Meet the Professionals Who Bring Their Musical Magic to Holy Happy Hour and Renewal

Those who attend Holy Happy Hour and Saturday morning Renewal services know first-hand the beauty and grace four professional musicians bring to the experience. Some travel from afar; most also work in other congregations. Other than being musicians, the one thing they all share is their love for the welcoming Shirat community and its innovative approach.

“To walk into a job with a long roster of professional musicians already in place is such a gift,” said Cantor Sarah. “The history these musicians have in working with previous cantors and Rabbi Michael, and the congregants knowing and loving them, is a great help to me as the new person in the mix. Each musician brings his own feelings and style, and our collaboration is special and new with every service.”

Pianist David Sparr, who lives in Nahant and joins Shirat at both services, has performed professionally for 47 of the 63 years he has been playing. He is Music Director at Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline and also performs in jazz clubs, churches, synagogues, senior-living facilities and concert halls. He first came to Shirat through his acquaintance with Cantor Emil Berkovits z”l; the two performed together and Cantor Emil later recorded at David’s studio. He continued the connection with Cantors Elana, Alty and Sarah.

“The spirit of the clergy and the welcoming embrace of the congregation always inspires me to perform at a high level,” he said.

Bostonian Jeremiah Klarman has played piano for 25 years and percussion for 15 years. He plays both at Shirat during Renewal and Holy Happy Hour services. He also plays at Temple Emanuel in Newton — where he is Artist in Residence — and recently started playing at an African Methodist Episcopal church. Other engagements have included weddings, concerts and even accompanying an improv group.

Through a joint concert in 2017 at Temple Emanuel, Jeremiah met Cantor Elana. She invited him to play for an event at Shirat. He joined her at Renewal service and has played there ever since.

“Among all the synagogues I’ve played at, Renewal at Shirat is unique. It has a mystical, more “song leader” element (which speaks to me because I grew up in a Reform synagogue). There is also a more Hasidic, “yearning” element. The repertoire we do is varied and speaks to this diverse approach of what Renewal offers for so many people,” he said.

His favorite part is when he, the cantor and the rabbi are in sync about when and how a song should continue, get faster, get slower, etc. “There’s no planned formula and it just happens. As a musician, those are some of the moments I live for, and it’s very special to share those moments with others,” he added.

Vaccination proof and masks required. See shirathayam.org for all details.

Friday night and Shabbat services are in-person and online. Calendar subject to change. Visit www.shirathayam.org for all links and updates.

Center for Jewish Education class schedule see https://shirathayam.org/cje-calendar/

Continued on page 4

David Sparr

Jeremiah Klarman

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Continued on page 3
Rabbi’s Corner

Keva vs. Kavannah

Should one call a parent on a regular basis (say daily or weekly, at the same time) or should one call only when moved to do so?

In Jewish terms, this is a question of keva (fixed) and kavannah (intention). This issue arises first and foremost in terms of prayer. At the end of the 1st century CE, in the wake of the destruction of the 2nd Temple, Rabban Gamliel establish fixed Jewish prayer. In contrast to the spontaneous prayer of the biblical period, this meant that the words and timing of prayer were predetermined.

From its earliest legislation, objections were raised. The Talmud (Berakhot 29b:7) teaches “Rabbi Eliezer says: One whose prayer is fixed, his prayer is not supplication. The Gemara asks: What is the meaning of fixed in this context? Rabbi Ya’akov bar Idi said that Rabbi Oshaya said: It means anyone for whom his prayer is like a burden upon him, from which he seeks to be quickly unburdened.” In other words, the very problem with prescribed prayer, both in terms of content and timing, is that it’s obligatory. If prayer feels obligatory, perfunctory, or burdensome, the heart is not in the prayer, and it’s not real prayer. Nevertheless, traditional Judaism emphasized keva, fixed prayer, while encouraging recitation in a heartfelt way and the addition of person prayers to the fixed liturgy.

Shirat Hayam both honors and rejects this compromise. On the one hand, we offer a traditional daily and Shabbat minyan, reciting the prayers in the siddur (prayer book), as our ancestors have recited for two millennia, a “keva” practice.

On the other hand, we also offer a Renewal service on Shabbat morning. Renewal flips the traditional balance of keva (fixed) and kavannah (intention). Chanting snippets of Hebrew and English set to music that change weekly, Renewal is engineered to be accessible, heart-opening and transformative. The primary keva element of Renewal is its timing: 9 AM, every Shabbat (Saturday). Together, keva and kavannah make both Traditional and Renewal into spiritual practices: actions done regularly and with intention.

Having this choice of prayer experiences is essential for Shirat Hayam. It allows our community to find a spiritual practice that resonates and encourages one to return. Often, people in mourning will seek the traditional daily minyan. Its regularity and unchanging liturgy is precisely the rock of tradition that provides comfort in a time of brokenness. At the same time, others find that Renewal, with its accessibility, music, and focus on the heart, often invites us into unexpected levels of meaning.

In January, the secular year begins anew. If you haven’t explored the new world of Jewish prayer and spiritual practices, come to or Zoom into Shirat Hayam. Call me at (571) 213-6635, and I’ll help you find the service that’s right for you.
As the days are getting darker, the importance of light grows. The Hanukkah candles just lit up our kitchen tables and our synagogue lawn for eight nights. Shabbat candles still flicker each Friday night as we turn in from a busy week of work. On my now-dark drives home from the synagogue, I marvel at the beautiful displays lighting up the houses here in Swampscott. With darkness and the cold also come new opportunities for connecting, for purposefully creating light and warmth together. Spiritual light and warmth can be found year-round if we just look for purposefully creating light and warmth together. Spiritual light and warmth can be found year-round if we just look for

Many blessings,
Cantor Sarah

Message from the President

As I sit here looking towards the New Year, I am tired of dealing with the challenges of COVID and am struggling with many recent losses and changes — and I am guessing I am not alone in these thoughts. As I ponder a powerful place to stand that will help me and you, my mind immediately goes to kindness. The Dalai Lama said it best I think: “Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.” I truly believe that treating one another with kindness is always the right answer. My ego does not always agree, but my heart does, and I think that yours does too. I don’t remember being taught this as a child, but I know that I taught this to my child. While I am not a fan of tattoos, my son has one and I cannot argue with either the content or the handwriting as the latter is mine and the words are of my favorite Jewish Buddhist — Jack Kornfield — who ended a wonderful speech with this call to action that I send today to all of you as we look for a road to pursue: “What would love have me do today?” I hope you all create beautiful answers in the days and months ahead.

Warmly,
Ruth Estrich

Calendar

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, JANUARY 14</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat at CSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, JANUARY 15</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Synaplex; No CJE; Renewal with guest musician Noam Sender; Traditional Shacharit led by Jan Brodie 10:00 am Torah Yoga and Nosh &amp; Drash with Noam Sender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY, JANUARY 16</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>CJE sponsored Tu Bishvat Hike in Topsfield. Open to all. Go to Shirahayam.org/Holidays for info and to register by Jan. 8. 7:30 pm Tu Bishvat Seder led virtually by Rabbi Michael. Open to all. Go to <a href="https://shirahayam.org/holidays/">https://shirahayam.org/holidays/</a> for links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, JANUARY 18</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>CJE (grades 2-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, JANUARY 21</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Holy Happy Hour with light refreshments followed by 6:00 pm Musical Shabbat with guest musician, pianist David Sparr (also online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, JANUARY 22</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Synaplex; Traditional Shacharit led by Jan Brodie 9:00 am CJE (grades K-6) 10:00 am Torah Service with teens chanting Torah, The Ten Commandments; No Nosh &amp; Drash or Torah Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, JANUARY 25</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>CJE (grades 2-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>JCCNS virtual speaker event Ben Freeman (CSH co-sponsor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY, JANUARY 27</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Lappin community International Holocaust Remembrance Day event “Remembering the Children of the Holocaust” (CSH co-sponsor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, JANUARY 28</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat at CSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, JANUARY 29</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Synaplex; Traditional Shacharit led by Jan Brodie 9:00 am CJE (grades K-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, JANUARY 30</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Torah Yoga and Nosh &amp; Drash (TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>CJE (grades 2-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat at CSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Synaplex; Renewal with guest Noam Sender; Traditional Shacharit led by Jan Brodie 9:00 am CJE (grades K-6) 10:00 am Torah Yoga and Nosh &amp; Drash with Noam Sender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Becky’s Book Club, Discuss The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah (Go to <a href="https://shirahayam.org/book-club/">https://shirahayam.org/book-club/</a> for link and location of meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>CJE (grades 2-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Atlantic Avenue Limmud-Adult Learning. Go to <a href="https://shirahayam.org/limmud-adult-learning/">https://shirahayam.org/limmud-adult-learning/</a> to register for link. (3rd of 4 sessions; attendance at all not required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Holy Happy Hour with light refreshments followed by 6:00 pm Musical Shabbat with guest musician, pianist David Sparr (also online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Synaplex; Traditional Shacharit led by Beni Summers 9:00 am CJE (grades K-6) 10:00 am Torah Yoga and Nosh &amp; Drash with Beni Summers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>CJE (grades 2-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat at CSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Traditional Shacharit and Renewal (No CJE) 10:00 am Torah Service, Musaf, Mourner’s Kaddish, Healing, Talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat at CSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Traditional Shacharit and Renewal (No CJE) 10:00 am Torah Service, Musaf, Mourner’s Kaddish, Healing, Talk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See our website calendar (https://shirahayam.shulcloud.com/calendar) for upcoming Traditional Shacharit leaders, Renewal guest musicians and Nosh & Drash leaders.
**Becky’s Book Club**

Join Becky’s Book Club facilitator and leader, Amy Cohn, for CSH monthly discussions. Named in memory of Becky Shepard z”l, who started the CSH congregational book club and passed away in 2014, the meetings take place on Zoom and are open to the community. The group will discuss *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline on January 10 (an ambitious, emotionally resonant novel about three women whose lives are bound together in nineteenth-century Australia and the hardships they weather together as they fight for redemption and freedom in a new society).

On February 7, the group will discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah (a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them).

All meetings start at 7:30 pm after minyan. Live Zoom link is available at shirathayam.org. Go to the Get Involved tab, click Affinity Groups and then click Becky’s Book Club.

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**Musical Magic**  
*Continued from page 1*

Lautaro Mantilla travels from Framingham to play guitar at Holy Happy Hour and Renewal services. The native Colombian guitarist and composer comes from a family of musicians and artists, and started playing when he was three-years-old. He has been playing for over 20 years and teaches at the New England Conservatory. He performs frequently at Jordan Hall and several other smaller venues in Boston and New York.

A couple of years ago, Lautaro was invited to play a classical guitar concert after a Yom Kippur service, and “right from the start, the congregation was extremely welcoming and opened their hearts to me and my music, for which I feel very grateful and blessed,” he said.

What he likes best about playing at Shirat are “the incredible depth, energy and powerful feelings that every service has, and how these feelings go with you after you perform. It’s a unique feeling that I always have performing there.”

Noam Sender is a multi-instrumentalist from Waltham who has been singing and playing hand percussion, guitar and ney (Turkish flute) for over 50 years. Although these days he plays mostly in synagogues, over the years he performed in university auditoriums, music clubs, museums and community centers.

He was introduced to Shirat about 10 years ago, when congregant Michele Tamaren organized the interfaith event, “Make a Joyful Noise! Uniting our Spirits through Jewish, Islamic and Christian Music.” He played Sufi music with the Islamic Ensemble and, unexpectedly, was invited to sit in with the Jewish Ensemble, where he first met Shirat’s Cantor Elana. She invited him back to play at various events, including Shabbat Olam and Selichot services. Not long after that, he became a regular musician at the Shabbat Renewal service.

“I love the Shirat community, and over the years I have made many friends here. I am grateful to be a part of the Renewal service and always set my intention to bring joy, upliftment and inspiration to the congregation. Hopefully in the process, I also help create a sacred and soulful space,” Noam said.

He also teaches Jewish spiritual wisdom once a month at Nosh & Drash right after the Renewal service. “I discuss the mystical treasures hidden within the weekly Torah portion through a Hasidic lens, providing participants with spiritual tools and understanding for everyday life,” he said.

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**Connect with the natural world around us!**

**Sunday, January 16**

**10 am** CJE-sponsored hike at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield. Open to all. Go to ShiratHayam.org/holidays to register by January 8 and for more info.

**7:30 pm** Tu Bishvat Seder led by Rabbi Michael (virtually) with North Shore synagogues. Go to ShiratHayam.org/holidays for link.
CEE News

From the Desk of Andrea Bernard, Director, Center for Early Education:

The CEE had a fabulous Hanukkah! We created a Hanukkah workshop in the chapel with help from Cheryl Schwartz and Sarah Ragozin. It was wonderful to see the children excited and engaged in all the activities, such as dreidel games, Hanukkah exploration, dreidel art, edible menorahs, oil pastel painting and more.

We celebrated the 4th night of Hanukkah with Rabbi Michael and Cantor Sarah! We started with a Hanukkah parade and marched to the front of the building to listen to the story of Hanukkah read by Rabbi Michael. Cantor Sarah sang beautiful Hanukkah songs with us. We lit the outdoor Hanukkah menorah and ended our celebration with special treats of dreidels, gelt, and munchkins. A huge thank you to our parent group, Va’ad, for sponsoring this event.

Rabbi Michael and Cantor Sarah engaged CEE children with the story of Hanukkah and holiday songs.

CJE News

From the Desk of Janis Knight, Director of the Center for Jewish Education:

CJE had a terrific month! Saturday, Dec. 11th, our Kindergarten and First Grade Students, as well as new students in our CJE, were consecrated on our bimah. They received little Torahs to celebrate the beginning of their studies with us. On Shabbat, December 18th, our 6th and 7th grade students led the Torah service for the congregation!

During the entire month of December, Tuesday afternoon studies were dedicated to elective classes for students in grades 4 - 7. We are offering just a taste of some of the gifts Jewish culture has to share, such as Diaspora Holiday Cooking, Hebrew Calligraphy, Jewish Comic Book Heroes and Sephardic Jewish Copperwork classes. Second and third grade students aren’t left out, though! They are learning about “Hiddur Mitzvah” (beautifying a mitzvah) through creating unique Shabbat candlesticks, kiddush cups and challah covers.

Our older students have begun their Better Together program, reaching out and connecting with seniors at Kaplan Estates. They gather on a Friday afternoon each month to welcome Shabbat together, recite blessings, light candles and share experiences over Zoom. Students in grades 7 - 12 are invited to join that program.

At the CSH Hanukkah Celebration, there were crafts for the kids (including making their own wooden dreidels), Cantor Sarah’s new choir sang, and Rabbi Michael invited all to help light the Hannukiah. It was a fun event: hot cocoa flowed, delicious doughnuts from David Zion, a dynamic retelling of “There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Menorah” by the Rabbi and the Cantor’s sweet voice to round it out.

Cantor Sarah’s new choir sang at the Hanukkah Celebration on December 5.

Students learn about Diaspora Holiday cooking in Shirat’s newly renovated kitchen.

2nd and 3rd graders create beautiful and unique Shabbat candlesticks, kiddush cup and challah covers.
**CONDOLENCES**

Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

**Members:**
- **Harry Epstein**
  11/9/2021
  Husband of Marilyn Epstein, Father of Nancy Epstein and Ellen Vilenchik, Brother-in-law of Alan and Barbara Sidman, Marla Gay

- **Harvey Cotton**
  11/24/2021
  Husband of Helaine Cotton

- **Jeff Schwartz**
  11/26/2021
  Husband of Jill Schwartz, Father of Abby and Talia Schwartz, Son-in-law of Leslie and Harold Freedman

- **Evelyn Handis**
  11/28/2021
  Wife of Bernard Handis

** Relatives of Members:**
- **Heidi Lauhon**
  11/16/21
  Niece of Sara Winer

- **Leo Karas**
  11/30/2021
  Father of Joey Karas

---

**BRODY MINYAN FUND**
In memory of Harvey Levin, husband of Phyllis Levin from Gloria Sax

In memory of Harry Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Robin and Bob Cooper

In memory of Ed Berman, father of David Berman and Daniel Berman from Sandra Gold Shalit and Carl Shalit

**In memory of**
Aunt, Ruth Kronick from Alva Parker
Mother, Ada Millstein from Ann Segal
Husband, Arthur Sandler from Elaine Sandler
Brother-in-law, Joel Silverberg Wife, Janet Goldberg from Herb Goldberg
Mother, Lilian Talcove from Jane Alexander
Father, Arthur Brand from Jeffrey Brand
Mother, Doris Barnett from Jodie Barnett
Mother, Marian Eakins from Kate Borten
Brother, Paul Berman from Leeta Sinrich
Husband, Ralph Dunn from Linda Dunn
Father, Saul Goldberg from Lois Miller
Friend, Joel Cohen from Natalie White
Mother, Bertha Linsky from Philip Linsky
Father, Jacob Denbo from Jelly Skopec
Sister-in-law, Elaine Denbo from Samuel Denbo
Mother, Celia Simon from Sandra Spector
Father, Charles Sagan from Scott Sagan
Father, Nathan Danberg from Sheila Taymore
Grandfather, Josiah Razin from Susan Kline

**BURT & BECKY SHEPARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
In memory of Evelyn Solomon Cohn, mother of Amy Cohn from Becky’s Book Club

**CANTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
In honor of Cantor Sarah from Darlene and Richard Pachter
In memory of Jeffrey Schwartz, husband of Jill Schwartz from Susan and Larry Goldberg

**In memory of**
Mother, Augusta Berkowitz from Lois Sargent

**CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION**
In memory of Jeffrey Schwartz, husband of Jill Schwartz from Linda and Steven Arst; Beverly Kahn; Beth and Jeffrey Kasten; Victoria and Daniel Klein

In memory of Harold Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Lori and Larry Groipen; Beth and Jeffrey Kasten

In memory of Rae Blumberg, mother of Sharon Gold in memory of Harvey Cotton, husband of Helaine Cotton from Lori and Larry Groipen

**GENERAL FUND**
In appreciation from Harriette Fox
In appreciation of Ruth Estrich from Edye Baker; Lisa and Stephen Plymate
Get well wishes for Ben Yellin from Phyllis Sagan
In honor of Levi Schiller becoming a Bar Mitzvah from Barbara Vinick
In honor of Beth Andler’s special birthday from Caryn and Barry Cohen

In memory of Jeffrey Schwartz, husband of Jill Schwartz from Denise Greco and Family; Gail New; Phyllis Sagan; Bradford Weiner; Alycin and Barry Yomtov

In memory of Harry Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Izzy and Howard Abrams; Beth and Marc Andler; Caryn and Barry Cohen; John Cohen; Leslie and Michael Harsip; Ina and Alan Hoffman; Ruth and Eric Kahn; Lois and Bobby Kaplan; Barbara Vinick

In memory of Ed Berman, father of David Berman and Daniel Berman from Thomas Barth; Helaine and Dan Berg; Ellen Garshick; Nancy Goldstein

In memory of Heidi Lauhon, niece of Sara Winer from Brenda Miller

In memory of Fran Brown, wife of Sheldon Brown from Marcia Kalman

In memory of Harvey Cotton, husband of Helaine Cotton from Rand Foreman-Bergman and Arnie Bergman

In memory of Evelyn Solomon Cohn, mother of Amy Cohn from Shelley Sackett and Leonard Rotman; Susan Weiss

**In memory of**
Father, Abraham Babbitt
Grandmother, Bessie Tassel from Ann Penderexter
Mother, Helen Bergman from Arnold Bergman
Father, Louis Rudolph from Barbara Duseault
Father, Martin Bendetson from Carol Shube
Aunt, Edna Sandler Parker from Lee Sandler
Mother, Frances Mendelsohn from Cynthia Sheshlick
Father, Maurice Dinerman from Elaine Merken
Brother, Gunther Kahn from Eric Kahn
Father, Norman Strager from Karol Cohn

Our parents, Gail and Chester Baker from Marla Levy and Stephanie Baker Smith
Brother, Alan Gerber from Marsha Gerber
Grandmother, Sadie Stockman from Phyllis Kaplan
Father, Alec Weiner from Rachelle Rosenbaum
Mother-in-law, Rebecca Goldenberg from Ruth Goldenberg

**HIGH HOLY DAY PLEDGE**
In memory of
Mother, Frances Mendelsohn from Alva Parker

**HOWARD STEVEN FEFFER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
In memory of
Grandmother, Pauline Feffer from Lawrence Feffer

**KIDDUSH FUND**
In memory of
Harvey Cotton, husband of Helaine Cotton from Gloria Sax

In memory of
Harry Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Judy and Harold Kramer

In memory of
Jeffrey Schwartz, husband of Jill Schwartz from Andi and Bryan Oberlander

**In memory of**
Mother, Shirley Goldstein from Bernice Lieberson
Son and Brother, Sheppard Weisman from Bette Ann Weisman; Claudia Rodenstein
Brother, Robert Alexander from Ellen and Richard Alexander
Mother, Sally Rothstein from Elaine Sandler
Father, Benjamin Zaiger from Florence Wigetman
RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With thanks
from Catherine Mazur Jefferies and Thomas Jefferies
In appreciation of Rabbi Michael from Amy and David Pliner
In memory of Harry Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Louise Chudnofsky
In memory of Evelyn Handis, wife of Bernard Handis from Susan Kline

In memory of
Grandmother, Millie Fischer from Deborah Birnbach
Sister, Susan Pfeiffer from Diane Rubitschinsky
All my loved ones from Muriel Follick
Father, Herbert Taletman from Richard Taletman
Brother, Alan Cashman
Grandmother, Beatrice Newman from Robert Cashman
Step-mother, Edith Spector from Donna and Edward Seligman

RITUAL FUND

In memory of Sherry Wurtzel, mother of Renee Sidman
In memory of Harry Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Susan and Larry Goldberg

In memory of
Grandfather, Samuel Epstein from Bonnie Kauder
Grandmother, Rose Goldberg from Leslie Ogan
Father, Norman Revman from Donna Revman
Brother, Gary Ogan from Robert Ogan

SHIR CHESED FUND

In memory of Heidi Lauhon, niece of Sara Winer from Bethany and Moshe Roditi
In memory of Harry Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Herb Goldberg; Karen and Jerry Madorosky; Bethany and Moshe Roditi
In memory of Evelyn Solomon Cohn, mother of Amy Cohn from Carla Greenberg; Shari and Ron Pressman; Bette and Dan Shoreman
In memory of Jeffrey Schwartz, husband of Jill Schwartz from Deborah and Tim Neilan; Leslie and Robert Ogan
In memory of Harvey Cotton, husband of Helaine Cotton from Barbara Tobin-Forbush and Bernie Forbush; Marla and Philip Gay
In memory of Edward Berman, father of David Berman and Daniel Berman from Wendy and Michael Dubinsky; Shari and Ron Pressman

In memory of
Father, Hyman Karas from Jack Karas
Mother, Ellen Greenblatt from Judi Simmons
Mother, Hester Berman from Freida and Morris Sinrich
Sister-in-law, Peggy Sinrich from Leeta Sinrich
Mother, Estelle Idia Cohen from Rand Forman-Bergman
Brother, Scott Strome from Marsha Gerber
Mother, Charlotte Egoodkin from Sandra Shuman

TORAH FUND

In memory of Edward Berman, father of David Berman and Daniel Berman from Marjorie Bean; Rosaline Brenner; Linda Joy Goldner; Sylvia Kaster; Judy and Steve Schwartz; MaryAnn and Robert Shaw; Patricia and Harry Stewart
In memory of Harry Epstein, husband of Marilyn Epstein from Marion Garfinkel

In memory of
Father and grandfather, Nathan Germain from Marion Garfinkel and family

JEST IS FOR ALL

“Always remember the first rule of settlement negotiations: If a really good offer is made, don’t wag your tail!”

POLONSKY BUILDING FUND

In memory of
Mother, Rose Polonsky from Norma and Sherman Freedman

PRAYERBOOK PURCHASED

In memory of
Brother, Scott Strome from Marsha Gerber

Shirat Hayam 137
Volume 4, Number 4
September 2019

Interview

Continued from back page

me to see if I could draw some of my own. As a new lawyer, I started to think of ideas for law-themed cartoons. After I created my first batch, I sent them to a local law publication, and to my delight they accepted one! That was the beginning of my career as a cartoonist. My law cartoons, which I continue to draw, are called “Jest Is For All” and they appear in bar association magazines around the country.

A few years after I began with the law cartoons, I started coming up with Jewish-themed cartoon ideas . . . and that led to my “Shmoozin” cartoons, which have appeared in many Jewish publications. I am happy that several have been included in the New Wave and in the CSH weekly email announcements. Many of my Shmoozin cartoons feature animals who use Yiddish words. I am currently working on putting together a book of these Yiddish-speaking animal cartoons, which I think would be educational as well as funny.

Where did your interest in Yiddish and Yiddish music come from?

My Yiddish-speaking grandmother lived with us from the time I was 5 years old until I was in college, so I grew up hearing Yiddish spoken in the house. At Brandeis, I took some Yiddish language classes. More recently, I developed a strong interest in Yiddish music. About seven years ago, when my mother was living at a Hebrew SeniorLife independent living building in Coolidge Corner, I decided to learn Yiddish songs so that I could give Yiddish music programs to the residents. I was joined by another resident’s daughter, who is a professional pianist. She became the accompanist and I was the singer. The residents loved those concerts, and so did I.

I continue to learn Yiddish songs and give Yiddish concerts. Recently, I have been fortunate to work with David Spark as my accompanist. The audiences are very appreciative of the opportunity to be hearing these songs. So, for me, doing these concerts has been extremely rewarding – and lots of fun!
The Interview

CONGREGATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Meet Arnie Glick

Every issue, the New Wave spotlights a congregant as a way to help us get to know each other by putting a face with a name. This month, new member and “Shmoozin” cartoonist Arnie Glick introduces himself and shares his thoughts about Shirat Hayam and its special, personal meaning.

What role did religion and synagogue life play in your childhood and young adulthood?

I grew up in Lynn on Wallace Road, one house in from Lynn Shore Drive, and my family belonged to Congregation Ahabat Sholom on Ocean Street. The shul was an active place in those days. My father regularly attended Shabbat and holiday services, and starting when I was about 9 or 10, so did I. My grandmother lived with us, and I would walk with her to shul. There was a separate children’s Shabbat service in the chapel, and about 30 neighborhood kids would attend each week. At the end of services, we each got a Hershey bar. With so many children, the “kiddush” was a lively and noisy event.

When I was about to enter third grade, my parents enrolled me at the Hebrew Day School, then known as Hillel Academy. It had just relocated from Lynn to a big white house on Atlantic Avenue in Swampscott. I received an excellent, and very rigorous, education there. Half of the school day consisted of English subjects and half was Hebrew subjects. When I was in fifth and sixth grade the Hebrew half of the day was completely in Hebrew. It was very effective – I still remember sitting in class and realizing that I could think and speak directly in Hebrew without having to first form my thoughts in English.

In those days, Hillel Academy stopped at grade 6, so I returned to the Lynn public schools for junior high and high school. I continued my Hebrew education until 12th grade, including a couple of years at Temple Israel in Swampscott and a few at Hebrew College in Brookline.

For college I went to Brandeis, and then I attended Georgetown University for law school. At Georgetown I lived in a kosher apartment with two roommates, and we would have wonderful Friday night Shabbat dinners together, with frequent guests and lively conversation.

I have been living in Coolidge Corner in Brookline for over 35 years. I am single and work in a law firm in Newton Center.

What first brought you to CSH?

It was because of Zoom that I connected with CSH. Last fall, when everything was closed down, I realized that Zoom presented an opportunity to explore synagogues outside of my local Brookline area. I quickly thought of Shirat Hayam because of the attachment I feel towards the North Shore. One evening, I logged on early for a CSH service, and had the chance to introduce myself to Rabbi Michael. At the end of the service he very thoughtfully introduced me to the other Zoom participants, which impressed me as being a very welcoming gesture.

Over the following months, I continued to attend CSH on Zoom. In May I decided to become a member, hoping that soon there would be the opportunity to attend CSH in person. Fortunately, that happened just a few weeks later, and I had the chance to meet my fellow Zoom-ers in person for the first time, including Rabbi Michael.

What’s special to you about CSH?

What is special about CSH for me personally is that after living in Brookline for so many years, it has been a treat to also become part of a synagogue in the area where I grew up. When I introduce myself to people at CSH, very often something or someone that we have in common comes up in conversation right away, whether it has to do with Lynn or Swampscott, or members of my family. That feels good.

Also, I find that there is a positive, happy, and friendly atmosphere at CSH. I have felt it in my interactions with Rabbi Michael, Cantor Sarah, Barri Stein, Cheryl Schwartz, and pretty much every congregant I have spoken with.

Can you tell us about your being a cartoonist?

Of course – with pleasure. When I was in my 20s, my nephew mailed me drawings of three cartoons that he made. Somehow that inspired At 55 Atlantic Ave, Swampscott, MA 01907

Arnie Glick

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SONG AT THE SEA

SHIRAT

HAYAM

Congregation

55 Atlantic Ave, Swampscott, MA 01907