Roots and Branches:

Rabbi Brian Walt's Return, MLK Weekend and Tu B'Shevat: The New Year of the Trees.

By Rabbi Shawn Zevit

Blessings for this new secular year. With advent of 2019 we continue to keep our eyes on the good - where we need to live, learn and lead from our Jewish values and convictions. Staying spiritually awake, emotionally open-hearted and mindfully activist is especially prominent for us as a Jewish community this month when Rabbi Brian Walt, our founding rabbi will join us for MLK weekend, a variety of activities around racial, economic and environment justice will be underway and the ancient “New Year for the Trees” or Tu B’Shevat are coinciding.

The weekend of January 18-21 will offer a cornucopia of opportunities along with Rabbi Brian’s visit and our annual Tu B’Shevat Seder, led by Rabbi Yael, others and myself. We begin with a veggie potluck on Friday night to welcome Rabbi Brian back, followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat service that will feature freedom songs, where we will hear Rabbi Brian reflect on our founding and evolution as a community.

Shabbat morning January 19 is our second Shabbat school of the year and teen leadership program and joining our school and services will be our own members Jackie Jonas, Ali Michaels and David Love, who will help us further our dialogue, awareness and action in response to racism, bias and white privilege. Rabbi Brian will join us again at Mishkan Shalom, Saturday evening where we will share Havdallah with him and hear his thoughts on Jewish identity, Israel-Palestine and Jewish life as it is unfolding in our times. While there are many activities throughout the city, we will be participating as a member congregation of POWER/MLK Dare coalition of dozens of organizations on Monday, Jan. 21st beginning at 1pm.

At the same time, we are not expecting one weekend to deal with every (continued on the next page)
concern or provide answers to systemic and ongoing justice issues. Our Torah demands of us “tzedek tzedek tirdof”- organize for change and actively respond to intolerance and injustice. All our tikkun olam initiatives are led by our inspiring members, with Seth Horwitz as our board representative for tikkun olam efforts. Many of us are also interested in re-engaging with education and issues around Israel and Palestine, and racism, bias and white privilege and we have established two listservs devoted to these issues. Please be in touch with Seth or I if you’re interested in participating on these listservs or getting more involved in future activities and dialogue.

Grounding ourselves in our values and praying with our feet on MLK Weekend we move to the elevated celebration of what was once a minor Jewish holiday Tu B’Shevat, the ancient Jewish New Year for the Trees, on Sunday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. One of four historical “New Years” in the Jewish calendar- the 15th of the month of Shevat is a reminder for the need to honor the cycles of nature and the living trees that we inter-breathe with, reconnect with the earth we are extensions of and have impact on, and look at the Tree of Life as a guiding metaphor for relationship. This year’s Tu B’Shevat Seder will, once again, be led by Rabbi Yael and me, in a combined A Way In/ Mishkan Shalom program. Please pre-register as there is limited space.

The overall health and well-being of our ecosystem is fragile and resilient. Paying attention to the nurturing of the parts, while attending to the whole is one of the ecological messages of this holiday, both in terms of trees themselves and the sustenance they offer and need, and also in the macro-spiritual template of the Kabbalistic Tree of Life. Here the sephirot (or spheres of Divine energy) are only compatible and ultimately sustainable if the web of connective tissue, the “partzufim” or face-to-face relational dynamics connect the spheres. Without this interdependent web of connectivity, the whole structure decays, withdraws and ceases to grow. As for the single tree, so for the forest- as for the individual, so for the community.

We call our Torah “Eytz Hayyim”, the life-giving tree. I look forward to commemorating and celebrating MLK weekend and Tu B’Shevat together with you in the month ahead.

A full schedule of events for Shabbat Weekend with Rabbi Brian Walt and MLK Shabbat January 18-19 is on Page 9

Join Steve Jones for a very special

Tu B’Shevat “Walk the Talk” in the Wissahickon Valley
Saturday, January 19, 12:30 pm

Group will meet at Mishkan after services, 12:30 pm
Look for further details in Ma Hadash!
Dear Friends,

As we enter into 2019, may we continue to lift our eyes to each other and the world. May we do our best to keep rising into action, even in the face of challenges and defeats. May we continue to see the good in each other and be inspired and strengthen by each other’s presence and courage. The world needs our light and our love. Let’s continue to support and nurture each other and shine our lights together for the good of all.

As we come to the secular New Year, we also enter the Hebrew month of Shevat, which is a time of honoring our connection to the earth and giving special attention to the wisdom and bounty of the trees. As the Shevat moon becomes full, illuminating the winter landscape, we celebrate Tu b’shevat, the New Year dedicated to honoring the trees.

Reverence for trees is an ancient practice of our tradition. For a time our ancestors worshipped the Divine through trees, calling her asherah or elat. A 7-branch menorah symbolizing a tree was built for the Temple to declare our relationship with the Eternal. Jewish mystics called the Divine life-force etz chayyim, Living Tree. The Hasidim gave us the practice of hitbodedut in-depth meditation and prayer done walking among the trees of the forests.

We hope you will join us for our Tu B’Shevat seder this year on Sunday January 20 at 7:00 p.m as we honor the trees and all the earth. We will travel through the 4 mystical worlds—the 4 revealed and hidden layers of reality as conceived by the Kabbalists. Music, meditation, fruits and wine will guide us in this journey as we celebrate creation and humbly, with grace and gratitude, join in nature’s song.

The psalmist sings,
Truth springs forth from the earth. Psalm 85:12

May we listen with care to the truths the earth is singing and may our words and actions be inspired by these songs.

May 2019 bring good health and well-being and the rising of love, justice and compassion into this beautiful and sacred world.

Much Blessing to All

Shalom, Rabbi Yael
A New Project with thanks to Barry Dornfeld

A Mishkan Community Video Documentary: Announcement and Invitation to Participate

I write to inform the community that I have begun work on an exciting project, a video documentary about Mishkan Shalom at this stage in its life and evolution. The purpose of the project is to create a thoughtful, appreciative portrait of our wonderful congregation in all its diversity, passion, and complexity, of our rabbis and leadership, and to reflect on how we wrestle with progressive Judaism in the contemporary world. I will be collaborating with Rabbi Shawn, the Board, and others through this project, which will continue through the end of 2019. I have worked in documentary for many years, focusing on culture, community, and expression, and am excited about turning my energies to a piece about Mishkan and about these issues so close to home.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in this video project and to discuss how to add your thoughts and stories to the mix. If you have any great video material or photos to share that would be wonderful as well. I will also be reaching out to some members of the community whose stories and experiences I am more familiar with. If you have any questions or concerns, or want to be sure not to be included in the documentary, please let me know.

The plan is to videotape a range of Mishkan activities, groups, and people, being careful to get permission from people featured in the piece and to be mindful of people’s wishes. We hope this will be a great project for the synagogue and our community, and will communicate our story at an important moment in its life.

I look forward to talking with you if you are interested.

Barry Dornfeld
bdornfeld@gmail.com

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Tu B’Sh’vat at Mishkan Shalom
Sunday, January 20 - 7:00 p.m.

Tu B’Sh’vat, one of the four Jewish New Years, is the Birthday of the Trees, a time to honor all that they bring us and all the ways our human lives entwine with the natural world.

Our Mystical Tu B’Sh’vat Seder will be held on Sunday, January 20, beginning at 7:00 p.m. We will share fruits and wine or juice, songs and meditation, prayer and reflection, as we move through the 4 worlds of body, heart, mind and spirit.

Join us for an evening of exploration, community, and gratitude. Contribution: $18 members, $25 non-members

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…I want to sleep
and dream the life of trees, beings
from the muted world who care
nothing for Money, Politics, Power,
Will or Right, who want little from the night
but a few dead stars going dim, a white owl
lifting from their limbs, who want only
to sink their roots into the wet ground
and terrify the worms or shake
their bleary heads like fashion models
or old hippies…

From The Life of Trees
by Dorianne Laux
Lifting People Out of Poverty
After a multi-year struggle, POWER was successful in getting its 21st Century Living Wage legislation passed. On Dec 6, 2018, the Philadelphia City Council voted unanimously to pass this legislation, which raised the wage to $15 an hour for thousands of city, contract, and sub-contract workers by July 1, 2022. POWER's Economic Dignity Strategy Team worked tirelessly in support of this legislation turning out people to countless meetings, actions, and hearings. This was part of POWER's effort to lift people out of poverty and a tremendous step toward reversing the shameful designation of Philadelphia as the country's poorest large city.

Boosting Voter Turnout
Mishkan Shalom participated in the POWER Voter Engagement Campaign in the Fall General Election. Scores of Mishkan volunteers worked together to register voters and then canvassed and phoned voters to make sure they turned out in force in the November election. Together, Mishkan folks registered 80 voters, knocked on 650 doors, spoke in person to 200 voters and called several hundred others who pledged to come out and vote. Special appreciation to the team leaders who stepped forward to lead this effort:

- Voter Registration – Mindy Maslin, Gail Bober, and Sharon Weinman
- Phone Banking- Roz Spigel and Homer Robinson
- Canvassing- Lance Laver and Lior Feldman

And more appreciation for the many Mishkan volunteers who came out over and over again to engage the voters. It worked- we helped to make this one of the highest voter turnouts in a mid term election in quite some time.

Come to the POWER Legislative Assembly on January 8
To kick off the New Year, all Mishkan folks are invited to attend POWER’s Legislative Assembly, which will take place on January 8 at the Unitarian Society of Germantown (6511 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with food served at 6:30 p.m.. At this assembly we will vote on a prospective name change, the voter engagement strategy team, and a platform for the upcoming City Council races. Come to the assembly and be part of planning and action.
Dear Haverim/Friends:

One of the hopes I heard expressed by many individuals upon my hire was to find ways to create synergy between the school and the larger congregation. One way this has been happening the last three years has been through the Shabbat School days, when, instead of meeting on Sundays, the Hebrew School moves to Saturdays. Last month, on December 1, our annual Human Rights and New Member Shabbat, I witnessed the magic firsthand when the first of three such Shabbat School days this year took place!

Our Hebrew school students gathered at their usual meeting time of 9:30 am in the Social Hall where Morah Gabby and I opened up a conversation with the kids, asking what the phrase “human rights” meant to them. What did they believe should be things all people in the world should have a right to have, automatically, no matter who they are: rich, poor; tall, short; light skin, dark skin; citizen of here vs. there.

The kids had no trouble coming up with a list of nearly 20 things. Then, breaking into smaller groups, each group chose one human right to illustrate on a poster.

When the adult service began at 10 am, the students went upstairs and showed off their creations. One of the crowd favorites was “sleep”. It was a human right that when it was first called out everyone chuckled. All of us teachers and parents in the room, readily related and bemoaned how much we want more sleep too.

But the more we talked about it, the more serious – and significant – the idea became.

As one of the children who illustrated the poster, Olivia Nunez, explained: “If a person has to work two or three jobs just to make enough money for their kids to eat and have clothes, then they never get enough sleep!”

And of course, that is exactly what happens for persons who don’t earn a living wage. On their poster, the “sleep” group drew a person waking up just before midnight, and a long voice bubble bemoaning how much he just wanted to get some more sleep because he works 18-hour days!

After the kids shared their posters at the start of the service, for Birchat HaShachar (the morning blessings), the younger kids went to their classrooms and grades 4 to 6 joined their parents for the community Shabbat service for the remainder of their school day. As Rabbi Shawn explained in the wonderful article in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the families were in for a treat with an incredibly eclectic and energizing service attended and at times assisted by our friends from other faith traditions.

The good news is, if you missed the event, there are two more on the calendar: January 19 and February 9. Because the January service falls on MLK Day, the special guests who will be joining us that day will be Mishkan Shalom members leading the school kids in an introductory learning event about racial justice and equality.
More Synergy

Building on the positive energy we witness at these Shabbat School events, Rabbi Shawn and I would love to find more ways to bring the school and congregation together.

We had a record number of school families attend the Dec. 5 Community Meeting, and our first-ever bake sale that night netted $250 for the school. I would like to extend a shout out to everyone who took the time to bake and donate a baked item including: Andy, Ginger, & Micah Hunter, Ariel Peleg-Globig, Bob Prischak, David Acker & Miriam, Hadar Roizman, Jackie Jonas, Leah Weisman Brunner, Lisa Zahren, Phyllis Berman, and Sarah Katz.

On the topic of fundraisers, I also want to acknowledge the school families who went that extra mile to sell items for our first-ever fair-trade fundraising event. Conceived by the Education Committee to help the school have more discretionary funds, the school dedicated three weeks to sell fair trade chocolates and coffees by a company called Equal Exchange.

Thanks to these school families who sold items in the fundraiser: Abe Weston, Ari Block, Gus & Lyla Conley, Lily Weston, Luz & Ben Fernandez-Sheinbaum, Max Erdakos-Roizman, Miriam Acker, Olivia Nunez, Sam Tonkon, Sasha Newman, Theo & Felix Robinson.

I’d like to reiterate my appeal to anyone in the congregation who feels like they have a special Jewish-related skill or teaching they might offer our students. On Wednesday nights, from 7:15-8 pm, children in grades 4, 5, & 6 take various hoogim (electives) offered by the teachers. In the deep past, Mishkan Shalom used to have a whole lineup of congregants who would come in and share some of their areas of special expertise.

Both the Education Committee and I would love to bring that back – if even only on occasion. If you have something you think might lend itself to five 45-minute lessons for a self-selected group of 8 to 10 kids (with me or one of the teachers on staff acting as your “assistant” and classroom manager) – I would love to hear from you! Please drop me a line at RabbiJoysa@mishkan.org.

B’vracha,
Rabbi Joysa

Letter to the Editor

In the December issue of Kol Shalom, we published the D’vrei Torah of four of our recent b’nai mitzvah.

Hi,

Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the “D’vrei Torah” article in the December Kol Shalom, and look forward for “More to come” in 2019!

I have often thought, as I heard a Bar/Bat Mitzvah give a Davar at Mishkan, how thoughtful and insightful it was or an adult, let alone a 13-year-old.

I gave a davar Torah this year on the Akedah, dealing with Abraham’s faith, and was particularly taken with Max’s thoughts on this par’sha: he covered so many bases - faith, Abraham’s prior challenge re Sodom and Gomorrah, the fact that Sarah is completely left out of the story, even the possibility that Abraham heard the words wrong, etc.

Wow! Congratulations to all the B’nai Mitzvah.

Hag sameah,
Len Perlman
Benji Kaufman

January 26

Why should an atheist have a bar mitzvah?

That was Benji’s perspective for several years—really, until the moment he began preparing. “I was and am an atheist,” he says. “I objected to the idea of having a bar mitzvah. I didn’t see the meaning in it; I was not excited for it.”

Then he started working with tutor David Acker, and with Rabbi Shawn. He read the lines—and between the lines—of his Torah portion. He began to change his mind. “I was struck by how deep the meaning of the Torah stories felt, and how much we could learn from them. They’re not just stories of ancient people doing stuff. They have morals behind them that should be applied to everyday life.”

In parashat Yitro (Ex. 18:1-20:23), Moshe is learning how to govern the Israelites, and his father-in-law, Yitro, suggests a different approach—one that gives the people a greater sense of voice and agency. For Benji, that highlights two important values: the ability to receive constructive criticism without becoming defensive, and the importance of a participatory government.

Benji joined Mishkan as a 2nd-grader; he loved the music and the way teacher Julia Weekes used games to help the students learn and bond as a group. Years later, learning to chant became “a mental exercise, like reading new music on piano. You have to work with it to get it in your brain.”

In July, Benji’s family moved from Philadelphia to Boston; he’s been doing Skype sessions with Rabbi Shawn and his tutor, and returning to Mishkan for some classmates’ b’nai mitzvah

For his tikkun olam project, Benji decided to put his longtime concern about climate change into action. His own school, in Brookline, already has a composting project in the middle-school lunchroom, but he would like to see the other public schools in the district follow suit. He’ll work with teachers and students at those schools, offering presentations and advice to spur at least one or two of them to start composting food scraps at lunchtime.

Other passions include piano (he plays mostly classical and pop), rock climbing (this is his third year with the sport) and cooking (he recently tested a recipe for chocolate-chip cookies with sugar sprinkles in the logo of his rock gym for a fundraising competition).

“I like how rock climbing is not just a physical challenge,” Benji says. “It’s also mental. It works all parts of your body. And the main point to climbing isn’t to compete. You can go to a rock gym and climb by yourself.”

His bar mitzvah will mark a welcome return to Philly, a chance to see the friends he’s missed, celebrate with a community he loves and share what he’s learned about connecting ancient texts to everyday life.

“I don’t see it as a passage into adulthood, but it’s definitely a marker in my life. An accomplishment.”

SAVE THESE DATES:
February 9, Saturday Dinner
February 10, Sunday Brunch
for the most delectable fundraiser of the year!
Schedule of Events for January 18-19
MISHKAN SHALOM JOURNEY: THEN AND NOW with Rabbi Brian Walt
And MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SHABBAT

Friday, January 18
4:30 - 7:30 pm: Videotaping Project with thanks to Barry Dornfeld: “What Mishkan Means to Me.” Show up and briefly share your thoughts!
5:45 pm: Potluck at Mishkan, meet and share a meal together with Rabbi Brian. Please bring vegetarian only, and nut-free. Please rsvp: Maria@mishkan.org
7:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat Freedom Song service and discussion. Ad Meah V’Esrim (A Full Life!): Celebrating the Founding and Early Years of Mishkan Shalom with Rabbi Brian.

Saturday, January 19
9:30 am to Noon: Shabbat School
10:00 am: Teen Leadership Program
10:00 am to Noon: Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Shawn and members Jackie Jonas, Ali Michaels and David Love, as part of our ongoing exploration of racial justice and white privilege.
7:00pm: Havdallah and Dessert. Conversation with Rabbi Brian. Reflection on our Founding Statement of Principles, Jewish Identity and Israel-Palestine. Including song, conversation, Havdallah and desserts.
At Mishkan Shalom, we believe in learning for life. Below you’ll find a varied, robust range of classes, workshops and experiences to help you—no matter your age or prior experience with Judaism—grow and learn.

Register and pay online for any class listed, using the Lifelong Learning page on Mishkan’s website, www.mishkan.org, or mail your registration and a check. Visit our website for detailed information about our classes, location, teachers and more.

If you have a suggestion for a class you’d like to take—or teach—please contact Rabbi Joysa Winter, Education Director, at rabbijoysa@mishkan.org.

WHY GOD WON’T GO AWAY:
The Evolving Experience and Understanding of the Divine in Jewish Tradition and Contemporary Life, with Rabbi Shawn Zevit
Sundays, 10:00 am - Noon: March 3, 24, and 31; April 7. Rabbi Shawn's office

Especially in challenging times, the longing for meaning, purpose, community and connection remains unabated. In this 4-session course, we will explore the historic Jewish God ideas from biblical to modern times. With a special focus on 21st century schools of thought - ecological, neo-hasidic, humanistic, feminist and new neuro-theological - we will discover how these understandings may guide us today. Each class will include experiential exercises, study and discussion, and will build one on the other. Texts will be provided, in addition to the required purchase of Finding God: Selected Responses, by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel Syme (Revised Edition, 2002), (available at these booksellers).

$72 members ($108 non-members)

NAVIGATING THE SIDDUR with Elsie Stern
Sundays, 10:00 - 11:30 am: Jan. 6, Library; Jan. 27, Rabbi Shawn's office; Feb. 3, Library

By popular demand, Dr. Elsie Stern, PhD, professor of Bible at the Reconstructionist seminary, is bringing back her class on discovering the secrets of the Siddur. During these Sunday morning sessions, you will learn the matbeah, or order, of a Shabbat morning prayer service. You will learn to recognize the key structural elements or framework, when and who created the classic prayers, and what might have been the authors’ larger kavannot, or intentions, behind the words.

This class, open to all, is especially helpful for parents whose kids will soon be embarking on their b’nai mitzvah preparatory year.

$54 members ($81 non-members)

LEARN TO LEYN/CHANT WITH CANTOR DAVID
Sundays, 12:15 - 1:15 pm: Feb. 24; March 10, 24, 31; April 14, 28

If you have ever wanted to chant (or “leyn”) the passages for the Torah portion of a Shabbat service, now is your chance! Cantor David is offering a class, open to both adults and self-selected kids, who would like to learn the secrets of trope. The only pre-requisite is an ability to read Hebrew. If you hope to fully memorize and retain all the trope marks (musical notes) that you study in class, you will need to spend time studying at home between classes.

A special invitation is extended to parents who have a child who might be having a b’nai mitzvah in the coming years. You may want to debut your Torah-leyning skills alongside your child at their ceremony!

$108 members ($162 non-members)
END-OF-LIFE PLANNING: WHEN, HOW, WHY with Kate Judge and Patricia Quigley
Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:00 pm: Jan. 10, Feb. 7, March 14, April 11

As Groucho Marx once quipped: “Getting older is no problem. You just have to live long enough!”

Just how one lives at the end of life – whether it’s a long life or a short one – is vitally important and personal. It’s hard but important to make sure you have thought about and begun the critical conversations you need to have with those you love - parents, children partners, friends and yourself - about what matters to you.

We will explore various approaches and use a variety of new resources – film, essays, games, and reflection tools - to look at the important choices we have at the end of life.

$72 ($108 non-members)

SOUL COLLAGE with Susan Richards
Sundays, 1:00 - 4:00 pm: Feb 10, May 12

SoulCollage® is an intuitive, imaginative, creative and fun process. If you can use scissors and a glue stick, you can do it! Teens and adults, previous SoulCollagers® and newcomers are welcome. No art experience necessary! Susan Richards says: “Being a SoulCollage® Facilitator is the perfect integration of my lifelong spiritual pursuits, my 30 years as a psychotherapist in private practice in Solana Beach, California, and my current life as a full-time artist in the Philadelphia area.” For more information, see www.soulcollage.com/susan-richards-lcsw

$40 per session; includes all supplies (members and non-members)
Maximum 12 participants for this workshop.

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE PRESENTS: Saturday Afternoon at the Movies

YIDL MITN FIDL, A 1936 Yiddish Language Musical (with subtitles) starring Molly Picon:
A Window Into the World of Yiddish Culture
Saturday, March 2, after services

The Library Committee’s One Book Mishkan selection this year is Michael Wex’s Born to Kvetch, which closely examines the Yiddish language to paint a deep portrait of the culture of European Jewry. The movie we’ve picked to complement our book, Yidl Mtn Fidl (1936), features an effervescent young Molly Picon, but the film is also a window into a world of Polish Jewry that would, in a short time, virtually disappear. The first part of the movie was filmed in Kazimierz Dolny, a Polish shtetl that hadn’t changed much in several centuries, and locals served as extras; and the players alongside Picon include performers from Poland’s Yiddish theater and film communities. The remainder of the movie is set in pre-war Warsaw.

The service that takes place at Mishkan Shalom on the morning of March 2 is the congregation’s annual Shoah Torah Shabbat service, which honors the individuals and community in Poland from whom our rescued Torah came. While the movie is a comedy with music, the Library Committee hopes the film will fill in a picture of the civilization many of our ancestors were from, and be another reminder of what was lost and saved in the Shoah.

An oneg/lunch will follow services, and a discussion afterward will be facilitated by Adam Blistein. Details will follow.

All are welcome. $5 donation requested.

TORAH STUDY

Each Shabbat morning we gather to read, discuss, question and explore that week’s Torah portion in sessions led by Mishkan rabbis, members and friends of the community. Together, we become both teachers and students. Torah Study takes place every Shabbat morning from 9:00 - 10:00 am on the third floor, in the Chapel or the Library. Open to adults and teens, members and visitors. There is no fee for Torah Study.
Mazel Tov
We offer a hearty mazel tov to Benji Kaufman and his family, as he becomes Bar Mitzvah this month.

Condolences
We send condolences to Becky Ashare and her family on the loss of her parents, Martin and Maureen Ashare who died in October and November. And to Eugene Sotirescu on the death of his father, Ionel Blumenfeld Sotirescu. May Martin, Maureen and Ionel’s memories be for a blessing and may Becky, Kristen, Eugene, Carol and their families be comforted among all who mourn.

Love and Support
This month we send our ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to Mishkan members Steve Jones, Mindy Maslin, Lisa Auerbach, Alan Tuttle, Gene Bishop, Abby Ruder, Gena Lopata, Ray Kaplan, Teya Sepinuck, Erica Eisenberg, Jane Lipton, Adam Tuttle, Claire Needelmean, Robin Berenholz, Bernice Bricklin, Mark Goodman, Denise Kulp, Robin Leidner, George Kaplan-Meyer, Nathan Horwitz, Lior Feldman and Natalie Gorvine.

We also send ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to all those Mishkan members in need of healing but who seek to remain private.

We are keeping Carol Dombroski (mother of Brian Dombroski), Natalie Caplin (mother of Wendy Caplin), Eleazar Shimon Hakohen ben Shoshana v’Ahron Yosaif (father of Rabbi Shawn Zevit), Sarah Rivka bat Elizabeth (mother of Rabbi Shawn Zevit), Sarah Bradley (mother of David Bradley), Debra Singer(sister of Karen Singer), Patrick Windle (brother of Susan Windle), Sal Berenholz (father of Robin Berenholz), Jackie Berman-Gorvine (daughter-in-law of Natalie & Harold Gorvine), Lorna Michaelson (mother-in-law of Joe Brenman), Edgar Galson (father of Wendy Galson and father-in-law of Susan Windle), and Julie Post and Joseph Post (sister and father of Nancy Post) and in our prayers as well. May they all experience a refuah sheleimah (full healing).

Please notify us if you want a name added to, or removed from, our “Ongoing love, support, and prayers of healing…” list.

Are you receiving Acts of Caring via email?
Acts of Caring now goes out to all Mishkan members. It is our communication central for sharing life cycle events and community needs for help. If you are not receiving Acts of Caring, please check your spam, or if you have gmail, your solicitations folder (Acts of Caring is distributed by Constant Contact). If you unsubscribe from Ma Hadash, intentionally or accidentally, you will also be unsubscribed from Acts of Caring. Please contact the office for clarification.

Acts of Caring
Acts of Caring lets the Mishkan Shalom community learn about significant events in the lives of our members. In this way, we can reach out to one another in times of grief, illness, and joy. To reach us simply email: actsofcaring@mishkan.org.

HINENI--HERE I AM
If you could use a little help because of illness, or joy (new baby!) or you know of a Mishkan member too shy to ask, please email actsofcaring@mishkan.org and we will reach out. Hineni offers concrete support to members in need of short term help, including meals, visits, transportation, etc. If you would like some help, but do not wish a public solicitation, please contact the rabbis, or actsofcaring@mishkan.org and we will speak with you privately and seek to arrange help. Our Hineni coordinators are Lisa Mervis and Chris Taranta.

Got Nachas? Sharing your good news is a marvelous way to connect our community! Please don’t be shy - send all lifecycle events you would like to be posted to our email address: actsofcaring@mishkan.org.
Charles Trey - 1/1 - Tevet 24
Father of Beau Trey

Gloria Heuckeroth - 1/3 - Tevet 26
Mother of Deborah Heuckeroth

Eve Konow - 1/3 - Tevet 26
Mother of Andrea Konow

Alvin Meadows - 1/3 - Tevet 26
Father of Stacey Meadows

William Iser - 1/4 - Tevet 27
Father of Lynne Iser

Esther Muhlstock - 1/4 - Tevet 27
Mother of Susan Kershman & Howard Shapiro

Mae Hausman - 1/5 - Tevet 28
Grandmother of Deenah Loeb

Emanuel Schwager - 1/5 - Tevet 28
Father of Michael Schwager

Polly Brenman - 1/7 - Shevat 1
Mother of Joe Brenman

Abraham Jacob Fisher - 1/7 - Shevat 1
Father of Lillian Sigal

Mathias Coburn - 1/8 - Shevat 2
Father of Jennifer Coburn

Boris (Barry) Reisner - 1/8 - Shevat 2
Brother of Ilana Reisner

Baila Nisson - 1/9 - Shevat 3
Aunt of Natalie Gorvine

Gertrude Colcher - 1/11 - Shevat 5
Grandmother of Amy Colcher

Heinz Marx - 1/11 - Shevat 5
Grandfather of Jessica Menken

Helen Roben - 1/12 - Shevat 6
Mother of Brock Roben

Gideon Sofer - 1/12 - Shevat 6
Brother of Keren Sofer

Jean Kraemer - 1/13 - Shevat 7
Mother of Elise Luce Kraemer

Franklin G. (Jerry) Bishop - 1/14 - Shevat 8
Father of Gene Bishop

Harold Goldberg - 1/14 - Shevat 8
Uncle of Cindy Rosenthal

Lillian Shapiro - 1/15 - Shevat 9
Mother of Stan Shapiro

Adele Weiss - 1/15 - Shevat 9
Mother of Ariel Weiss

Murray Goldman - 1/18 - Shevat 12
Brother of Susan Amsterdam

Robert Colcher - 1/19 - Shevat 13
Father of Amy Colcher

Fannie Erlick - 1/19 - Shevat 13
Grandmother of Anna Forrester

Benjamin Munk - 1/21 - Shevat 15
Grandfather of Jessica Menken

Hans Jack Apfelbaum - 1/22 - Shevat 16
Father of Claudia Apfelbaum

Elynore Windle - 1/22 - Shevat 16
Mother of Susan Windle

Eva Galson - 1/23 - Shevat 17
Mother of Wendy Galson

Jean London - 1/23 - Shevat 17
Mother of Tsurah August

Lawrence Boonin - 1/24 - Shevat 18
Father of David Boonin

Lawrence Boonin (Lazer) - 1/24 - Shevat 18
Father of Nicholas Boonin

Natalie Cohen - 1/25 - Shevat 19
Mother of Craig Cohen

Ann Iser - 1/26 - Shevat 20
Mother of Lynne Iser

Anne Charnow - 1/27 - Shevat 21
Mother of Susan Richards

Lorraine Fowler - 1/27 - Shevat 21
Mother of Terry Fowler

Herman Honeyman - 1/27 - Shevat 21
Father of Charles Honeyman

Harriet Berliner - 1/28 - Shevat 22
Mother of Roberta Rossman

Anna Kramer - 1/29 - Shevat 23
Mother of Marilyn Ackelsberg

Pauline Lutz - 1/29 - Shevat 23
Mother of Judy Lutz

Marcus Singer - 1/29 - Shevat 23
Father of Karen Singer

Ruth Sadoff - 1/30 - Shevat 24
Mother of Deborah Ahrens
Please join us every Saturday for Torah Study from 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

Friday, January 4 – 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn

Saturday, January 5 – 10:00 a.m. – A Way In Mindfulness Service, with Rabbi Yael

Sunday, January 6 – 7:00 p.m. – Rosh Hodesh Celebration

Saturday, January 12 – 10:00 a.m. – A Way In Mindfulness Service, with Rabbi Yael

Friday, January 18 – 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn, Rabbi Brian Walt and Rabbi Yael

Saturday, January 19 – 10:00 a.m. – Martin Luther King Shabbat Service, with School and Teens; 6:00 p.m. – Havdallah Service, with Rabbi Brian Walt

Sunday, January 20 – 9:00 p.m. – Tu B’Sh’vat Service

Saturday, January 26 – 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn. Benji Kaufman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

FOR ALL SHABBAT AND WEEKEND PROGRAMMING, VISIT THE WEBSITE CALENDAR