New Members Share Their First Impressions of Shirat Hayam

Lynn residents Robert and Samantha Dunn and their children, Alice (aged 9) and Ben (aged 5), joined CSH last summer. Rob’s parents, Judy and Larry Dunn and some other parents of their children’s classmates are members and mentioned their good experiences. Samantha joined Judy, who is President of Hadassah Lynn Swampscott Marblehead Chapter, for some of the CSH women's programing, such as the Women's Seder, and enjoyed the experiences and felt welcomed. “We liked the variety of children’s and adult programming, plus both of us have history with this building back when it was Beth El,” they said.

The Dunns attended High Holy Day services with their children, who "loved their services." Sam has also joined Judy for Torah Yoga on Shabbat, which she found “very relaxing and enjoyable.”

Debby Cherry, who has lived in Lynn in the Diamond District for more than 30 years, joined CSH in September after her former synagogue in Revere, where she had spent her entire life and was deeply involved, closed in 2019. After that, she visited a few other temples, both locally and in Boston, but didn’t feel much of a spiritual connection. “And of course Covid didn’t help to make any connections,” she said.

When she contacted Shirat Hayam to buy seats for the High Holy Days, she learned that a new membership system was in place. “So, instead of being a participant for a few days, I was excited that I could actually become a member instead of a visitor,” she said.

She came for both days of Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur day, Neilah and Havdalah. She also attended Friday night services recently.

Her first impressions have been of observing a “highly organized, well run organization with many people involved to make things happen.” Everyone, beginning with her first contact, Barri Stein, has been very friendly, she added. “When I visited for the first time, Rabbi Michael invited me to speak with him for a few minutes. Members have made a point to say hello and introduce themselves,” she said.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, when Debby entered the sanctuary, she immediately felt

Continued on page 4
The contrast between Abraham (Genesis 18) and Lot (Genesis 19) offers a lesson in hospitality. While both invite strangers into their homes and offer them a meal, Abraham engages his entire household in welcoming the guests, while Lot acts alone. The same can be said about a community. While it is essential that the leadership, lay and professional, are welcoming and kind, the measure of a community comes through everyone’s involvement in caring for one another.

In the past six months, I’ve noticed an increased need for the support of friends and community. Maybe it’s a result of the pandemic. Maybe it’s because of the state of America. Or maybe I’m just noticing something that has been there all along. Still, I perceive an increased need and an increased desire to help.

I’ve heard stories of congregants with legal and medical expertise offering advice to other congregants. Others are cooking and providing rides to appointments. Simple favors like changing a light bulb or dropping off a siddur (prayerbook) can go a long way. Some have courageously taken a friend to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. And others have given generously to my discretionary fund, remaining anonymous while allowing me to be their agent in helping those in need of financial assistance.

All of this is happening in addition to the extraordinary work of Shir Chesed and the long-term friendships within the congregation.

It’s hard to measure whether Shirat Hayam is advancing towards our vision of “Every encounter with our congregation leaves you feeling welcomed, connected, and enriched.” Still, these anecdotes make me proud of the Shirat Hayam community. Life is guaranteed to have its challenges; unexpected kindness gives us strength and hope in times of hardship. And, perhaps most importantly, the true indicator a community is not whether folks give and help, but whether those in need feel safe enough to ask.

This Thanksgiving, I give thanks to God that I am part of the Shirat Hayam community.
The story of Hanukkah can inspire us every year to be proud of who we are despite (and, perhaps, because of) the fact that we are a minority in our country and the world. The Festival of Lights can remind us we should always be a light to the world no matter how dark it is. Believe it or not, we just read B’reishit “Let there be light,” and there was light. Even though we are blessed by “Let there be light,” and there was light. Many blessings, Cantor Sarah

Cantor Sarah is restarting Youth Choir and Adult Choir for Hanukkah, Purim and Passover performances. New members always welcome.

**CANTOR’S NEWS**

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comfortable because the Torah was out for the beginning of the service. She thought the Renewal component was meaningful and beautiful too, and fit in seamlessly with the more traditional parts of the service.

“I loved the addition of the musicians who helped connect me to the prayers and the spirituality of the service. Within a short period of time, I was dabbing my tears away, my heart and soul were moved, and I felt I had found a new spiritual home. Those familiar High Holy Day feelings that I missed had returned,” she said.

Debby is delighted to see a thriving synagogue with the range of ages from young to ‘seasoned.’ She especially appreciates the blending of the traditional and renewal components of the services, which “complement each other so nicely. It feels like there is something for everyone at Shirat Hayam. I look forward to attending on a Saturday morning for another delightful experience. I’m very happy to be a member here!” she said.

Marbleheaders Deborah, Matt, Sarah (aged 7) and Charlotte (aged 2) Berman joined Shirat Hayam in August. What drew them first and foremost was “CSH’s reputation as a wonderful, ‘heimische’ community,” Deborah said.

The Bermans moved back to the North Shore after 15 years in Washington, DC and were eager to put down roots in a community where their family could connect with others around Judaism. Deborah also enjoy having a historical connection to CSH. She became a Bat Mitzvah in the same buildings (then Temple Beth El) in 1996. Her parents were married there in 1977, and her great-grandparents were among the original members. “Raising our girls in the same synagogue helps foster their connection to previous generations, which Matt and I value deeply,” she said.

The Bermans attended High Holy Day services virtually. They really enjoyed Rabbi Michael’s inspirational words, especially his perspective on sustaining hope amid wearying global circumstances. In addition, their older daughter attends CJE Hebrew School, which she loves.

“We’re glad to be part of the CSH community and look forward to connecting with folks!” said Deborah.

Hamilton residents Jason Oifer and Joyce Miller Oifer and their three children Miles (aged 7), Emmett (aged 5) and Teddy (aged 2) joined CSH in September. Like the Bermans, they had heard from various members what a welcoming and warm community CSH is. “Our family was looking for a synagogue that was engaging for both children and adults and we heard that CSH was a great place to practice Judaism,” Jason said.

Their first impressions are all positive. One of the biggest things that they have noticed is the amount of different programming offered. “It seems like there is something for everyone. We have really been welcomed into the community and made to feel like we belong,” Jason added.

Rabbi Michael Ragozin is delighted by the numbers of new members and by how warm and comfortable they find their first experiences at CSH. “These initial impressions don’t happen by chance. They flow from our commitment to being a welcoming and vibrant congregation. While the professional team plays a role, newcomers’ feelings of belonging reflect the warmth and connection of our community at large,” he said.
Celebrate Hanukkah with CSH

Tuesday, December 20 • 5:30 pm

Singing

Dinner

Hanukkah Crafts, Games and Contests

Bring your hanukkiah and 4 candles

And more!

Register for FREE at hanukkah5783.eventbrite.com
with Discount Code MENORAH5783 by Friday, December 16

Or, $8 per person ($24 max per family) at the door.

Space is limited.

Please bring new mittens and hats and warm socks to donate.

Open to all.

Covid entrance policy as of 12/20.

781-599-8005
www.ShiratHayam.org
55 Atlantic Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907
Our favorite day of the week is almost here— Shabbat!!!

Preschoolers had a great time eating snack in the sukkah! Cheryl Schwartz brought in a lulav and an etrog to share with us. We enjoyed learning about Sukkot and exploring the Lulav and etrog with all of our senses.

Our most favorite day at the CEE is Shabbat! Monday-Thursday we often hear the children say, “Is Shabbat here yet?” Each Friday, our center is filled with joy and excitement as we welcome in Shabbat. All of our classrooms gather in the Chapel with Rabbi Michael and Cantor Sarah. We sing and dance to that “Shabbat feeling.” We hug our siblings and peers! We light the Sabbath candles and enjoy grape juice and challah. Shabbat is finally here!

Janis Knight, CJE Director, Will Lead Special Nosh & Drash Series

Janis Knight will present a special series of sessions for the Nosh & Drash based on the Mahloket Matters curriculum. “A mahloket is a dispute and they can be ‘for the sake of heaven’ or not, and figuring out which they are can be difficult to determine,” Knight said. She was trained in this curricular material during this past summer in Jerusalem, and she is very excited to share it with the congregation in more than one way. (Watch for a teen series coming up!)

It is not necessary to attend every session. Find out how relevant ancient text can be right now!

Session 1 – November 12, 2022
Session 2 – November 26, 2022
Session 3 – January 14, 2023
Session 4 – April 15, 2023
Session 5 – May 27, 2023

Nosh & Drash is available in-person and online via the Saturday in the Chapel link https://shirathayam.org/shabbat/
CJE NEWS

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

This has been a busy time of activity for CJE students and madrichim, one that combined holiday and tzedakah, two important topics and tenets of Judaism.

On Tuesday, October 11th, our students celebrated Sukkot and its abundance by packing soup kits for elderly and destitute Jews in Ukraine.

Later that evening, students continued the celebration by making edible Sukkahs. As part of our annual Pizza in the Hut event, students received a kit (not unlike Chopped) with the identical ingredients and were challenged to produce an edible sukkah that followed the rules for Sukkah-making. Check out their creative (and delicious) results!

CJE News

Militza

Noah and Zach

7th Graders shake the lulav and etrog as we celebrated Sukkot at CJE...

Hailey had fun making her edible sukkah, evidenced by her big smile.

Sam and Judah teamed up for their sukkah construction (and delicious demolition).

Madricha Julia works with students to measure their soup packets carefully.

PJ OUR WAY® Book Club

Join other 8-12 year olds for a monthly book club, facilitated by teens, over Shabbat kiddush (lunch). Books are available after registration at the office at Congregation Shirat Hayam.

Free and open to the public. For children ages 8-12 years old being raised in a Jewish home. Please note that parents need to stay on-site for this program, but are welcomed and encouraged to join the adult kiddush lunch.

November 19
December 10
January 28
March 4
12:00 – 1:00 PM

REGISTER HERE
Life of the Congregation

Learn Torah Trope
with Cantor Sarah

Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 pm
in-person and online, on the following dates:
December 1
December 15
December 22
January 5, 2023
January 19
January 26

Men’s Club meeting
Pre-Hanukkah Welcome Back Dinner
and Monday Night Football.
7:30 pm Welcome, Meeting and Appetizers
8:15 pm Dinner and Monday Night Football
Free for those with paid up dues ($36) for 2022/2023 or pay your Men’s Club dues at the event ($36). All others are welcome to join us for Hanukkah dinner at 8:15 pm for $18 at the door.
RSVP required at mensclub@ShiratHayam.org by Friday, December 9.

Atlantic Avenue Limmud —
A Collaboration for Continuing Adult Jewish Learning

Our Stories about the Stories in the Bible

Presented by Temple Emanu-El (Rabbi David J. Meyer) and Congregation Shirat Hayam (Rabbi Michael Ragozin)

7:30-8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 6, 2022...... Abraham: The Idols We Break
Tuesday, January 3, 2023........... Jacob: Self, Struggle and Change
Monday, February 6, 2023......... Esther: The Hidden and The Revealed
Monday, March 20, 2023.......... Moses: Facing Mortality

Attend all or just one session. All sessions will be accessible via Zoom.

Click https://bit.ly/stories5783 to connect to Zoom
CONDOLENCES

Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

Members:

Murray Frank
October 22, 2022
Husband of Delphine Frank

Phyllis Kramer
September 22, 2022
Sister-in-law of Faith Kramer and Ann Segal

Dmitry Giliver
September 23, 2022
Father of Hal Schwartz

Averie Rosemark
October 5, 2022
Mother, Edith Arnold

Sheldon Zigelbaum
October 9, 2022
Stepbrother of Faith Kramer

Andrew Barton
October 15, 2022
Brother of Enid Gold

Robert Schwartz
October 29, 2022
Father of Hal Schwartz

In memory of

Cousin, Jeanne Hirshberg
from Alvah Parker

Mother, Evelyn Solomon Cohn
from Amy Cohn

Brother, Carl Titchell
from Arlene Leventhal

Father, Daniel Turkans
Grandfather, David Kirstein
from Barry Turkans

Father, Louis Grossman
from Carol Ablow

Father, William Shapiro
from Carol Denbo

Mother, Bertha Leidner
from Charles Leidner

Husband, Marvin Goldstein
Grandmother, Lina Lewis
Father, Sidney Lewis
Uncle, Joseph Lewis
from Constance Lewis

Grandmother, Rose Sherman
Uncle, Herbert Parker
from Cynthia Shefshick

Father, Leo Ouellette
from Doris Villa

Grandfather, Jacob Greenbaum
Aunt, Evelyn Halpern
from Dorothy Tatelman

Father, Hyman Talkov
Father-in-law, Henry Kabatchnick
from Eli Talkov

Father, Max Kahn
from Eric Kahn

Mother-in-law, Molly Zalkind
from Herbert Goldberg

Father, George Leventhal
from Herbert Leventhal

Aunt, Ida Poleschuck
from Jackie Rosenfield

Father, Gerald Schlosser
from Jili Goodman

Father, Arthur Axelrod
Mother, Edith Arnold
from Judy and Mark Arnold

Sister, Susan Eakins
from Kate Borten

Father, Sidney Feffer
Grandmother, Sara Lena Zoll
from Lawrence Feffer

Grandmother, Florence Delson
from Lee Henson

Father, Abraham Interes
Mother, Leola Interes
from Leslie Ogan

Grandmother, Martha Elsberg
Grandfather, Albert Elsberg
Uncle, Alfred Elsberg
All those who perished in the Holocaust
from Madeline Stark

Grandmother, Eva Price
from Marjorie Bean

Father, Barney Glazer
from Myres Glazer

Grandfather, Harry Stoller
from Natalie White and Family

My grandmother
from Rebecca Rosen

Father, Harry Weinstein
from Reva Surette

Father, Louis Ravich
from Richard Ravich; Robert Ravich

Mother, Ilene Tatelman
from Richard Tatelman

Father, Leonard Cooper
from Robert Cooper

Grandmother, Rose Zimmerman
Aunt, Anne Mintz
Friend, Pearl Pearlstein
Nephew, Phillip Kagan
from Robin Cooper

Sister, Gloria Cohen
from Ruth Kahn

Mother, Helene Goldstein
from Sandra Goldstein

Mother-in-law, Annie Spector
Father-in-law, Oscar Spector
from Sandra Spector

Mother, Jane Lee Cohen Sackett
from Shelley Sackett

Father, Sidney Gerber
from Valerie Gilbert

BURT & BECKY SHEPARD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of

Mother, Miriam Shain
Mother, Dora Shaffer
Sister, Joyce Shepard
from Ruth and Shea Rood

Father, Albert Rich
from Stanley Rich

CANTORS
DISCRETIONARY
FUND

In appreciation of Cantor Sarah from Shari and Robert Cashman

In honor of the Freudenger family's new home from Leslie and Bob Ogan

In memory of Ruth Turkans from Robert and Shelley Freedman

With best wishes for a happy and healthy new year from Diana Caplan

In memory of

Aunt, Dorothy Levey
from Ethel Harris

Grandfather, Howie Pachter
from Richard and Darlene Pachter

CENTER FOR EARLY
EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Rose Arlene Shapiro
from Helaine and Jim Hazlett

CENTER FOR JEWISH
EDUCATION

Get well to Carla Greenberg from Sema Goldstein

In memory of Ruth Turkans from Neil Greenstein, Joan and Richard Kessel, Susan Maniff, Sandra Mayer, Cobby Shereff

In memory of Sarah Sharoz from Doris Villa

In memory of Marilyn Stoll
from Shirley Salloway

In memory of

Father, Harold Rosenberg
from Shelley Schneer

GENERAL FUND

In honor of the birth of our son, Sigmund Andler from Lauren and Sam Andler

In honor of the birth of Gabriel Asher Frank, grandson of Shari and Bob Cashman from Lois and Bobby Kaplan

In honor of my nephew, Joe Simons, for his beautiful Rosh Hashanah speech from JoAnn Derr

In appreciation of Ruth Estrich from Penny and Phillip Schuler

In memory of Murray Frank from Margot Connell; Elinor Gershman; Beverly Kahl; Laura and Jim New; Josene Steinberg; Barry and Ellen Turkans

In memory of Ruth Turkans from Arlene and David Addis; Beth and Marc Andler; Shulamit Elsner; Martha and Robert Gurman; Carol and Marc Goldenberg; Lenore and Stanley Gordon; Helaine and Jim Hazlett; Ina and Alan Hoffman; Phyllis and Howard Kaplan; Judi and Joey Karas; Ann Klayman; Nancy and Andrew Leader-Cramer; Mary and Larry Litvak; Cheryl and Michael Lunder; Lorin and Stephen Madow; McCarriston Plumbing and Heating; Lynn and Neal Mizner; Roz and Brian Moore; Kacey Muldoon; Suzanne and Alan Rothenberg; Phyllis Sagan; Diane Siegel; Elaine and Larry Slater; Toby Sloane; Karen and Steve Solomon; SPUR, Inc.; Paula and Mitchel Weisman; Jessica Wilson; Hope, Larry and Josh Zabar; Fern and Joey Zang

In memory of

Father, Leonard Cooper
from Robert Cooper

Grandmother, Rose Zimmerman
Aunt, Anne Mintz
Friend, Pearl Pearlstein
Nephew, Phillip Kagan
from Robin Cooper

Sister, Gloria Cohen
from Ruth Kahn

Mother, Helene Goldstein
from Sandra Goldstein

Mother-in-law, Annie Spector
Father-in-law, Oscar Spector
from Sandra Spector

Mother, Jane Lee Cohen Sackett
from Shelley Sackett

Father, Sidney Gerber
from Valerie Gilbert
In memory of Dmitriy Giliver, father of Leonard Giliver from Pam and Brother Granese
In memory of Barry Brooks, father of Howard Brooks from Beth and Marc Andler

KIDDUSH FUND
In appreciation of everyone at CSH from Lori and Larry Groipen
In honor of the birth of Nancy and Richard Klayman’s granddaughter from Gloria Sax
In honor of the naming of Aliyah Jasilli, daughter of Nick and Jen Jasilli from Joan and Murry Rich
In honor of Michele Tamaren’s special birthday from Sandy and Jeff Hirshberg
In memory of Sy Wertheim, husband of Arline Wertheim from Fran and Robert Walker
In memory of Murray Frank from Marsha Gerber, Susan and Larry Goldberg, Sandra Goldstein, Lois Miller, Gail and Alan Rice, Joan and Murry Rich, Eli Talkov
In memory of Barry Brooks, father of Howard Brooks from Phyllis Sagan

In memory of
Brother, Bertram Shuman from Arnold Shuman
Mother, Bertha Yanofsky Father, Philip Yanofsky from Barbara Levine
Father, George Rodenstein from Barry Rodenstein
Sister, Rosalyn Goldstein Mother-in-law, Mollie Lieberson
Brother-in-law, Nathan Lieberson from Bernice Lieberson
Father, George Berlow
Mother-in-law, Sarah Weisman Brother-in-law, Myer Weisman from Bette Ann Weisman
Daughter, Stephanie Nathan Soler
Father, Samuel Gold from Beverly Nathan
Grandfather, George Barlow from Claudia Rodenstein
Great aunt, Evelyn Chadis
Great uncle, Nathan Kramer from Deborah McWade
Mother, Molly Germain from Dianan Kaplan
Father, Irving Goldberg from Dr. Howard Goldberg
Father, Sam Kantor from Fran Walker
Mother, Ruth Levy Father, Jacob Levy
Mother, Ethel Freiman Father, Jacob Freiman from Frances Levy-Freiman and Steven Freiman
Stepmother, Ida Goldman Friend, Mitchell Comins from Gloria Sax
Mother, Eunice Kazis Father, Rabbi Abraham Kazis from Israila Abrams
Mother, Rebecca Bainer from Jacob Bainer
Grandfather, Louis Pekin from Joan Rich
Mother-in-law, Mollie Rosenberg from Judy Rosenberg
Great Grandmother, Kate Stern from Karen Hirsch
Mother, Gnessya Khayter from Larisa Katsman
Husband, Kenneth Miller from Lois Miller
Aunt, Ronnie Soreff from Lois Ogan
Mother, Sally Price Father-in-law, Samuel Bean from Marjorie Bean
Dad, Samuel Gerber from Marsha Gerber
Mother, Selma Schneer Spiegel from Martin Schneer
Grandmother, Lena Price from Maxine Sugarman
Brother, Barry Farber from Michele Tamaren
Mother, Sarah Dubinsky from Michael Dubinsky
Mother, Helen Gulko from Paul Gulko
Father, Abraham Rich from Murry Rich
Father, Donald Foreman from Rand Foreman-Bergman
Mother, Sylvia Robinson from Reggie Weinstein
Mother, Betty Walker from Robert Walker
Father, Mac Rubin from Ronald Rubin
Uncle, Murray Bonfeld from Roz Goldberg
Mother, Betty Hicks from Stephen Hicks
Mother, Sylvia Eisen from Steven Eisen
Father, Samuel Silverstein from Marsha Rubin

MERKEN TALLIT FUND
In memory of
Mother-in-law, Annie Merken Niece, Michele Shrega from Elaine Merken

POLONSKY BUILDING/MAINTENANCE FUND
In memory of
Father, Nathan Polonsky from Norma and Sherman Freedman

PRAYERBOOK PURCHASED
In memory of
In memory of
Father, Nathan Polonsky from Norma and Sherman Freedman

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In appreciation of Rabbi Michael
from Shari and Robert Cashman, Lois Miller, Esther and Richard Salinsky, Ellen and Barry Turkanis

With best wishes for a happy and healthy new year from Diana Caplan
In memory of Murray Frank from Myra and Paul Gulko; Carolyn Perlow
In memory of Ruth Turkanis from Robert Adler; Phyllis and Alan Bolotin; Susan and Larry Goldberg; Ruth Goldberg and Family; Melissa and Scott Kaplowitch; Susan and William Lloyd; Leslie and Bob Ogan; Marjorie and Randall Patkin; Donna Revmann; Gayle Stoll; Ellen and Robert Zirin
In memory of Linda Goldman, wife of Neal Goldman from Leslie and Bob Ogan
In honor of the birth of Sigmund Nathan Andler, grandson of Beth and Marc Andler from Alice and Chuck Leidner
In honor of David Levy’s special birthday from Toby Sloane, Louise Sadur
With thanks for the virtual services from Elena Shannon

In memory of
Mother, Frances Babbitt from Ann Pendexter
Father, Robert S. Goldberg from Larry Goldberg
Husband, Jay Porter from Gay Porter
Father, William Shube from George Shube
Father, Sidney Frisch from Howard Frisch
Mother, Merle Cohen, from Michael Cohen
Mother, Sophie Waldman from Michael Waldman
All my loved ones from Muriel Follick
Wife, Barbara Cohen from Phillip Cohen
Donations

RITUAL FUND
In memory of Murray Frank
from Roz and Sandy Levy
In memory of Linda Dubinsky
In memory of Dmitriy Giliver,
father of Leonard Giliver
from Doris Villa
With best wishes to all for a happy
and healthy new year
from Deborah and Paul
Sudenfield

In memory of
Father, Paul Germain
from Diana Caplan
Mother, Rose Abrams
from Howard Abrams
Father, Gerson Levy
from Sanford Levy
Father, Norman Revman
from Donna Revman
Mother, Edith Alpert
from Ronna Greif

SHIR CHESED FUND
In appreciation of Shir Chesed
from Enid Gold, Carla Greenberg
In honor of the birth of Jonah
Meyer Hecht, grandson of Karen
and Mark Meyer
In honor of Miriam Nelson Oliver’s
new home
from Bethany and Moshe Roditi

In honor of Wendy and Michael
Dubinsky’s 50th wedding
anniversary
In honor of Michele Tamaren’s
special birthday
from Bette and Dan Shoreman
The birth of our grandson, Jonah
Meyer Hecht
from Karen and Mark Meyer
The b’nei mitzvah of Sue Weiss’s
grandchildren
from Lois Ogan, Margery Shapiro
The birth of Jonah Meyer Hecht,
grandson of Karen and Mark Meyer
from Sandy and Arnie Shuman
In memory of Murray Frank
from Phyllis and Jack Karas
In memory of Ruth Turkanis
from Phyllis and Jack Karas, Sandy
and Arnie Shuman

In memory of
Mother, Mona Finn
from Brenda Cohen
Husband, Edward Caplan
from Diana Caplan
Mother, Ida Goldberg
from Karen Meyer
Uncle, Harold Shepard
Sister-in-law, Peggy Sinrich
from Leeta Sinrich
Sister, Ruth Katz
Husband, Larry Sargent
from Lois Sargent

Father, Harry Schwartz
from Sheila Rich
Father, Barnett Cohen
from Sheldon Cohen
Mother, Ethel Rosenberg
from Shelley Scheer

TORAH FUND
In memory of
Father-in-law, Leonard Garfinkel
Mother, Molly Germain
from Marion Garfinkel and
Family

TZEDEK LAKOL - RACIAL
JUSTICE INITIATIVE
In celebration of the naming of
Gabriel Frank, grandson of Shari
and Robert Cashman
In memory of Averie Rosemark,
mother of Bethani Hipsh
from Barbara and Alan Sidman
In honor of the marriage of Michael
Sidman, son of Barbara and Alan
Sidman, to Raffi Petrosian
from Bethany and Moshe Roditi
In honor of Miriam Nelson Oliver’s
new home
from Marla and Philip Gay

SHMOOZIN
THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

“To life, to life, L’Chayim ...”

Interview: Barri Stein
Continued from page 10
point, for TBE, CSH or the preschool.
I like status quo. I like security. I don’t like
change and the grass isn’t always greener on the
other side. I wasn’t going to get rich working
here but I have a roof over my head, I gave my
kids a good start to their lives and I can say I’m
happy.

What do you do when you’re not at
CSH?
Outside my time at CSH, I love to travel
and wish I could do more but I’m bound to
the calendar here and feel bad when I can’t
be here for a simcha. I regret that I still have
not traveled to Israel but my kids have. I
love walking in this community and can’t
get enough of how special the location is.
I’m a Candy Crush fiend (over level 8800). I
enjoy reading but don’t do enough of it and
I organize closets to relax. I’m a homebody
so the pressure of not having to be anywhere
during the initial COVID period was a relief
for me. I can keep busy doing anything and
there’s always something to organize.

Anything you want to add?
I’m sorry that sometimes I’m too busy to
really get to know our members more deeply
and have more meaningful conversations.
I feel sad when I listen to eulogies and feel
liked I missed an opportunity to get to know
someone more. However, I’ve been blessed to
participate in so many life events and am now
seeing marriages and baby namings of those
who I helped become bar/bat mitzvahs so
many years ago. My kids have often asked me
why I didn’t get a “better” job. As they’ve gotten
older and have more life experiences, hopefully
they will realize how working here enriched
not only my life, but theirs too.

How to Make a Donation
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CONGREGATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Meet Barri Stein

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, CSH Director of Events and Programs Director, Barri Stein 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 was born in Riverdale, NY (aka Bronx) but grew up in a town in New York just over the [old] Tappan Zee bridge called New City. We belonged to a reform synagogue and I went to Hebrew school but the teachers had no control of the kids and I felt like I was wasting my time and my parents let me stop attending. My high school offered Hebrew so I continued there. I can follow along reading Hebrew but have no conversation skills and didn’t get a lot of Jewish “knowledge.” At 13, I didn’t have the confidence to stand in front of a congregation to become a bat mitzvah. My grandfather (and an aunt) leaned much more conservative so we observed all the holidays at home and I felt a lot of pride always sitting beside him as he led the prayers. It was important for me to marry Jewish to maintain those traditions that they both impressed upon me.

When my older son, Alex, started Hebrew school in 2nd grade, Temple Beth El offered an adult b’nai mitzvah class and I became one then. I was finally ready and wanted to set a good example for my kids as they started their Jewish journey. Most of what I’ve learned, I learned while working here.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

I graduated from University of Delaware with a degree in consumer economics and my first job was with Lipton [Tea] Co. in sales however, I moved to Massachusetts 32 years ago when I married someone from here. I have 2 sons, now 28 and 25, who share the same birthday. My brothers are twins and my mother always wanted me to have twins so this is as good as I could do. Eight years ago I married Wayne Goldberg on a beautiful day at the Marblehead Lighthouse (I never plan anything outside!). His first cousin, Stefanie [Goldberg] Gladstone, who was my friend for many years, fixed us up on a blind date 13 years ago. I feel like I’ve done every job here except bookkeeper and clergy but I’ve been known to keep a box of tissues on my desk. I’ve been lucky to have worked with so many people who truly love(d) their synagogue as well as so many community leaders. I feel proud that I oversaw the start of the community kiddush when we became CSH and we’ve become known for it. I treat each event as if it were my own and you get one shot to make it right and memorable. I’m a very detail oriented person, have an organized mind and work better under stressful conditions so this is a good fit for me. I juggle a lot at one time.

What keeps you personally (not just professionally) at CSH? What special about it to you?

Being a transplant here from NY meant I didn’t have family here. This community has become my family and now, a lot of my husband’s family are members. My in-laws are Roz and Marty Goldberg, aunt and uncles are Jerry and Gail Gerson, and Herb Goldberg, along with cousins, Greg and Ilana Mogolesko and many other extended relatives. Many of my friends have worked here at one...