Although at Shirat Hayam formal Hebrew School may technically end after grade 7 and a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, many teens want to remain involved in synagogue life and maintain a direct connection to their Jewish roots. One option available to them is to become a member of the CJE Madrichim (role model, counselor or leader) Program. By helping out in the Hebrew School, these teens serve as role models for the younger students as they continue to learn and grow in the religious school.

They do everything from laying out snacks for kids to bandaging scrapes to tutoring Hebrew prayer skills. They meet often with coordinator Jason Stark to discuss themes that open an enlarged sense of being part of the Jewish community. “I am especially happy to offer a real work experience for these teens so that they learn to be on time, to call in sick, to receive a paycheck and to be proactive,” said Janis Knight, CJE Director. “The power of the Madrichim Program is in helping students interested in becoming camp counselors and teachers and leaders in their youth communities to build a toolbox of skills for de-escalating conflict, making transitions successful, assessing a group dynamic and helping to shape experiences for others in positive ways.”

Teen madrichim performed a Purim Shpiel on Zoom during the lockdown, and regularly run Hebrew games while a teacher prepares for the next stage of a lesson, help with cooking electives, and set up snacks and oversee recess. They also cuddle children, wipe noses, introduce kids to non-binary gender norms, demonstrate courtesy and compassion, and help them learn the skills needed to be members of a sacred community. “They are awesome teens in our community!” Knight added.

Three madrichim recently shared their thoughts with the New Wave. Jasmina Kurtovic (mom is Alex Shube) is a Marblehead HS sophomore who also volunteers at some JTI (Jewish Teen Initiative) events. She plays trumpet in the school jazz band, loves being outdoors and riding horses, and enjoys teaching and being with the younger kids. “I like connecting to my Judaism in this hands-on way,” she said. For Jasmina, tikkun olam (repairing the world) means helping the planet by being eco-conscious and supporting conservation efforts. “It also means we should take care of others,” she said.

Marblehead HS freshman Jeremy Sorkin (parents are Amy and Jeffrey Sorkin; sister Amanda is also a madrichah) is also involved in the Jewish Student Union at his school and the North Shore BBYO. He is passionate about being outdoors and riding horses, and enjoys teaching and being with the younger kids. “I like connecting to my Judaism in this hands-on way,” she said. For Jasmina, tikkun olam (repairing the world) means helping the planet by being eco-conscious and supporting conservation efforts. “It also means we should take care of others,” she said.

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Shirat Hayam—Where Teens’ Jewish Connections Flourish (Even Post B’nei Mitzvah!)

Jasmina Kutovic

Jeremy Sorkin

Continued on page 4

Calendar

FRIDAY, JUNE 3
5:30 pm Holy Happy Hour Minyan followed by 6 pm musical service

SATURDAY, JUNE 4
Shabbat Synaplex
9:00 am Renewal; Traditional Shacharit led by Jan Brodie
10:00 am Torah Service; Torah Yoga with Stacie Nardizzi; Nosh & Drash (see 11:15 am)
11:15 am (approx.) Conversation with author and transgender rights advocate, Mimi Lemay. “If Not Now, When?” How Jewish communities can support gender-diverse youth (see pg. 5)
7:00 pm Erev Shavuot Service followed by the third Great Shavuot Bake Off. This year, cheesecake! (see pg. 2) Go to https://shirathayam.org/holidays/ for link.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5
9:00 am Shavuot Service with Yizkor Service at (approx.) 10:30 am in-person and online. Go to https://shirathayam.org/holidays/ for link.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat at CSH

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
Shabbat Synaplex
9:00 am Renewal; Traditional Shacharit led by Jan Brodie
10:00 am Torah Service; Nosh & Drash with Janis Knight; Torah Yoga with Stacie

Continued on page 3
Life of the Congregation

RABBI’S CORNER

Torah and Teens

Ben Bag Bag said: Turn the Torah over and over, for everything is in it (Avot 5:22). The Torah’s breadth of content and multiplicity of interpretations is nowhere more evident than in b’nei mitzvah divrei Torah.

When I work with a youngster, my goal is for each teen to find their unique connection to the Torah. This is not a book report, but a search for a life message that speaks to them, one which they will share with the people who love them most. I don’t provide them with a summary that highlights major themes of their Torah portion; instead, I ask them to identify words, verses, or sections that catch their attention and provide me with those more personal and individual observations.

The ensuing initial conversation with a b’nei mitzvah student is always the most fascinating. I ask: What did you notice in your portion? Sometimes it’s a whole story, like Joseph and his brothers. Other times, it’s a single word like “all” in “gather all the Israelites,” which inspired a robust d’var Torah about inclusion. Frequently, the kids surprise me, pointing out something I’d never even seen or considered before.

We discuss what they noticed and the value concepts latent therein, such as family, friendship, protecting the environment, tzedekah, etc. From this value concept, we construct their d’var Torah. That way, the d’var Torah is as much about the kids themselves, a mirror reflecting their lives and values, as it is about the Torah.

Giving divrei Torah is not just for teens, but for adults too. While we will celebrate the Torah as a community this Shavuot (Saturday night, June 4 and Sunday morning, June 5 where teens will chant the Ten Commandments), giving a d’var Torah on any Shabbat is a personal way of celebrating the Torah. If you’d like to know more about this, please contact me.

Rabbi’s Corner

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Cantor’s News

Why Counting the Omer is Especially Special to Me This Year

Purim and Passover come one after the other in a whirlwind of music, programs, and services. The period of the Omer, in contrast, the seven weeks that we count every night leading up to Shavuot, is usually a countdown to the end of the synagogue year for me. Shavuot marks the last major event before the summer and the start of High Holy Day planning (yes already!). By Passover, I was longing for days at the beach with my kids and a little break from holiday after holiday.

This year, Shavuot is also the countdown to my one year anniversary here at Shirat. I can’t believe we packed up our home in Florida and said goodbye to family, friends, and longtime coworkers almost one year ago. I remember how many details went into the transition, and juggling beginnings and endings at the same time. I think that is the way I have come to enjoy the Omer count this year. It’s not just a counting down, but also a counting up to all the things I have to look forward to. For these reasons, the counting of the Omer was especially special for me. A practice I already liked became one I truly loved. I hope it is a practice you might consider embracing in your lives too.

Many blessings,
Cantor Sarah

Message from the President

We recently returned to providing a Kiddish Shabbat lunch (Shabbat Café) for the congregation after an absence of over two years. For what seems like an eternity, we have been dancing with Covid decisions, becoming intimate with boards of health, CDC leadership, local physicians and congregational epidemiologists. We have pivoted and strategized and evaluated our options. We have moved forward, and stood our ground and retreated. We have followed the science and the news. And through it all, we have remained connected and committed to one another and the community we call Shirat Hayam. This past Shabbat, the lobby smelled of freshly brewed coffee and the sounds of our members visiting with one another drifted into the sanctuary. Rabbi Michael, Cantor Sarah and Noam Sender led us in prayers of gratitude and peace, faces shining, voices intertwined and rising, reaching out to each other like reunited family members. Which we are. And after the pleasures of Torah yoga and the give and take of Nosh & Drash and the community we call Shirat Hayam, this past Shabbat, the lobby smelled of freshly brewed coffee and the sounds of our members visiting with one another drifted into the sanctuary. Rabbi Michael, Cantor Sarah and Noam Sender led us in prayers of gratitude and peace, faces shining, voices intertwined and rising, reaching out to each other like reunited family members. Which we are. And after the pleasures of Torah yoga and the give and take of Nosh & Drash and the beauty of watching a wheelchair father see his granddaughter belatedly read the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah, the doors to the social hall opened and one hundred congregants passed in, hungry for lunch and the warmth of their friends and neighbors. In a second, it was as if we had never been apart. Tuna salad never tasted so good.

Warmly,
Ruth Estrich

Shabbat Synaplex (through July 2)
9:00 am Renewal Service and Traditional Shacharit Minyan
9:00 am Boker Tov Cafe in the lobby
10:00 am Torah Service, Torah Yoga with Stacie Nardizzi and Nosh & Drash
11:15 am Mourner’s Kaddish, Healing Service, Talk and Ruach Rally (Ruach Rally only on B’nei Mitzvah days)
12:00 pm Shabbat Café (Kiddush lunch for all)

See our website calendar (https://shirathayam.shulcloud.com/calendar) for complete schedule of upcoming service leaders and guest musicians and Nosh & Drash leaders. Schedule subject to change.
Teen Connections
Continued from page 1

about running (he is on the cross country and track teams) and also plays tennis and basketball.

Mostly, though, Jeremy is passionate about his Judaism. He enjoys being part of the madrichim program for many reasons. “It gives me opportunities to interact with younger students and guide them through their upbringing as a young participant of the Jewish community. I also get to share the experiences and traditions from Camp Yavneh, where I have attended summer camp for the last seven years,” he said. To Jeremy, tikkun olam starts with his own community. “By being part of Jewish teen organizations, I am able to be very nice and trusted me to do things correctly. He didn’t control my every move.”

Hallinan looks forward to working with Lucas during the editing process. With footage from three cameras, there will be plenty of material to choose from to tell the story. “It was great to see Lucas be very present while recording the Purim celebration. He was able to engage with the community through filmmaking and that was very cool to witness. The editing stage takes a lot of patience and focus, and he has that,” he said.

Liora Ragozin

involved in community service and help people in need,” he said.

Swampscott HS freshman Liora Ragozin (parents are Rabbi Michael and Sarah Ragozin; brother is Noam, sister is Aleza and dog is Zoka) loves languages, and takes Spanish and French at school. She is a member of the French, Spanish and environmental clubs. She is committed to saving the environment. “To me, tikkun olam includes repairing and caring for the environment, but it also means treating all human beings and animals on this planet with respect,” she said.

Liora likes spending time with her friends, reading, being outdoors and baking. She plays volleyball and spring track. She also occasionally chants Torah at CSH and volunteers at JTI. As a madrichah, she especially enjoys working with the second and third graders. “Even though I am teaching the children to read Hebrew and about Judaism, I also learn a lot through teaching. It gives me an opportunity to keep up my Hebrew abilities, learn about teaching styles, and connect with children,” she said.

Marblehead 8th grader Lucas Rosen (parents are Amanda French and Noah Rosen; he has one older brother, Nathaniel) participates at CSH in another way: every Friday night and Saturday morning he runs the Zoom that allows congregants to enjoy services from the comfort of their homes. His is also the friendly face that sits at the front doors, greeting those coming to services in-person, and checking their Covid vaccination cards.

Lucas started video editing when he was younger because he wanted to make YouTube videos and realized that in order to make them “really good,” he would have to gain editing skills. He stuck with it, but really became involved in earnest when the pandemic started in 2020. He got a desktop computer and his love for video editing flourished. “A lot of people made videos but couldn’t edit, so I would edit them for them,” he said.

He also started doing observation for a video league he played in, essentially becoming the cameraman for video game matches. “I really enjoyed the camera work, so doing it in real life seemed like the next step,” he said.

That opportunity arose when Perry Hallinan, whose team films and edits Shirat’s High Holy Day services, asked Lucas if he wanted to help his crew film this year’s Purim Spiel. Because Lucas was already running the Shabbat Zoom services and had experience behind a camera, he naturally said yes.

“It was very nice working with Perry,” Lucas said. “He taught me to use the camera because I had never used an actual camera before. He was

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 Gateway to the Moon by Mary Morris on June 13 (Interwoven in a present-day narrative are the powerful stories of the ancestors of Entrada, New Mexico’s residents, highlighting the torture, pursuit, and resistance of its Jewish people. A moving and memorable portrait of a family and its journey through the centuries.)

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.

The club will take a summer break. Watch for the 2022-2023 Book List and get a head start while relaxing on the beach.
CJE NEWS

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

The 7th grade learned about Tefillin with Rabbi Michael. The lesson, part of B’nei Mitzvah explorations, included a look inside a deconstructed set donated by a congregant. Students then were coached through the process of properly putting them on. It’s very involved, especially the tying procedure around the hand, so expert coaching was definitely needed!

They also joined Kaplan residents for an afternoon of art and visiting.

Tefillin Lesson: Rabbi Michael wrapped tefillin with the 7th graders. (Pictured L to R – Rabbi Michael, Maria S., Meredith K., Caleb S., Joshua T., Lila S., Maxine M., Madalyn G.)

CEE NEWS

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

This month we are proud to celebrate our amazing team of educators! We are a team of 24 incredible, unique, talented, thoughtful, loving and caring individuals who make a difference each and every day. Thank you for all that you do!

Thank you to the generous families of The Shirat Hayam Center for Early Education for showing our teachers how much they are loved and appreciated!

Tefillin Lesson: Rabbi Michael wrapped tefillin with the 7th graders. (Pictured L to R – Rabbi Michael, Maria S., Meredith K., Caleb S., Joshua T., Lila S., Maxine M., Madalyn G.)

CSH teens joined Kaplan residents for a deep dive into an immersive art experience from Van Gogh.

Life of the Congregation

“Leaks, Law & Politics: the Supreme Court & the Future of Reproductive Rights in America.”

Dan Urman runs Northeastern University’s undergraduate Law & Public Policy and Northeastern Law School’s Masters and Certificate Programs. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses about Law, Politics, and Public Policy. Dan also sits on Northeastern’s Jewish Studies academic advisory board and serves as faculty advisor for Northeastern's pre-law fraternity.

Dan earned a JD from Harvard Law School, an MPhil in Politics & International Relations from the University of Oxford as a Marshall Scholar, and a BA in History & Political Science at UCLA. He lives in Marblehead with his wife, two daughters, and son.

This program will be offered live and on Zoom.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, June 22 at 7:30 pm

“Leaks, Law & Politics: the Supreme Court & the Future of Reproductive Rights in America.”

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This program will be offered live and on Zoom.
LETTER FROM A CONGREGANT:

“Segal Saturday”

Shirat Hayam is truly a community and my family feels blessed to be a part of it.

Our granddaughter Lila, who lives in Potomac Maryland, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah last April (2021). Unfortunately, her grandfather Jacob was unable to travel to Maryland and watched the service at home on Zoom.

Early this year Lila said she would like to come to Shirat Hayam so her grandfather could see her in person. The family thought it was a wonderful (and thoughtful) idea and contacted Shirat Hayam. They were all in!

Rabbi Michael, Cantor Sarah and the staff were supportive throughout. Special thanks to Barri Stein for all of her help.

Lila planned to read her Haftarah at Shirat, but unfortunately the sanctuary was not available on the anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah. So, she learned a new Torah portion and read it at Shirat Hayam on April 30.

On that day, we all came into the sanctuary and were warmly greeted. Jacob hasn’t been at temple since Covid upended our lives. So many people came over to greet him and welcome him back.

It was a mitzvah for the two of us to have an Aliyah. There were Lila’s parents, Aimee and Allen, up on the bima for an Aliyah; their son, Sam, carrying the Torah in the same sanctuary where Allen had celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.

The day was topped off with a lovely luncheon, the first one in two years. It was heartening to see so many people gathered together for “radical hospitality.” The day was so much better than I had anticipated. It made me realize how special it is to have a place of comfort, belonging, spirituality, and community.

Marilyn Segal
In memory of our father from Ellen and Yehiel Vilenchik

In memory of

Niece, Dena Lehman from Bunny Gorfinde

Father, Leonard Glaser from Caryn Cohen

Grandfather, George Fischer from Deborah Birnbach

Sister, Sheila Baseman Costello from Deborah Sudenfield

Son, Bruce Gold from Enid Gold

Nephew, Rabbi Neil Kraft from Frances Pearlman

Mother, Hannah Schwartz from Joel Schwartz

Father, Walter Cohen from John Cohen

Mother, Sara Liebman from Lois Kaplan

Mother, Frieda Andler from Marc Andler

Grandmother Rose Mary Goldstein Levin from Diane Levin and Stephen Hicks

Grandfather, Milton Feinstein from Barry Yackolow; Susan Yackolow

Sister, Elaine Williams from Stephen Williams

HOWARD STEVEN FEFFER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of

Aunt, Ruth Feffer Saxe from Lawrence Feffer

Father, Michael Kushner from Gitte Kushner

Father, Hyman Goldman from Gloria Sax

Father, Jacob Marmor from Hedy Schneidman

In honor of the 56th wedding anniversary from Arlene and David Addis

In memory of the B’nei Mitzvah Sisters 10th Anniversary from Marsha Gerber

In memory of Harry Rich, brother of Murry Rich from Charlotte Fine; Lois and Bobby Kaplan; Judy and Harold Kramer; Shari and Ron Pressman; Phyllis Sagan; Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Marsha Gerber

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Susan and Larry Goldberg

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Barbara and Ron Gilefsky

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Get well wishes for Ann Segal from Louise Sadur

In appreciation of Rabbi Michael from Diane Faulkner and Jonathan Rosen; Rosalie and Robert Thompson

In honor of our 65th wedding anniversary from Roz and Marty Goldberg

KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of Olivia Sophie Gilefsky, granddaughter of Barbara and Ron Gilefsky, becoming a Bat Mitzvah from Diana Caplan; Charlotte Fine; Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

In honor of the B’not Mitzvah Sisters 10th Anniversary from Marsha Gerber

In honor of Roz and Marty Goldberg’s 65th wedding anniversary from Arlene and David Addis

In memory of the B’nei Mitzvah of Evan and Ari Finamore, grandsons of Gloria Sax from Ellen and Dick Alexander

In memory of Harry Rich, brother of Murry Rich from Charlotte Fine; Lois and Bobby Kaplan; Judy and Harold Kramer; Shari and Ron Pressman; Phyllis Sagan; Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

In memory of our mother, Sandy Feinstein Yackolow from Barry Yackolow; Susan Yackolow

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In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Marsha Gerber

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In memory of Harry Rich, brother of Murry Rich from Charlotte Fine; Lois and Bobby Kaplan; Judy and Harold Kramer; Shari and Ron Pressman; Phyllis Sagan; Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Marsha Gerber

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Susan and Larry Goldberg

In memory of Chaim Stern from Karen Hirsch

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Barbara and Ron Gilefsky; Toby and Joel Leinson

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Doreen Godes; Shirley Itzkowitz

In memory of Jerrold Rosen from Barbara and Ron Gilefsky

How to Make a Donation

To make a donation, please visit shirathayam.org/donate or mail your donation with a check made out to CSH or Congregation Shirat Hayam. Please specify which fund your donation should be allocated to.
Meet Rachel Carlino-Dangora

Every issue, the New Wave spotlights congregants as a way to help us get to know each other by putting a face with a name. This month, Rachel Carlino-Dangora shares her thoughts about Shirat Hayam and its special, personal meaning.

Where did you grow up? What role did religion and synagogue life play in your childhood and young adulthood?

I grew up in Newton, MA and attended a local synagogue with my parents where I became a Bat Mitzvah. The most important role of the synagogue for me was the sense of community it gave me. My parents and I would attend Friday night services and High Holidays. We knew we were always welcomed with open arms. I continued attending High Holiday services after my bat mitzvah and attended Teyya overnight camp.

Synagogue continued to play a role in my young adulthood. While attending Boston University, I belonged to the Hillel and went to services and social events. It was a nice way to meet Jewish students attending the University.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

I live in Marblehead with my husband, Michael, two children, Zachary (12) and Jayme (10), and our dog, Piper Blush. I also have three stepdaughters who are in their twenties. I met my husband seven years ago at a wireless company where I was a project manager. Family time is very important to us. Our family activities include heading to Devereux Beach, biking, movie nights, and enjoying our home on Newfound Lake in NH.

What do you do for work?

I’m a professional organizer. I own Make Peace with Organizing, which is a home and business professional organizing company. As a working mom, I understand the importance of staying organized in every facet of life. My friends dubbed me the “Organizing Queen” many years ago due to my ability to juggle family and the demands of a career. After practicing law for eight years, I realized my passion was helping people create a more organized life so they could focus on what matters like spending time enjoying family and friends or building a business. Sharing this passion became my ambition and Make Peace with Organizing was created with the mission to help others reduce day-to-day stress, increase productivity, and improve quality of life.

During quarantine people realized just how important their homes were to them. Many would pass by an area multiple times a day, cringe and say they would get to organizing it since they had lots of downtime being home. Since quarantine was lifted, I have received many calls from people who weren’t sure where to begin. It’s been a wonderful experience helping my clients start their organizing journey. My services include home organization services and decluttering, downsizing and moving, and office organizing.

What first brought you to Shirat?

What first brought me to Shirat was pre-school for Zachary. We chose CSH since many of Zachary’s friends attended. It’s been wonderful watching all the kids grow up. I can’t believe Zachary will become a bar mitzvah next March!

What keeps you at Shirat? What’s special about it to you?

Shirat Hayam reminds me of the synagogue where I grew up since both make social gatherings important. I love the variety of events at Shirat and always feel up to date with weekly emails letting me know what is going on. When my kids were in pre-school, I was on a few committees and put together my son’s graduating class party at Devereux Beach. What a great memory! I have formed great relationships with fellow Shirat Hayam families through Hebrew school, Saturday afternoon luncheons and many other social events.

This sense of community draws me to Shirat, since it reminds me of my temple growing up. I’m excited to connect with synagogue members again at the Saturday afternoon luncheon after services. Janis Knight does an excellent job with the children at CJE. I feel like I belong at CSH.