CONGREGATION SHIRAT HAYAM
שירת הים
Celebrating our Chai Year 2005-2023
SONG at the SEA

THE NEW WAVE
FEBRUARY 2024 — 5784
Feel the Difference

Interfaith Task Force: Update

Maria Samiljan, Bob Powell and Anne Selby

"Radical Hospitality" has been a Shirat Hayam tagline since its establishment eighteen years ago. But, if you were a Gentile you didn't always feel that way.

In 2018, the Shirat Hayam Leadership Development Committee (LDC) nominated a non-Jewish congregant to become a board member, not realizing that the synagogue by-laws did not allow it. A suspension of the by-laws to allow this non-Jewish board member was unsuccessful and uncovered some cultural challenges within the congregation which became the catalyst for a new task force at Shirat Hayam, a task force which is now beginning its sixth year of activities.

At the time that Rabbi Michael formed this task force, he included 3 congregants: Bob Powell, Maria Samiljan and Anne Selby. All 3 are still active and engaged task force members, and recently sat down together to discuss their challenges, successes, and next steps.

Q: Why did you originally get involved in this task force?

A: Both Maria and Anne spoke about their disappointment with the congregation's initial response to the proposed changes to the by-laws and felt the need to be part of the activities to help facilitate a change in attitude—even though neither of them had a personal family situation driving them. Bob, however, had a more personal position as the non-Jewish spouse of an intermarried couple, and the father of 4 Jewish children. Everyone remembered how one of his children spoke passionately in favor of the by-law suspension at the failed vote.

Q: What were the task force's initial objectives and how did you accomplish them?

A: The original objective was to change formally the by-laws to give non-Jewish congregants the same rights as the Jewish congregants. The deeper need was to change the conversations of the congregants from one of a fear of change to a broader understanding of the needs of the changing community. The task force members were clear that they needed a nuanced approach to the challenge and began by reaching out to other Conservative congregations around the country to learn how they were dealing with these same demographic changes and community needs. They also embarked on

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Calendar
FEBRUARY 2024

For full Shabbat Synaplex go to http://shirathayam.org/shabbat or the website calendar or page 3. Thursday 7:30 am minyan, Friday night and Shabbat services are in-person and online. Subject to change. Visit www.shirathayam.org for all links and updates.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31
1 pm-6 pm Red Cross Blood Drive at CSH, Register at https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Shabbat Synaplex with students reading Torah

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
10 am & 11 am Workshops to Learn about Sofrut Calligraphy for those pre-registered.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
7:30 pm Atlantic Avenue Limmud via Zoom only (See pg. 2)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
10:00 am & 7:30 pm The Book of Psalms with Rabbi Michael continues. 10 am in-person and 7:30 pm via Zoom only. (See pg. 2)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8
7:00 pm Minyan at CSH
7:30 pm *Jewish Journal* and CSH present a *Reporter's Notebook*. Steve Rosenberg discusses his recent Israel trip. In person at CSH and via Zoom. Register at jewishjournal.org/notebook/.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9
7:30 am Morning minyan at CSH (Rosh Hodesh) in-person and online
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Shabbat Synaplex
11:15 am Shabbat Sing with Cantor Sarah. (See pg. 4)

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Member Account Log In

CSH members can log into their own accounts to pay their bill, make donations and update their information. To access your account go to the Member Log in button on your website to log in. If you need assistance logging in, please contact Cheryl Schwartz, cheryl@shirathayam.org.

Friday/Holiday Candle Lighting

Friday, February 2, 2024 – 4:40 PM
Friday, February 9, 2024 – 4:49 PM
Friday, February 16, 2024 – 4:59 PM
Friday, February 23, 2024 – 5:07 PM
Friday, March 1, 2024 – 5:16 PM

Office Hours

Monday closed.
Tuesday–Thursday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
When the office is closed you may email or call and leave a message.

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Nancy Marland Wolinski
Graphic Designer

Rabbi's Corner / Interfaith

"A bold move for a Conservative synagogue: Shirat Hayam's cantor performs interfaith weddings." So read the front-page article in the December 21, 2023 *Jewish Journal*, marking a major development for Shirat Hayam and the conclusion of this phase of the Interfaith Task Force's work.

With this *Jewish Journal* article, Shirat Hayam publicly declared that one of our clergy, Cantor Sarah, will say, "Yes!" when asked to officiate at an intermarriage. This is a powerful signal to interfaith couples that they belong at Congregation Shirat Hayam.

Previously, in 2019 the Interfaith Task Force (Bob Powell, Maria Samiljan, and Anne Selby) worked to change the Shirat Hayam by-laws to make Gentile spouses full members of our congregation. This included voting privileges and the right to serve on the board of directors. (The president must be Jewish.) If my memory is correct, the measure passed 133-2.

These initiatives flow from our commitment to serve the Jewish community. Recent studies show that Jewish clergy officiation is strongly correlated with normative Jewish engagement. The 2016 Brandeis Study, "Under the Chuppah," found that "Intermarried couples married by a Jewish clergy officiant are three times more likely to raise children Jewish compared with intermarried couples who married under other auspices. … [Moreover, o]n multiple measures of Jewish engagement, including synagogue involvement, intermarried couples whose weddings were presided over by a Jewish clergy officiant look very similar to the inmarried." Our interfaith work reflects our effort to align our policies with these facts and our values.

Where do we go from here?

In a November webinar hosted by the Interfaith Task Force, Jodi Bromberg, CEO of 18Doors, reminded us that despite the desire and commitment of interfaith families to raise Jewish children and engage in synagogue life, only 27% of intermarried couples feel a great sense of belonging to Jewish people. Jodi challenged us: How can we change that?

Over two and a half millennia ago, at a time of Jewish renewal as our ancestors returned to the land of Judea from the Babylonian exile, the Prophet Isaiah declared, "My House will be called a house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:7). Our challenge is to make people, particularly intermarried families, feel that this is the reality at Shirat Hayam.

To inform our work, we will employ the USCJ's (the network of Conservative/Masorti congregations) Interfaith Inclusion Guide. This begins with allowing people to share their experiences privately through a survey and other mechanisms. Further, the guide encourages congregations to help participants know what to expect when they come to Shirat Hayam.

Our work to build a great, thriving Jewish community is ongoing. Please join me in this effort. If you want to get involved or are curious about the Interfaith Task Force, please contact me. And be on the lookout for a forthcoming survey. Am Yisrael chai.

— Rabbi Michael

The Book of Psalms

Gratitude, Anguish, and the Human Experience

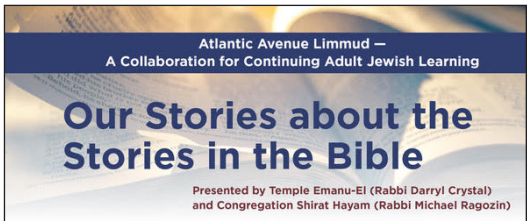
The ancient poetry of the Psalms captures heartfelt cries to God from the depth of the human experience. From suffering to joy, explore this ancient liturgy and find its relevance for today.

Led by Rabbi Michael Ragozin

Dates: Jan 24, Feb 7, Feb 28, Mar 13, Mar 27

Options to participate: 10-11:30 am in-person or 7:30-9:00 pm via Zoom

Registration required: https://tinyurl.com/psalms2024



7:30 – 8:30 PM | All Sessions will be on Zoom only | Attend one or all

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – Esther & Joseph: Survival in the Diaspora

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – Judah, Tamar, & Leah: Anatomy of Heroism

https://bit.ly/stories5784 to connect to Zoom

Cantor's News / Interfaith

In a world where your best friend can obtain a one-day license to perform your wedding, it is becoming less typical for your hometown synagogue clergy to be your wedding officiant. I'd like to help reinvigorate the desire for couples to ask congregation clergy to perform their weddings. Connecting individual life cycle events to the greater history and trajectory of our entire people gives greater meaning to what we do as officiants. Without this context, sometimes these events can go by with not much connection to the world outside the individual family. Some couples don't even feel particularly Jewish at their weddings despite having a chuppah and breaking the glass. I was inspired during my cantorial school training to connect lifecycle moments in time to Judaism—by teaching and educating how this day, this event, this milestone, is related to the past and the future of not just this family but to all the Jewish people.

The area of interfaith weddings is especially important to me. I felt very fulfilled having an authentically Jewish wedding despite having a non-Jewish partner. Jewish clergy who perform interfaith weddings play an important role in providing a steppingstone into Jewish family life for both the Jewish and non-Jewish half of the interfaith couple.

Another meaningful aspect of providing interfaith wedding ceremonies is the opportunity to provide meaning and education of our traditions

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Message from the President

Interfaith marriages bring with them a unique blend of traditions, beliefs, and customs, contributing to the mosaic of our community. The decision to unite in love, despite having differing religious backgrounds, is a testament to the power of acceptance, understanding, and shared values. By embracing interfaith couples into our community, we not only enrich our own lives but also exemplify the true essence of a compassionate and open-hearted community.

Congregation Shirat Hayam has always been a place of radical hospitality. We have long welcomed congregants who are part of interfaith marriages, and through Rabbi Michael's recent sermons, we reaffirm our commitment to being a home for all who seek spiritual connection and communal support. Let us not only tolerate our differences but celebrate them, recognizing that it is through diversity that we find strength.

To foster a supportive environment for interfaith couples, we have initiated a series of programs and events aimed at promoting understanding and dialogue. Workshops on interfaith communication, guest speakers from diverse religious backgrounds, and community discussions provide opportunities for all members to engage in meaningful conversations about the beauty of diversity and the strength it brings to our community. We invite you to participate actively in these initiatives, to share your experiences and perspectives, and to learn from one another. By doing so, we deepen our bonds and create a safe space where interfaith couples feel embraced, supported, and valued.

Let us strive to be a beacon of love, acceptance, and understanding, reflecting the teachings of our shared faith. As we continue to open our hearts to interfaith families who seek a connection to Judaism, we in turn strengthen the foundation of our beloved congregation for generations to come.

— Joseph Simons

Calendar

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Shabbat Synaplex (Holiday weekend-No CJE)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
7:30 pm Becky's Book Club meets on Zoom. (See pg. 5)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Shabbat Synaplex (No CJE)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
5:45 pm Repair the World program. (See Janis Knight's article on pg. 5)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
10:00 am & 7:30 pm The Book of Psalms with Rabbi Michael continues. 10 am in-person and 7:30 pm via Zoom only. (See pg. 2)
10:30 am Cantor Sarah joins JBaby Play Group at JCCNS. Open to all. Go to JCCNS.org. (See pg. 4)

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
Shabbat Synaplex
12:00 pm PJ Our Way Book Club meets during lunch.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3
10:00 am Tzedek LaKol presents "SURE—Tell Us Your Story" (rescheduled from January 7)

See our website calendar (https://shirathayam.shulcloud.com/calendar) for updates and more details.

Shabbat Synaplex *(subject to change)*

Go to http://shirathayam.org/shabbat or website calendar for weekly schedule.

9:00 AM	Renewal with clergy and guest musician; Traditional Shacharit; Center for Jewish Education; Babysitting (for children 3 months to 3 years); Boker Tov Cafe
10:00 AM	Torah Service; Nosh & Drash; Torah Yoga
11:15 AM	Mourner's Kaddish, Healing and Rabbi's Talk
11:45 AM	Closing Blessings and Ruach Rally followed by Shabbat Café for all

UPCOMING NOSH & DRASH

(link to Nosh & Drash page for more info https://shirathayam.org/nosh-drash/

February 3	Please join us in the Sanctuary as our students read Torah
February 10	Naomi Gurt Lind
February 17	No Nosh & Drash
February 24	Janis Knight
March 2	Barbara Vinick discusses her new book, *100 Jewish Brides: Stories from Around the World*

UPCOMING TORAH YOGA

(visit https://shirathayam.org/torahyoga/ for more info)
February 3, February 10, February 17, February 24 and March 2

UPCOMING RENEWAL MUSICIANS TO ACCOMPANY OUR CLERGY *(visit https://shirathayam.org/renewal/ for more info)*

February 3	Jeremiah Klarman
February 10	Lautaro Mantilla
February 17	Lautaro Mantilla
February 24	David Sparr

Interfaith Task Force

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multiple communication paths with congregants including one-on-one conversations with key members and broader educational meetings with as many congregants as possible. External resources were identified, contacted, and involved including CJP and USCJ leaders and 18DOORS, a resource for interfaith couples and "families in formation."

A second congregational vote was taken in 2019 and the results were almost unanimous in support of by-law changes: while the president of the synagogue must be Jewish, "Jewish-adjacent family members" now had membership, voting and volunteer rights. Clearly, the congregation as a whole overcame their fear of change as the task force provided education and Conservative-organizational support.

Q: What were the key turning points for the congregation after the change in by-laws?

A: The Task Force members immediately identified two key turning points that have brought Shirat Hayam to their current position: 1) the hiring of Cantor Sarah whose ordination and certification allows her to marry interfaith couples, and 2) the Yom Kippur sermon this year by Rabbi Michael. The first brought Shirat Hayam the means to broaden the support services that can be offered to interfaith couples. The second brought transparency and perhaps even transformation to the discussion and allowed for the broadest possible communication of current thinking to the largest audience of members. The task force participants praised both the Rabbi and the Cantor for their courage and commitment.

Q: What are the current key objectives of the Task Force? Why is this important?

A: Maria summed it up simply: "We want interfaith families and Jewish-adjacent congregants to feel invited and included in our community." "In every way," Anne added, "as far as we can." Bob offered, "We are welcoming. We want to break down barriers. We want to be a safe space where we can attract and retain new members. Where no one feels alone." Anne added, "Everyone has either already been touched by this issue or will be. Everyone wants to know that their families will be welcome here."

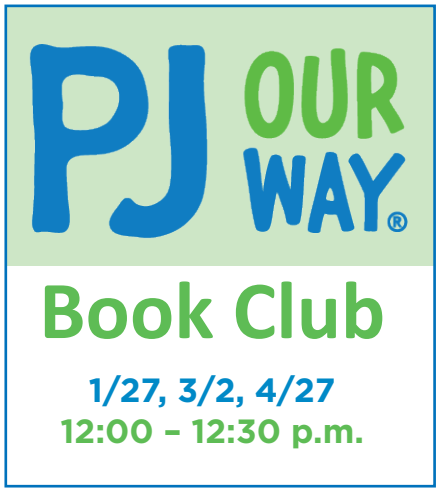
The Jewish Journal recently wrote a front-page article about Shirat Hayam's activities. That article was just picked up by JTA – the Jewish Telegraphic Agency – the global Jewish news source. The Interfaith Task Force is proud of their accomplishments and are actively discussing next steps. Watch for evolving conversations and opportunities to participate. Share your interests and your stories with Rabbi Michael. Let's continue to make radical hospitality a reality.

Cantor's News

Continued from page 3

and customs to all the attendees and guests—and inviting everyone present to be involved in the tradition. An example of this is when I bless the couple with the Birkat Kohanim during the ceremony and invite the guests to say either Kein Yehi Ratzon (Yes! May it be so!) in Hebrew or English. The guests have a special job and feel that they have a meaningful part in the ceremony, blessing the couple as they enter their marriage! Did you also know that these words are used in a popular hymn in many churches? So, even some non-Jewish family and guests will find comfort and strength in speaking these words. Inclusion is powerful. Connection is powerful. It is such a privilege that I can bring this to the members of our wonderful community! And let us all say *Kein Yehi Ratzon* – Yes! May it be so!!

—Cantor Sarah



CEE News

The CEE Hanukkah was a Huge Success!

From the desk of Andrea Bernard, Director of CEE

We had over 200 CEE family members join us for songs, games, potato latkes and sufganiyot (jelly filled donuts).

We are grateful for the support of our parent volunteers, CSH Staff, and CEE team. Working together we successfully held a Hanukkah Party, Book Fair, and CEE Open House all in the same day! It was an amazing day...fun was had by all!

After welcoming our Hanukkah guests, Rabbi Michael and Cantor Sarah led a wonderful Hanukkah celebration. We had a family sing-a-long and watched a performance by our preschool students as they sang "The Dreidel Song."

Once the music portion of our program was complete, Rabbi Michael read a Hanukkah story and then we ate latkes and sufganiyot donated by Dandee Donuts.

When bellies were full, families explored the CEE classrooms and spent time at the Book Fair. Copper Dog Books spent the afternoon in the chapel selling toys, games and high-quality children's literature. The CEE received 20% of the profits!

CJE News

Lots of Learning in Action

From the desk of Janis Knight, Director of CJE

CJE students in grades 2 – 7 completed their first set of Electives on Tuesday afternoons. Students in the Jewish Cooking Elective learned to make some key Jewish recipes, including fruit & lokshen (noodle) kugels from Ashkenazi roots and how to shape challah for both Shabbat and holidays. They also learned valuable kitchen skills and experienced the joy of making culturally significant foods for themselves and to share with their families.

Other students learned about one strand of Jewish-American immigration by watching "Fiddler on the Roof" together with a history teacher. Besides learning iconic Broadway show tunes and becoming better prepared for B'nei Mitzvah and wedding parties, the students discussed some of the deeper questions in the film: What is our responsibility to our tradition? What is the importance of community in the movie? What is a constructive way to challenge expectations and what is a destructive way?

TEENS

I am excited about some of our terrific teen opportunities this winter and upcoming spring. Last month, our teen madrichim had a workshop intensive with Rabbi Michael Shire of Hebrew College to learn the Torah storytelling method "Torah Godly Play." The teens are now preparing to present carefully chosen holiday stories to our students. They ask a lot of "I wonder…" questions designed to make them really reflect on the story they have heard and think more deeply about its meaning.

Second, this month, we are partnering with Temple Emanu-El to send a combined 15 teens to Washington D.C. to learn how our Jewish values can inform and energize our political actions. The students will learn to lobby and the trip ends with a lobbying opportunity in our Congressional offices on Capitol Hill. This intensive experience brings together about 250 Jewish teens from around the country for learning, debating, museum visiting, and political activism. I am so excited that we are able to participate in such an important learning experience and that I will be a chaperone.

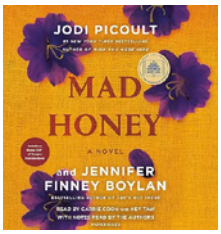
Third, after hosting *Rake & Bake*, the teen day of service last November, we began to plan how to keep the momentum of service, especially around the issue of local food insecurity, going for our teens. The hands-on direct service aspect was really energizing and felt important to our participants.

Working with *Repair the World* on behalf of CJP's Jewish Teen Initiative, we are partnering and hosting *Mitzvah Meals: North Shore Jewish Teens Cook for the Needy*. Teens between 13 and 18 will gather monthly (approximately) to cook food that Lifebridge will use to help feed people in our community. Teens will also eat what they have cooked and share some Jewish learning and a whole lot of fun. We first met on January 31st and will meet again February 27th and April 3rd. Registration is required via the link or through Teens.JewishBoston.com.

As you can tell, there is a lot of learning-in-action happening through CJE this winter and we are having fun and making the world a better place.

Becky's Book Club

***Date: Monday, February 19, 7:30 pm via Zoom*, The group will discuss Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan**



Two women who have fled abusive pasts to make a new life in the small town of Adams, New Hampshire. When one is found dead, and the other finds her son accused of the murder, the tense courtroom drama that unfolds shines light on the true cost of secrets kept for love.

Zoom link is available at shirathayam.org. Go to the Get Involved tab, click Affinity Groups, and then click Becky's Book Club.

Condolences

Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

Members:

Sandra Gold Shalit
December 2, 2023
Wife of Carl Shalit
Sister of Robert Kaplan

Evelyn Hoffman
December 8, 2023
Mother of Laura Hoffman

Jacob Segal
December 17, 2023
Husband of Marilyn Segal

Relatives of Members:

Marcia Burns
November 19, 2023
Cousin of Ronnie Kupelnick and Elissa Kupelnick

Ethel Sinofsky
November 24, 2023
Stepmother of Barbara Vinick

Maurice Levin
December 13, 2023
Father of Diane Levin

Brody Minyan Fund

In honor of Barbara and Alan Sidman
from Eli Talkov; Doris Villa

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
from Robin and Bob Cooper; Carol and Sam Denbo; Herb Goldberg; Arlene and Herb Leventhal; Alice and Charles Leidner; Lois Ogan; Shari and Ron Pressman; Rebecca and Alvin Rosen; Shelley Sackett and Leonard Rotman; Madeline Stark; Eli Talkov; Doris Villa; Natalie White; Jerry Zackin and Sandy Chapman

In memory of Michael Rosenbaum
from Eli Talkov

In memory of Jacob Segal
from Herb Goldberg; Shelley Sackett and Leonard Rotman

In memory of Ethel Sinofsky, step mother of Barbara Vinick
from Herb Goldberg

In memory of Maurice Levin, father of Diane Levin
from Herb Goldberg; Natalie White

In memory of

Uncle, Hyman Krugman
from Alice Leidner

Mother, Nadya Shames
from Aron Mirmelshteyn

Wife, Evelyn Handis
Father, Jacob Handis
Father-in-law, Joseph Fishman
from Bernard Handis

Great grandfather, Jacob Steinberg
from Deborah McWade

Father, Arthur Brand
from Jeffry Brand

Father-in-law, Henry Kabatchnick
from Eli Talkov

Wife, Janet Goldberg
Aunt, Ida Goldberg
Brother-in-law, Joel Silberberg
from Herb Goldberg

Mother, Isabelle Ablow
from Herbert Ablow

Mother, Ona Ann Henson
from Joseph Henson

Grandmother, Pauline Feffer
Grandmother, Sara Lena Zoll
from Lawrence Feffer

Husband, Ralph Dunn
from Linda Dunn

Mother, Esther Goldstein
Grandmother, Flora Goldstein
from Marsha Feffer

Mother, Belle Gerber
from Valerie Gilbert

Sister-in-law Elaine Denbo
Brother, Eugene Denbo
from Samuel Denbo

Mother, Ada Millstein
from Ann Segal

Uncle, Reuben Lewis
from Constance Lewis

Husband, Herbert G. Rosenthal
from Miriam Rosenthal

Cousin, Daryl DeWolf
from Robin Cooper

Father, Nathan Danberg
from Sheila Taymore

Mother, Ann Kaplan
from Sandra Gold Shalit

Mother, Mary Anne Levy
from Steven Levy

Burt & Becky Shepard Scholarship Fund

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
from Ruth and Shea Rood

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of Cantor Sarah's patience, kindness and support of Charley during her Bat Mitzvah preparations
from Andrew Goloboy and Amy Mitman

In honor of Charley Goloboy, daughter of Andrew Goloboy and Amy Mitman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
from Susan and Larry Goldberg

In honor of the naming of Ailsa Freudenberger
from Eli Talkov

In memory of Jacob Segal
from Susan and Larry Goldberg

In memory of

Mother, Lorraine Sherman
from Norman Sherman

Center for Jewish Education

In appreciation of Rabbi Michael
from Jennifer Kugler

In appreciation of Janis Knight and the CJE staff
from Andrew Goloboy and Amy Mitman

In celebration of the naming of McKinley Ponn, daughter of Hannah and Brett Ponn
In celebration of the naming of Henry Solomon, son of Yulia and Max Solomon
from Susan and Larry Goldberg

In honor of the adoption of Harry Epstein, son of Ellen and Hilik Velenchik
from Diana Caplan

In memory of Jacob Segal
from Lori and Larry Groipen; Beverly Kahn; Alice and Charles Leidner

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
from Lori and Larry Groipen; Beverly Kahn; Owen Leventhal

In memory of

Aunt, Gloria Freedman
from Marcia Kalman

Grandfather, Louis Lipsky
Friend, Joan Garfield
from Beverly Kahn

General Fund

In appreciation of CSH
from Marc Flaster

In appreciation of Barri Stein
from Amy Mitman and Andrew Goloboy

In honor of the naming of my granddaughter, McKinley Ponn, daughter of Hannah and Brett Ponn
from Debbie Ponn

In memory of Sandra Gold
from Alanna Gold's coworkers at McGovern Elementary School; Betsy Breitborde; Laurie Caplan; Heather Coleman; Holly and Phillip Hamburg; Tara Small; Hal Tepfer; Robin Wolk

In memory of Maurice Levin, father of Diane Levin
from Susan and Larry Goldberg

In memory of

Father, Samuel Ribok
from Barbara Goldberg

Father, Mark Levinson
from Julie Levinson

Parents, Lev and Emma Zlotnikov
from Diane and Vadim Zlotnikov

Sister, Elaine Lewis
from Joyce Rosenthal

Father, Martin Liebman
from Lois Kaplan

Father, Bernard Siskind
Uncle, Lt. Bernard Lipsky
from Beverly Kahn

Father, Harry Kemelman
from Ruth Rooks

Kiddush Fund

In appreciation of Barri Stein
from Lee and Joe Henson

In honor of Barbara and Alan Sidman
from Charlotte Fine

In honor of the naming of McKinley Noa Ponn, daughter of Hannah and Brett Ponn, and Henry Zane Solomon, son of Yulia and Max Solomon, and grandchildren of Karen and Steve Solomon
from Judy and Billy Mishkin

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
From Arlene and David Addis; Rosaline Brenner; David Egel; Charlotte Fine; Barbara and Ron Gilefsky; Adrienne and Richard Ordung; Joan and Murry Rich; Phyllis Sagan

In memory of Ethel Sinofsky, stepmother of Barbara Vinick
from Shari and Ron Pressman; Reggie and Lewis Weinstein

In memory of Maurice Levin, father of Diane Levin
In memory of Jacob Segal
from Ellen and Richard Alexander

In memory of my father, Maurice Levin
from Diane Levin

In memory of Evelyn Hoffman
from Phyllis Sagan

In memory of

Mother, Jeanette Schnelwar
from Alan Schnelwar

Aunt, Ruth Kronick
Aunt, Bella Almansky
from Alvah Parker

Father, Richard Parsons
Father, Robert Costello
from Andrea and Robert Costello

Father, Israel Shuman
from Arnold Shuman

Mother, Ida Woogmaster
from Barbara Gilefsky

Father, Isadore Tolpin
Father-in-law, Milton Vinick
from Barbara Vinick

Grandfather, Julius Glosband
from Daniel Glosband

Mother, Wilma Alexander
Father, Theodor Teimer
from Ellen and Richard Alexander

Mother, Irma Kahn
from Eric Kahn

Wife, Blossom Bornstein
Mother, Mary Bornstein
Father, Harry Bornstein
Mother-in-law, Molly Safer
Father-in-law, Jack Safer
Aunt, Annie Smith
Aunt, Mary Smith
from Gerald Bornstein

Grandfather, Isaac Kaplan
from Howard Kaplan

Great uncle, Eli Gartz
from Karen Hirsch

Mother, Leona Thaw
Father, Harry Thaw
Brother, Michael Thaw
from Karen Thaw

Father, Hyman Karp
from Lois Ogan

Father, Joseph Berenzon
from Marilyn Cramer

Father, Gerald Price
from Marjorie Bean

Aunt, Ida Goldberg
Mother, Shirley Goldberg
from Marty Goldberg

Mother-in-law, Beatrice Newman
Son, Alan Cashman
from Marvin Cashman

Brother, Sheppard Weisman
from Claudia Rodenstein

Uncle, Bill Spatrick
from Ruth Kahn

Father, Ilan Lemberg
from Guy Lemberg

Father, Richard Jay Sorkin
from Shari Cashman

Father, Norman Rubin
from Sheldon Rubin

Father, Meyer Levy
from Steven Levy

Son, Sheppard Weisman
from Bette Ann Weisman

Mother, Frieda Ross
from Libby Ellin

Grandfather, David Levin
from Diane Levin

Mother-in-law, Wilma Alexander
from Elizabeth Stevenson

Father, Maurice Shapiro
from Rosalyn Shapiro

Father, Abraham Alpert
Uncle, Charles Gilman
from Ronna Greif

Mother, Eleanor Rubin
from Sheldon Rubin

POLONSKY BUILDING FUND

In memory of

Mother, Rose Polonsky
from Norma and Sherman Freedman

PRAYERBOOK PURCHASED

In honor of the naming of McKinley Noa Ponn, daughter of Hannah and Brett Ponn
In honor of the naming of Henry Zane Solomon, son of Yulia and Max Solomon
from Judy and Billy Mishkin

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
from Sandra Griffel

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Michael
from Susanna and Randi Ferrara; Andrew Goloboy and Amy Mitman

In honor of Charley Goloboy, daughter of Amy Mitman and Andrew Goloboy, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
from Marjorie and Randall Patkin

In honor of the birth of our first great grandchild, Charlotte Rose Pearl
from Roz and Marty Goldberg

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
from Elise Cherny; Kate and Patrick Cook; Diane and Stan Kaplan; Lois and Bobby Kaplan; Charlene Sandler; Sandy and Arnie Shuman; Martin Sigel; Harriet and Barnet Weinstock

In memory of Jason Snyder
from Wendy Waxman

In memory of Jacob Segal
From Myra and Paul Gulko; Roz and Sandy Levy; Lois Sargent

In memory of Marjorie Ann Zoll
from Ellen Fields

In memory of

Father, Hyman Karas
from Jacob Karas

Mother, Helen Bloom
from Esther Salinsky

Father, Harry Rodman
from Gerald Rodman

Mother, Elaine Simons
from Jo Ann Simons

Brother, Norman Gulko
from Paul Gulko

Father, Max Goldstein
Aunt, Ida Goldstein
from Myra Gulko

Father, Jay Marvin Caesar
from Richard Caesar

Father, Herbert Tatelman
from Richard Tatelman

Brother, Robert Alexander
from Susan Willis

RITUAL FUND

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
from Ellen and Richard Alexander; Diana Caplan; Marsha and Larry Feffer; Deborah and Steve Field; Diane and Ed Knopf; Diane Levin and Stephen Hicks; Margery Shapiro

In honor of Beatrice Lipsky's 95th birthday
from Joanne and Ed Smith

In appreciation for the Hanukkah video
from Diana Caplan

In memory of our cousin, Marcia Burns
from Ronnie Kupelnick and Elissa Kupelnick

In memory of

Father, Saul Kauder
Mother, Rosalind Kauder
Grandmother, Sadie Epstein
from David Kauder and Bonnie Kauder

Parents, Frances and Morris Goldfield
from Cady Goldfield

Father, Donald Dunn
from Larry Dunn

Mother-in-law, Rebecca Goldenberg
from Ruth Goldenberg

SECURITY COSTS DONATION

With thanks for additional security
from Marsha Gerber; Ann Pendexter

In memory of

Brother, Alan Gerber
Aunt, Arlene Burtman
from Marsha Gerber

Mother, Sarah Cohen
Father, Joseph Cohen
from Sandra Osattin

Mother, Dora Osattin
from Stuart Osattin

Mother and grandmother, Ellen Greenblatt
from Judi Simmons and Jill Simmons-Wetmore

SHIR CHESED FUND

Get well to Scott Sagan
from Helaine and Jim Hazlett

In appreciation of Shir Chesed
from Mike Goodstein

In memory of Jacob Segal
from Ruthann Cohn; Phyllis and Jack Karas; Sandi and Arnie Shuman

In memory of Deb Schutzman's mother
from Debby Cherry

In memory of

Cousin, Stephen Richmond
from Barbara Gilefsky

Brother-in-law, Harold Mack
from Bette and Dan Shoreman

Mother, Augusta Berkowitz
Son, Keith Sargent
from Lois Sargent

Mother, Charlotte Egoodkin
from Sandra Shuman

SHIR LANU

In memory of

Sister, Carol Berrin
from Michael Dubinsky

TORAH FUND

In memory of Jacob Segal
from Marion Garfinkel and Family

In memory of

Husband, Robert Garfinkel
Grandfather, Harry Osattin
Sister-in-law, Barbara Freedman
from Marion Garfinkel and Family

Mother, Anne Bornstein
Uncle, Saul Bornstein
from Ruth Kahn

Interview

Continued from page 8

embraces a culture that is not inherently theirs is something to be celebrated. I believe that if people can keep the lines of communication open and know that however they decide to be Jewish is the right decision because it works for them. And, if they celebrate their differences while giving each other space to be who they are, interfaith marriages can truly work.

BLOOD DRIVE

Wed., Jan. 31,
1 – 6 pm
at CSH

Register at:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive

Donate Blood, Platelets or Plasma.
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Or redcrossblood.org

TZEDEK LAKOL - RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In honor of the birth Charlotte Rose Pearl, first great grandchild of Roz and Marty Goldberg
from Barbara and Alan Sidman

In honor of Lexi and Sami Waxman's 5th Birthday
from Wendy Waxman

In honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Joan and Murry Rich
from Barbara and Alan Sidman

In honor of Barbara and Alan Sidman receiving Edith Bloch award from Epstein Hillel School
from Debby Cherry; Faith Kramer; Bethany and Moshe Roditi

In memory of Maurice Levin, father of Diane Levin
from Marla and Philip Gay; Barbara and Alan Sidman

In memory of Sandra Gold Shalit
from Lynda Gordon; Barbara and Alan Sidman

Congregational Spotlight

Meet Julie Sorkin

Each issue, the New Wave spotlights congregants to help us get to know each other better. In this issue we are pleased to introduce Julie Sorkin.

Where did you grow up and how did you and your husband, Conor (Maguire) meet? Tell us a little bit about you and your family.

I grew up in Marblehead and my husband grew up in Groton. We met the old-fashioned way, at a bar called the Starlight Lounge in Cambridge, after crossing paths through mutual friends. The night we reconnected, we realized we lived two blocks from each other. Small world!

I was raised as a Conservative Jew and went to Temple Israel. Not regular temple-goers, my family placed great importance on following traditions of the religion and culture. Although I do have faith-based connections to Judaism; the culture, community, and history connect me more to being Jewish than anything else.

My husband was brought up in a liberal household with parents raised in the Catholic faith. They mainly chose to celebrate their holidays in the vein of cultural traditions.

How did you decide who would marry you and what steps did you take?

Because we wanted to keep it neutral, we decided to be married by a friend who was becoming an Episcopal minister. We had a chuppah, broke the glass, and danced the hora. We took interfaith classes; however, it was clear that our journey was unique with challenges we have navigated to the best of our abilities.

How did you decide to bring up your children Jewish?

This was something that became deeply important to me as I got older. As a young adult, I separated myself from the religion, not the culture. Holidays were always attended and celebrated. Being Jewish was not a priority for me until I got married. The decision to bring up our children Jewish wasn't difficult; but it was tricky to navigate how it would be done. In a marriage with two points of view, it's challenging to figure out how to shape the people you have brought into the world. Luckily, my husband has been supportive and willing to embrace my culture and faith. We are happy to offer a moral and cultural guide to our children through community and family. We do have a Christmas tree since it's my husband's favorite family tradition, and we celebrate the family aspect of being together on Christmas. The holidays parallel each other regarding the miracle of light in the darkness of winter, and how kindness to all is most important.

As an interfaith couple, what attracted you to Shirat Hayam?

We decided it was more important to be at our family's temple - the temple that still has Temple Israel as part of its foundation. This brings the whole point of what we are doing full circle. Family and community are the most important pillars in building our children's Jewish foundation. Having childhood friends who attend Shirat Hayam also attracted me.

Conor and Julie

Do you feel welcome at services?

We always feel welcome, however attending Shabbat services are not our thing, and I am very OK with that. My husband often joins us for kiddush lunch after Hebrew school to spend time with us which works best for both of us.

Do you have any recommendations for CSH to do for interfaith couples and their children?

I think CSH does a phenomenal job of welcoming interfaith families. So many people in the congregation have lifetime ties to the community, so it's easy in that respect. For newcomers, I think it might be nice to have more family programs that celebrate the culture and not just the religion like cooking classes, movies, parents' nights out, and kids' nights out. There could also be interesting ways using the arts to gather families together like a paint night during the holidays season that focuses on light.

Interfaith is not easy. It's a choice that can include judgement, questions and challenges. Judaism is not only a religion but an entire culture, and a beautiful one. It has a rich history that is so important for children to learn.

Some of us realize our "Jewishness" as we get older like me, and some know and live it their whole lives. Choosing a partner and falling in love, knowing that they are your person despite a religious difference is part of many people's lives in today's society. I am so glad it is being embraced by the Jewish community, specifically Shirat Hayam. Being lucky enough to have a partner who is flexible and

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Congregation Shirat Hayam
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