max Sontz for organizing this yearly Mitzvah and the hearty CSH volunteers who braved inclement weather and COVID-19 to participate in this important community outreach.

Shir Nefesh Sponsors Mental Health Programming

Shir Nefesh, the CSH mental health initiative under our inclusion umbrella, will present a variety of programs through 2022, sponsored by CJP and the Ruderman Family Foundation. CJP and CSH will sponsor, and the JCC will host, facilitator Michele Tamaren’s 5-week February–March Zoom men’s program entitled, Science-Spirit-Self: How Meaning, Connection, and Spirituality Boost Men’s Health and Wellbeing. See calendar for more information.

Do you get our emails? If not, call Barri at 781-599-8005, x11

Shabbat

For services, go to [shirathayam.org/shabbat-covid-19-response](http://shirathayam.org/shabbat-covid-19-response)

Friday

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday

9:00 am Traditional Shacharit Service

9:00 am Renewal Service

10:00 am Torah Study, Mourner’s Kaddish, and Healing

Friday Candle Lighting

January 29, 2021- 4:36 pm

February 5, 2021- 4:45 pm

February 12, 2021- 4:54 pm

February 19, 2021- 5:03 pm

February 26, 2021- 5:12 pm

March 5, 2021- 5:21 pm

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday closed.

Tuesday 9:30am - 3:00pm

Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

When the office is closed you may email or call and leave a message.

The CSH building is currently closed to visitors.

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NEW WAVE

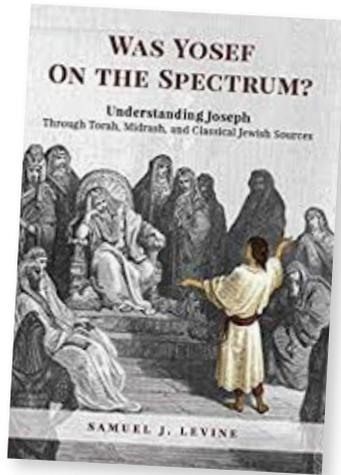
Shelley A. Sackett  
Editor-in-Chief

Nancy Marland Wolinski  
Designer

## Shir Lanu Brings Dr. Samuel Levine to CSH

On Tuesday, February 23 at 7:30 pm, Shir Lanu (the CSH inclusion initiative) will conduct a provocative Zoom program featuring law professor, Dr. Samuel Levine, Professor of Law and Director of the Jewish Law Institute at Touro College, Islip, New York. He will discuss his new book, *Was Yosef on the Spectrum?: Understanding Joseph Through Torah, Midrash, and Classical Jewish Sources*. The program is made possible by a generous grant from CJP and supplemented by the Ruderman Family Foundation.

In his book, Dr. Levine explores Joseph's puzzling behaviors that correspond with the strengths and challenges of those on the autism spectrum. This talk will open our eyes and hearts to neurodiversity and inclusion in our tradition and today. To register for your personal Zoom link, go to [shirathayam.org/shir-lanu/](http://shirathayam.org/shir-lanu/)



## Calendar (continued)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:30 pm Men's Mental Health Program at [JCCNS.org](http://JCCNS.org) with Michele Tamaren

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Deadline for Mishloach Manot  
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (See p2)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00 am Shabbat Services (See p2)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:00 pm An Evening with Bari Weiss, author of How to Fight Anti-Semitism, [JCCNS.org](http://JCCNS.org) for more info. (CSH co-sponsor)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:30 pm Men's Mental Health Program at [JCCNS.org](http://JCCNS.org) with Michele Tamaren

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (See p2)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:00 am Shabbat Services (See p2)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

12:00 pm Shir Chesed "Chicken Soup for the Soul during Covid" (Email [jpkreitzer@mac.com](mailto:jpkreitzer@mac.com))  
7:30 pm Sam Levine presents "Was Yosef on the Spectrum", presented by CSH Shir Nefesh, CJP and the Ruderman Foundation. (Go to [shirathayam.org/shir-lanu/](http://shirathayam.org/shir-lanu/) to register)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:30 pm Men's Mental Health Program at [JCCNS.org](http://JCCNS.org) with Michele Tamaren

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:00 pm Purim Party (Go to [shirathayam.org/holidays/](http://shirathayam.org/holidays/) for more info)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (See p2)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:00 am Shabbat Services (See p2)

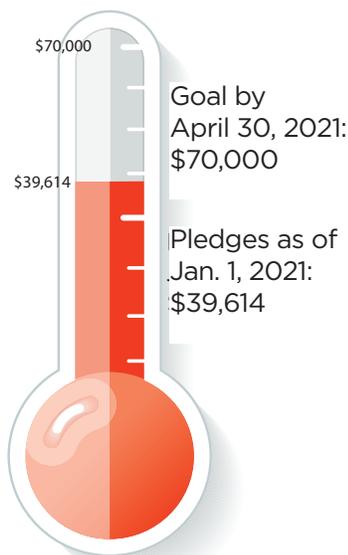
## Becky's Book Club

Amy Cohn, discussion facilitator of the CSH monthly Becky's Book Club, has not let COVID stop her. Named in memory of its founder, Becky Shepard z"l, who passed away in 2014, the club's discussions take place on Zoom and are open to the community. The group will discuss *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout on February 8 and *This Is How It Always Is*, by Laurie Frankel on Monday, March 15. All meetings start at 7:30 pm. after minyan. Live Zoom link is available at [shirathayam.org/book-club/](http://shirathayam.org/book-club/).

## Limmud Adult Ed Still Open for Registration

Rabbi Michael and Rabbi David Meyer of Temple Emanu-El welcome new and returning registrants to the continuation of their free online Adult Education class, "When Everything Changed: Four Turning Points in Jewish History." Upcoming classes will examine: Yavneh: Enlightenment and Emancipation (Tues., Feb. 9) and Israel: A Nation Re-Born (Tues., March 9). All classes are 7:30-8:30 pm. To register, go to [shirathayam.org/limmud-adult-learning/](http://shirathayam.org/limmud-adult-learning/).

## High Holy Days Appeal



## Not Even Covid Can Sideline Shir Chesed!

We have been able to call, send cards, and bring chicken soup to 36 bereavements, 13 members coming home from the hospital, and send knitted hats to 2 newborn babies. During this difficult spring, our members called congregants to check on them and many continue to keep in touch with one another. Our knitting group joined forces with the JCCNS group, and our annual meeting via Zoom featured Marjie Sokol, Director of the Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller Center for Jewish Healing, who discussed ways to get through COVID. Our 'Chicken Soup for the Soul' virtual lunches are a popular respite and any CSH member is invited to join. If you would like to become a member of Shir Chesed, please contact Bethany Roditi 781-424-3980, Patricia and Jerry Kreitzer 802-353-1904, or Karen Madorsky 781-631-7634.

## Save the Date for Purim

Watch your email for more info on Mishloach Manot fundraiser and Purim Party on February 25.

January 2021 Donations and Condolences will appear in the March New Wave.

## CJE NEWS

Janis Knight, CJE Director, and her students have had a busy Fall. Classes met outdoors, virtually online every week, and some small classes even met in person (following a long list of health and safety protocols.) Hebrew teachers individually tutor every Hebrew student who wishes and Judaica teachers are using a curriculum specifically developed for online teaching with platforms such as Zoom, Kahoot, La'br'ut, and Flippity.

Hanukkah was special. Every student received a kit that included materials to build and decorate a Hanukkiah and dreidel, and wax for rolling candles. The Hockerts led a toy and gift collection for 5 children for the SPUR Holiday drive and CJE met outdoors on the 4th night of Hanukkah for the "Increase the Light" program. The students donated handmade Hanukkah cards to residents at Jack Satter House and teen madrichim (school helpers) lit the outdoor Hanukkiah (created by Michael Cohen of A-1 Lighting).

We also offered some outdoor options for families, including a hike through the Forest River Conservation area in Salem.

Thank you to all the parents and others who helped us plan and execute these projects, including Michael Smerka, Steven and Julie Tapper, Audrey and JR Young, Rabbi and Sarah Ragozin, Cheryl Schwartz, Barri Stein, Chris & Jen Hockert, Emily Weise, and Cantor Alty!

The Spring holds hope, more learning, and the promise of hard work paying off. The CJE community will celebrate Tu B'shevat and Purim in the unique way this year of challenge seems to demand, but it will keep learning and growing together.

(left) Increase the Light Hanukkiah Lighting and program



Seven families joined CJE for a hike with at Forest River Trail.



## CEE NEWS



### Outdoor learning experiences abound!

Andrea Bernard, CEE Director, shares that CEE has mastered the art of socially distant learning. During warm weather, the preschool enjoys the fresh air in the CEE outdoor classroom. Indoors, learning abounds with 50 individual investigation boxes which are sanitized between each use, and 6 feet apart. "We always remember to wear our masks!"

### Janis Knight to Attend Hebrew College Leadership Program

Thanks to a CJP scholarship, Janis Knight will take part in The Instructional Leadership Program, a two-year professional development cohort offered by Hebrew College. After completion, Janis and CJE may be invited to become a Clinical Mentor in Hebrew College's Master of Education Program. "This would mean that not only do I receive great training and collaborative learning opportunities from great instructors, but we may also have an even greater pool of teachers to draw upon in the future," Knight said.

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