Rabbi’s Letter

A Month of Moments

by Rabbi Shawn Zevit

In this month of Iyar, there are many days that stand out for their historic resonance - days that have been added to the Jewish calendar by events that transpired in the last century and even in some of our lifetimes.

On Wednesday, May 1, 6:15 p.m., we will be observing Yom Ha‘Shoah V’HaGevurah (“Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day”) with Mishkan member and artist Alan Horn-Greenberg, our Hebrew School students, and some of those who helped design, establish and sponsor our outdoor and indoor Shoah Memorials. Erika Aaron will speak to her family’s journey in the Shoah as we dedicate the plaque in their memory in the indoor Shoah memorial.

You can read the transcript of the speech on Anti-Semitism I gave at the 50th Anniversary Freedom Seder, on pages 10-11.

This month also includes Yom Ha’aztmaut, Israel Independence Day, the anniversary of the founding of the Modern State of Israel in 1948 - but a day also referred to by many Israeli Arabs and Palestinians as Nakba, or “day of decimation.” There will be a program on Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 pm to marking the holiday. A group of about 50 of us have been sharing events, ideas and resources on a listserv established last year to discuss issues related to Israel and Palestine, and Rabbi Brian Walt’s recent visit. Please be in touch with Seth Horwitz if you wish to join this listserv.

I am delighted that one of our own members, Jacob Bender, the only Jewish Executive Director of a regional CAIR chapter, will be screening and discussing his film, “Out of Cordoba: Averroes and Maimonides in Their Time and Ours” at Mishkan, Wednesday, May 8,

Our own movement, now called Reconstructing Judaism, has been built on some philosophical and theological approaches that many of us may not be familiar with. Exploring Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan’s ideas about “spiritual Zionism” and the many articles from “The Reconstructionist” magazine are vital for us to understand some of our own movement’s (continued on the next page)
influences. Reconstructing Judaism is exploring a new Task Force on Israel, building on the prior 2004 Task Force, which is still in process and included as some of its basic guiding principles:

• We will advocate for those in Israeli politics and society who know that it is untenable to continue to rule over a Palestinian population that has no right to vote and no control over their own collective future, however remote and unclear a solution to that dilemma might be.

• We will remind American Jews and all others that Israel operates in a wildly volatile and dangerous region, that anti-Semitism is a real and vicious threat, and we encourage our constituents to take thoughtful and well-informed positions.

• We will model respectful public discourse, despite the all-too-common human impulse to shout down and berate people with whom we disagree. Following our Reconstructionist principles, dissent will be welcome. We do not expect, let alone require, consensus.

In the last couple of years, our movement began offering learning networks on-line regarding “dual Israeli and Palestinian narratives.” You will also find on page 12 of this Kol Shalom an updated compilation of organizations and resources that address Israel-Palestine issues. These resources can support our own communal discussions and actions.

Beyond discussing ideas and concepts, my own way of engaging with Israel and Palestine is by committing to building relationships with Israelis and Palestinians - locally, in Israel/Palestine, and around the world. We are blessed to be able to see this film and explore dimensions of Muslim-Jewish relationships from the middle ages through today.

I especially appreciate the work of Friends of the Earth Middle East, as well as others who understand that environmental justice is key to the safety, security and future of the Middle East. No initiative will provide the peace desired without addressing sustainability of the region, the planet and water, soil, air, etc.

On Friday, May 10, we will gather for our annual Yad l’Yad (Hand to Hand) award honoring of Mishkan Shalom volunteer leaders, this year celebrating Ilene Burak, Alexis Lieberman and David Piver. Yad l’Yad awards are given to recognize those whose contributions and service to Mishkan Shalom have helped to make our community stronger, more vibrant and a better place. While often these accomplishments and service fly beneath the radar, they are so important to our community.

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Our month ends with the last sessions of our Hebrew school on May 19 and May 22, where we celebrate our students and their families. Please remember that the best way for us to grow our Hebrew school and larger Mishkan community is by your inviting family, friends and acquaintances to join you at Mishkan Shalom services and programs. We are also having our annual Weekend in the Woods Mishkan Shalom retreat at Camp Havaya on Memorial Day weekend. For many of us, myself included, this is a highlight of the year!

I look forward to sharing the month ahead with all of you, in prayer, in discussion, in celebration and commemoration, in learning and activism at Mishkan Shalom and in the streets and spaces of our larger community. Hazak Hazak v’nithazek- Let us be strong and strengthen each other!
Yom Ha’Shoah V’HaGevurah
“Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day”
Wednesday, May 1, 6:15 p.m.

Join Rabbis Shawn and Yael, our Shoah Memorial Designer Alan Greenberg and older Hebrew School students as they share their learning about the Shoah and the meaning of our memorial. We will gather at our outside Memorial at 6:15pm, then move inside to the 3rd Floor indoor Shoah memorial to dedicate the plaque in memory Erika Aaron’s family.

Mark Israel Independence Day
at Mishkan, Wednesday, May 8 - 6:15 pm
FILM: “OUT OF CORDOBA”

For Yom Ha’atzamut (Israel Independence Day), members of Mishkan (and our interfaith friends) are invited to a free screening of the award-wining documentary, “Out of Cordoba: Averroes and Maimonides in Their Time and Ours,” about an era of centuries of peaceful coexistence among Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Europe. Jacob Bender, the film’s director, is a member of Mishkan Shalom and will share his insights on the relevance of his 2009 documentary to today. READ MORE >>

On Friday, May 10 - 7:30 pm
We honor three special Mishkan members:
ILENE BURAK, ALEXIS LIEBERMAN & DAVID PIVER

At a Kabbalat Shabbat Service And Yad L’Yad Ceremony, with Rabbi Shawn and Rabbi Yael, we will acknowledge these members for their extraordinary commitment to Mishkan Shalom.

Friday, May 31, 6:00 pm
VILLAGE SHABBAT
SIGN-UP IS LIVE

Sign up for a Village Shabbat, the Friday after Labor Day Weekend. Click Here to sign up!
A Way In
by Rabbi Yael Levy

Dear Friends,

As the month of May unfolds, so does the ancient practice of the Counting of the Omer, the 49-day period that began on the second night of Passover and will culminate on Shavuot.

This counting began as an agricultural rite, a way for our ancestors to pray for a harvest that would be full and sustaining. Over time the counting grew to mark the journey of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt to the experience of revelation at Mt. Sinai. For the Kabbalists, the Jewish mystics, the counting became a time of spiritual cleansing and exploration, a way for all of us to prepare our souls to receive the wisdom and guidance that comes to us on Shavuot.

The practice during the omer is to stand each night and count the coming day with the intention of calling ourselves present to the moment and to the passage of time. The mystics teach that each week and each day contain a specific spiritual quality, and as we count and focus on these qualities we bring healing to our minds, hearts and souls and to the souls of the world.

As we continue to face and respond to the challenges of our times, spiritual practices can help sustain and guide us. Practices can help us stay connected to each other and to what we most love and value. Practices can give us the strength to act even as we don’t always see the results we long for.

Here is a guide for the spiritual qualities and practices for the omer season.

Week 1 The evening of April 20 through April 27
Hesed: Overflowing Love, Kindness, Generosity

We begin the omer journey in the realm of abundant love, and set an intention to cultivate a generous and expansive heart:

May I see the world with eyes of grace, love and compassion.
May I trust that each of us is doing the best we can in each moment.

I place hesed before my eyes and walk in the truths that unfold.  Psalm 26:3

Week 2 The evening of April 27 through May 4
Gevurah: Strength, Judgment, Discernment

The week of Gevurah urges us to see the world through a lens of awe and acknowledge the Mystery we live within. With strength and humility we declare:

May I remember we are all complex, fragile and sacred beings.
May I see and feel the awesome mystery of life alive in myself and in all.

We are called to act with righteousness, grounded in deep faith.  Psalm 119:138

Week 3 The evening of April 20 through May 11
Tiferet: Beauty, Harmony, Balance, Truth

During the week of Tiferet, we breathe in the radiance that emanates from the heart of the world, and we pray for ourselves and each other:

May our hearts know happiness
May our souls know joy.
May our whole being dwell in trust.  Psalm 16:9

(Continued)
Week 4 The evening of May 11 through May 18

Netzach: Vision, Eternity, Endurance

We call forth our capacity for vision and invite our imaginations to soar.
We declare what we love and value and affirm what we “stand for”, rather than what we “stand against.”
We remember that our words and deeds have impact beyond what we can see or know.
We hear the call of our children’s, children’s, children’s and act for their benefit.

TO YOU, INFINITE ONE, I LIFT MY SOUL. PSALM 25:1

Week 5 The evening of May 18 through May 25

Hod: Presence, Gratitude, Glory

This week we are called to practice moment to moment awareness, bringing non-judgmental awareness to all that arises. A helpful intention is:

MAY I MEET THIS MOMENT FULLY, MAY I MEET IT AS A FRIEND.

Week 6 The evening of May 25 through June 1

Yesod: Foundation, Connection

We remember those who came before us, upon whose shoulders we stand.
We bring awareness to our connection to the earth, the animals and the cycles of the seasons.
We ask ourselves, what are the values, the ideals I seek to live by?

MAY MY PRAYERS BE ROOTED,
MAY THEY RISE LIKE INCENSE,
MAY THE OFFERINGS OF MY HANDS BE RECEIVED AS A GIFT. PSALM 141:2

Week 7 The evening of June 1 through June 8

Malchut, Shechina: Majesty, Divine Presence

Each of us, all of us are channels through which the Divine flows.
We are here to offer blessing. We are here to be of service.
May we recognize the lights in ourselves and each other and may we shine these lights for the benefit of all.

I LIFT MY HANDS TO DO MITZVOT, I LIFT MY HANDS TO LOVE. PSALM 119:48

May the season of the omer bring us strength and courage. May it help us see clearly and act wisely. And may the words of our mouths, the love of our hearts and the work of our hands come together for healing, goodness, understanding, well-being and peace.

With love and blessing,
Rabbi Yael

For more on the 7 week-49 day mindfulness practice of counting the omer, including teachings and practices for each day, go to the A Way In web page: https://www.awayin.org
Welcome **Shabbat** with Rabbi Shawn, greet old friends, gather companionably with fellow Mishkaners of every age and life-stage. No planning, no cooking, no cleaning (it’s camp!). Walk or talk? Pray or play? Stretch, swim, sing, crafts, puzzle, sports? Schmooze at Happy Hour, prep for Talent Show, glow in the lights of the campfire or **Havdalah**? Bike? Hike? Sleep? How ‘bout just hangin’ out…doing absolutely not much of anything at all? Bliss!

Well, it’s all only a month and an easy car ride away to Camp **Havaya** (Camp JRF’s new name). “**Havaya**” means “being” in Hebrew, and beckons us to “be as we are” in the luscious, green-as-far-as-the-eye-can-see, Pocono Mountains. We’ll convene with nature, and each other…come and savor the delights of early summer!

**How Much/How Little to Do? You Choose!**
Lovely **Shabbat** gatherings; sports and walks; relish the open air with crafts on the covered porch; swimming and boating in the heated pool and small lake (with canoes, kayaks and paddle boats). Nighttime sparkles with campfires, the excellent Night Hike and the wide-open sky for star-gazing…let alone Saturday night’s “Best (No) Talent Show in the Whole Poconos!” Enjoy any, all, little or none…your choice!

**Reasonable and Flexible Pricing**
Our great get-away is reasonably priced and family-friendly, with a price cap for a family of four for Mishkan members. Fees cover two nights comfy accommodations; six full meals (the food’s delish and the company’s welcoming; fresh fruit, healthy snacks, water and drinks are always on hand), and a great range of programs and activities with all supplies provided.

We’ve also got a partial-weekend option: A one-night stay, including three meals, with prices for grown-ups and kids. However, if cost is an issue, please contact Karen Singer (see brochure): We want everyone to be able to participate.

And the littlest ones? Free, of course. Spending time with your fellow Mishkaners in the fresh mountain air? Well, you know…that’s priceless!

For complete details – including our brochure – visit the Mishkan webpage. Also, you can read comments from past ‘retreatniks,’ see last year’s program schedule, and register yourself for our Weekend in the Woods.

**Questions?** Write co-chairs Lisagail Zeitlin or Lisa Moss at: mishkanweekendinthewoods@gmail.com.

— Sharon Rhode

**Find Everything You Need on our Weekend in the Woods Webpage**
Report from the Immigration and Refugee Collective

By Sharon Barr and Judi Bernstein-Baker

Over the last few months, members of the Mishkan Refugee Collective have been working along side other members of the Northwest Philly Immigration Action and Mobilization (NWPIAM) to support the Ramirez family from Honduras, who are living in Mt Airy, and also the Reyes and Thompson families who have been living in sanctuary at First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG) with the support of the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia. Many members of Mishkan have attended the monthly fundraising Sanctuary dinners at FUMCOG. Some members of our group have also been in conversation with members of Germantown Jewish Center, which has launched its own immigration rights committee.

After a number of conversations among us, we have realized that there may be many other members of the Mishkan community who either are already involved in immigration issues, as lawyers, advocates or volunteers, or may want to get more involved. We also realized that there are other avenues of involvement besides the direct service to individual families, such as advocacy, lobbying, education, and probably other contributions we haven’t thought of. With that in mind, we would like to recalibrate our work and perhaps form more of an “umbrella” for various types of tikkun olam activities relating to immigration and refugee rights.

We invite any interested members to join us on Wednesday evening, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. We will have a meeting at Mishkan Shalom to organize and plan activities for the coming year for our immigrant and refugee rights work.

We welcome everyone to join us as we re-dedicate ourselves to the important work of creating a welcoming community in Philadelphia and beyond.

If you can’t make this meeting, please feel free to contact Sharon Barr at sharonpbarr@gmail.com or Judi Bernstein-Baker at judibernsteinbaker@gmail.com.

Sharon Barr
267.319.2400

Weekend in the Woods: Loving the Outdoors, the Conversations & the Kids

I have no kids. Here’s why the Weekend in the Woods is one of my favorite Mishkan events.

First, I love being in the mountains! When I step out of my car, I take a breath of new, clean spring air: instant relaxation. I walk through the grass and I feel summer coming. On Saturday morning, I sit in the sun. It’s too early for bugs. I walk in the evening and hear the leaves rustling in trees. Just the peaceful setting is my first reason.

Secondly, I get to talk to people that I might have only greeted in passing at Mishkan. We eat at tables of six or eight. We sit outside, or by the pool or lake, and chat. I value that time of casual conversation and building connections.

But my main reason is the kids of Mishkan. The families. I watch families interact in ways that aren’t like time at home. A kid comes in from playing and tells a parent all about it. Another parent and child are looking at tadpoles in the pond by the dining hall. Or sitting together, talking. Or playing basketball. Or lighting candles for Shabbat. They’re not my kids, but I love that family, because they are raising the next generation of Mishkan Shalom. They could be on any vacation, but they came to the Weekend in the Woods with their synagogue. They combined vacation time with a little Judaism. I love that, too.

As co-chair of the Weekend in the Woods, I know we try to create a nourishing atmosphere for every kind of person. I hope you’ll join us this year, May 24-25-26, 2019. Registration’s now open. See you there!

- Lisagail Zeitlin

See you in the Poconos!
Lily Weston
May 11

The first time Lily and her family came to services at Mishkan, they dressed up; that was the custom at the Reform synagogue where they belonged previously.

“We got there and everyone was wearing jeans,” Lily recalls. “I thought: Ohhh…this is fun. And interesting.” The Hebrew School at Mishkan felt different, too, she says: warmer, more intimate. “You got to know the kids in your class. It was much more personalized. There was more talking.”

By 5th grade, Lily knew she’d eventually become a bat mitzvah—but she wasn’t sure exactly what that entailed, except reading from the Torah. An after-school Hebrew reading workshop at her previous synagogue had given her a head start, and she began last year to work with Rivka Jarosh on prayers and trope.

“It was a challenge. Rivka taught me the first few sentences and let me figure out the trope for the rest.”

Lily describes her parasha, Kedoshim (Lev. 19:1-20:27), as “a bunch of rules for how to be holy,” ranging from the ethical (treat your neighbor as you want to be treated) to the practical (don’t eat the meat of an animal sacrifice after the second day). One of those rules links to her tikkun olam project: training her dog, Jelly, a lab/pit bull mix, to be an emotional support animal.

“There’s a part of my portion about leaving a corner of your field unpicked for the homeless or the stranger. I am fortunate enough to have a house and a dog and stuff. I feel like this is my way of leaving a corner of my field. Jelly is the corner of my field.”

Lily and her mom took Jelly to a group class at a nearby Petco for some basic obedience skills—sit; give a paw; lie down. “We taught her to sit down before we cross the street,” Lily says. “But you have to keep the training up every day. She forgets stuff really fast.”

She’s had to apply that same persistence to bat mitzvah preparation, practicing regularly even if that means losing ten minutes from some other activity. Lily, a 7th-grader at The Waldorf School, loves knitting, sewing, woodwork, art and calligraphy, a skill she learned in a Hebrew School hoop last year.

She’s also a devoted swimmer, training four days a week and competing with Friends Select Aquatics. “I’ve tried different sports and I never liked competing. Then I joined a swim team. It was scary at first. When I did a meet, I thought: This is awesome. Why have I waited so long? The meets are so big; no one’s watching you except for your parents. If you mess up, no one knows.”

She’s trying to bring that same relaxed perspective to her bat mitzvah, including the moment when it will finally be her turn to hold the Torah and walk it around the room. “I’ve watched people do it. When I was little, I’d go to services and touch the Torah with the book. It was this cool, magical thing. Now I get to do it.”

Mazel Tov!
Jesse Wein-Gold
May 18

When Jesse was little, Judaism was mostly about taking adult direction…and getting a bagel on Hebrew School mornings. But soon she was filled with restive questions: What does that prayer mean? Why are we saying it? Why should I have a bat mitzvah?

She wasn’t interested in conversational Hebrew. She didn’t feel a pull toward religious observance. “What I like about Judaism is having deep discussions about the Torah,” she says.

Which is why, in her tutoring sessions with Rabbi Michelle Greenfield, they approach the text in a variety of ways: reading in both English and Hebrew, watching animated videos, using a box of lollipops to represent the crops in a field and the directive, in Torah portion Emor, to leave the corners of that field for gleaners. “What if your field doesn’t have corners?” Jesse wonders. “Do you still have to give?”

Of the litany of rules found in Emor (Lev. 21:1-24:23), she enjoyed considering different types of sacrifices, including a “free will” offering which, Jesse explains, “isn’t like ‘free will’ in terms of philosophy, but more like…give what you can. Give what you think is right.”

That made her think about systems of government and their limitations. “When there’s too much government interfering, you have no freedom. But when there are no rules for anyone, that ends up terrible. You have to have a balance between humanity and rules.”

For Jesse’s tikkun olam project, she turned to a longtime passion—baking. She loves the precision of recipes and the autonomy of creating a dessert from raw ingredients to finished product. Once a month, she makes dessert for Meals on Wheels—60 brownies or chocolate chip cookies portioned into packets and delivered to people who are homebound because of age or illness.

Jesse’s a 7th-grader at The Grayson School in Broomall, which has just 70 students and a generous amount of curricular freedom. In school, she’s read graphic novels, takes a weekly baking class and recently partnered with a friend to create a “business for the future.” They devised “Rent-a-Pet,” in which self-driving cars would deliver animals to prospective owners who wished to try out animal care before making a permanent decision.

Jesse still has questions about the practice of b’nai mitzvah: Why do we do this? Does the ritual represent anything like adulthood? “I think it’s to show that you are different, that you’re not a small kid anymore. It shows that you’ve grown.

“I know the service more now. It’s nice to know that I can ask questions, that there are different ways to be Jewish. To be honest, I’m giving this a try. One major reason I’m doing it is that it’s something people expect of me—a cultural thing. It would be hard not to do it. One of the other reasons I’m doing it is so when I’m 30, I don’t think, ‘Oh, what would have happened if I hadn’t had a bat mitzvah?’”
50th Anniversary Freedom Seder Speech: The Plague of Anti-Semitism

by Rabbi Shawn Zevit

Haggadah - the Telling, from the word l’hagid- to tell.

This year’s Freedom Seder, marking the 50th Anniversary of the first Freedom Seder held in Washington DC, was held on Sunday, April 7, at the Masjidullah Mosque. At the calling of Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Rabbi Phyllis Berman, we gathered together with over 400 brothers and sisters of all faiths and backgrounds, for a new “re-telling” of the Passover story. We gathered to respond to the plagues of our time. I was asked to address the plague of Anti-Semitism from personal experience.

Summer, 2018. The plague has its signature words: “JEWS SHALL NOT REPLACE US” the signs declared.

White supremacist arms ablaze with torches
Marching through the streets of Charlottesville
Emboldened from on high
And fanned by winds of intersecting
Racism, homophobia, xenophobia, islamophobia
And yes, Anti-Semitism.

The election of 2016 unleashes a new level of vitriol and chaotic leadership. Over 200 members of the Jewish clergy gather in New York as Truah: Rabbis for Human Rights, to discuss and strategize how to respond to this moment.

Eric Ward, an African American leader and leading advocate for justice, has devoted his professional life to countering racism, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. He reminds us of the insidiousness of Anti-Semitism and how it intersects and interweaves in all forms of hate. “I pray you will join me in this fight, for in the end I have come to see that as long as Anti-Semitism is unchecked and allowed to fester, my liberation as an African American is also impossible.”

Now: After Charlottesville, and after the blood-stained floors of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

In very recent history, Jews were considered non-white minorities, blocked from a variety of professions and neighborhoods and colleges…

Now we name every prejudice, and name this plague. In this country we address our privilege, our whiteness, and work on all forms of discrimination and injustice. Around the world, we work to preserve democracy in Israel, promote Palestinian self-determination, and end oppression for the Palestinian people.

From the Freedom Seder: “Plagues of Our Times”

RACISM – systemic oppression of African-American, Latinos, and Native communities in education, employment, the “justice” system from police to courts to prisons, and in voter suppression; religious bigotry, Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, anti-immigrant hatred

MILITARISM – gun violence, ICE, border patrols, militarization of police, vast sums spent on new wave of extremely dangerous nuclear weapons

MATERIALISM – asthma caused by environmental racism, opioid epidemic, homelessness, gulf between the wealthy and the rest of us, planetary danger of climate chaos imposed by greed of Corporate Carbon Pharaohs

SEXISM – (including sexual harassment, molestation, rape, violence against GLBTQ and Trans folks, gender inequality in pay and roles)

The slide show of my imprinted experience:

I walk the streets of Winnipeg, my childhood neighborhood. There’s a new kid standing next to some others. He walks towards me and punches me in the stomach. I bend over crying in pain and run home. Later we met again, and I asked, “Why did you do that?” “Those older kids told me to punch the Jewish kid.” He is Polish Catholic. Eddie and I become friends.

Andy and I lived a block apart, playing all the time. One Sunday after church, we are playing, he said, “You killed Christ.” and then he said “I’m sorry.” We became better friends.

I am 13, and, a month after my November 2, 1972 bar mitzvah, we are off to Sydney,
Australia, following my dad's professional options.

The first week I am amazed at how many Jews there seem to be in my public school of 1,500 boys - all of us dressed in matching grey shirts, pants and ties. “Hey, Jew,” “you Jewed him” permeate the halls and classrooms. It isn’t long before I realize that I am the only Jew - and I am also a figure of speech. When I hear the “Jew” word in science class one day, I turn to my close friend, Mark, himself a bi-racial child of a native New Zealander and a white Australian, and say, “you know, I’m actually Jewish.” He bolts up like a possessed person and pointing his finger at me he shouted “you Jew!” I was in shock. No one looks at us, just another swear word after all, and Mark backs down immediately and apologizes, “I’m so sorry, mate, I just never met a Jew before.” Our friendship deepens. We take stands for each other.

I return to Toronto and join the ninth grade. On October 2, 1973, I am escorted by a fellow student in my new school to help orient me. At lunch I gather with a group of classmates in the cafeteria. I am now at a public high school, where 80% of the students are Jewish. I see a group at the back of the cafeteria seemingly in their own orbit. There are some loud exchanges and back slapping that comes from there. I hear laughter accompanying derogatory references to the cultural groups those students represent. Jews putting down other Jews with slang I had only heard from other groups about us before. We have internalized this oppression and turned it towards ourselves or other minorities with us.

My heartbeat quickens and a voice comes through me that now will not go quietly. “I am really uncomfortable with us talking about anybody else this way or putting anyone else down.” There is a long enough silence for me to hear my own words and a sinking feeling follows attached to an assumption, one I am embarrassed to acknowledge, that as the new kid on the block I have likely ended relationships before they began. Paul says, “Okay, that’s cool,” and the conversation goes on. I hear little of this talk, at least in front of me, from that day on. Paul is one of my dearest friends to this day.

I am in university, working for the summer at my dad’s photo-finishing plant in Calgary, Alberta. Not everyone knows who I am. I head out for delivery and overhear “What is it with this Jew boss hiring all these women as managers, these blacks and Vietnamese boat people, what the hell? what is this country coming to!” It is coming into the light I whisper to myself - not yet ready to say something aloud in the midst of hostility - after all I have been called a “good Jew,” a special example, not wealthy, accepting - not like the other ones they know. We do not become friends.

Shabbat, Saturday, October 27, 2018

We are glowing at Mishkan Shalom in the wake of the beautiful b’nai mitzvah of a brother and sister that morning. The young woman has written music to the holiness code of Leviticus 19- “You shall love each and love ourselves.”

As I leave the service, I am told the news- bloodshed in the Tree of Life Synagogue - the synagogue that houses Dor Hadash - a community I served for three years as visiting rabbi 2005-8, before they moved to that building.

In a House of God there is no peace, only wailing.
Illusions of safety and security are shattered.
White supremacist hatred,
Hatred of our Jewish brothers and sisters
Who have dared help immigrants and refugees!
Fighting for sanctuary.

In this sweet land of liberty that holds the huddled masses.
The names come in - the plague takes real souls, not statistics.
Jerry Rabinowitz- dear Jewish brother with whom I served under your Presidency, kind-hearted doctor who would not abandon those living with AIDS when the disease broke, who would embrace all, and not wear gloves, lest the human touch be denied those suffering - you rushed in to support the fallen and your life was extinguished - your lifeless body joining the others.

We cannot pretend that this particularly complex, Centuries-old hate, fear and ignorance Called Anti-Semitism
Burned up with the Nazi death camps,
Or dissipated in the acceptance by North American society,
Or can be extinguished by militarily or personally “striking first”.

“None of us are free until all of us are free”…

“NEXT YEAR IN A WORLD OF FREEDOM!”
Resources for Learning and Activism Regarding Israel and Palestine
Compiled and updated by Rabbi Shawn Zevit- April 2019

This wide-ranging list, within the commitments of our Statement of Principles, will help us learn and engage with what is happening in North America and in the Middle East. It reflects a progressive perspective, without advocating for any particular organization. I began compiling this list as a communal resource and offer my thanks to a number of Mishkan Shalom members interested in re-energizing our Israel-Palestine engagement. With help from our members this list will grow over time.

Please forward additional links to rabbishawn@mishkan.org; To participate in our Israel-Palestine discussion listserv please e-mail Seth Horwitz, reachseth@gmail.com; Please also check out the rich array of resources and articles in our April 2018 Kol Shalom.

We begin by appreciating the work of Friends of the Earth Middle East as well as Rabbi Yonatan Neril, The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development and others who understand that environmental justice is key to the safety, security and future of the Middle East. No initiative will provide the peace desired without addressing the environmental degradation of water and soil and rising sea levels. The Arava Institute does amazing peace and conflict resolution work in the context of their academic programs on sustainability and ecology.

- Ali Abu Awad TEDX Jerusalem – Ali has visited Mishkan Shalom twice
- Ameinu
- Center for Jewish Arab Education in Israel – Rabbi Shawn is on their rabbinic advisory council
- Combatants for Peace
- Combatants for Peace Film
- Givat Haviva International School
- Hagel (The Field): Jews and Arabs in Defense of Human Rights (Rabbi Arik Ascherman)
- House of Hope
- If Not Now Movement
- Islamic Relief USA
- JStreet
- Jewish Voice for Peace
- Just Vision
- Neve Shalom/Wahat Al Salaam
- New Israel Fund
- Open Hillel
- Palestinian Peace Coalition
- Partners for Progressive Israel
- Rabbis for Human Rights
- Rabbi Shawn's Travel Log from Dec 2014 Israel Trip
- Roots/Shorashim – connected to Mishkan Shalom friend Al Abu Awad
- Sulha Peace Project
- Tikkun Magazine
- The Parents' Circle and American Friends of the Parents' Circle and Combatants for Peace
- Truah
- Wikipedia Arab-Israeli Peace Projects

Resources From the Reconstructionist Movement

- https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/article/resources-respectful-dialogue-israel
- Rabbi Toba Spitzer, RRC ’97: “A Guide to Talking about Israel in Your Congregation”
- PEARL call with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, RRC ’85, and Cherie Brown, founder and executive director of the National Coalition Building Institute: “Having the Hard Conversations about Israel”.
- Six Journal Entries from Israel, July 2014, by Rabbi Lester Bronstein, Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
- Tikkun Olam Resources Inside Israel, compiled by Rabbi Amy Klein, RRC ’96

Resources From Beyond the Reconstructionist Movement

- JCPA Civility Statement
- The Jewish Dialogue Group
- E-Jewish Philanthropy Blog and Resources for Educators and Parents
- Makom Educator Materials
- Encounter Communications Guidelines
- Post 2019 Election Message from Rabbi Jill Jacobs
- Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer's publication: Strangers, Neighbors, Friends, Haaretz (Israel's progressive media)
Sunday, May 19, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Library Committee’s One Book Mishkan presents an afternoon of

Yiddish Stories, Poetry and Music!

Featuring:
Makhel’at Michael, Mishkan’s Community Choir,
Director Miriam Davidson

Judy Kleppel and Klezmer Friends
and Readers from Mishkan
Eilen Levinson, Producer

The rich world of Yiddish culture will come to life with staged readings of stories and poetry (in English), Klezmer music and evocative songs from our Choir. Don’t miss this uplifting visit to our past.

Delightful and Delectable Reception to follow.
Suggested Donation: $10.00
In the Mishkan Social Hall, 1st Floor
**Mazel Tov**
We offer a hearty mazel tov to Lili Weston and Jessie Wein-Gold and their families, as they become *b’nai mitzvah* this month. And to Gabrielle Kaplan-Maye, as she celebrates 20 years at Mishkan Shalom.

**Love and Support**
This month we send our ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to Mishkan members Marc Jacobs, Joyce Hanna, Elissa Goldberg, Orly Zeewy, Steve Jones, Mindy Maslin, Lisa Auerbach, Gene Bishop, Gena Lopata, Eileen Levinson, Ray Kaplan, Erica Eisenberg, Jane Lipton, Adam Tuttle, Claire Needleman, Robin Berenholz, Bernice Bricklin, Mark Goodman, Denise Kulp, Robin Leidner, George Kaplan-Meyer, Nathan Horwitz, Lior Feldman, Miriam Samuelson, 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 Yosai (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), Edgar Galson (father of Wendy Galson and father-in-law of Susan Windle), Don Levinson, brother of Eileen Levinson, 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.

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**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*.

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14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Yahrzeit</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Myers</td>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Nissan 26</td>
<td>Father of Phyllis Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray Bradley</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>Nissan 28</td>
<td>Father of David Bradley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Goldsmith</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>Nissan 28</td>
<td>Billy &amp; Rachel Linstead Goldsmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Jacobson</td>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>Nissan 30</td>
<td>Steve &amp; Keely Newman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Lopata</td>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>Nissan 30</td>
<td>Grandmother of Robert Lopata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nat Nisson</td>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>Nissan 30</td>
<td>Uncle of Natalie Gorvne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradd Levine</td>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>Iyar 4</td>
<td>Partner of Bob Prischak</td>
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<td>Norman Lazin</td>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>Iyar 5</td>
<td>Father of Brenda Lazin</td>
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<td>Samuel Goldstein</td>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>Iyar 6</td>
<td>Father of Bea Leopold</td>
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<td>Ralph Halstuch</td>
<td>5/13</td>
<td>Iyar 8</td>
<td>Father of Helene Halstuch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eve Bober-Bakely</td>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>Iyar 10</td>
<td>Daughter of Jeff Bakely &amp; Gail Bober</td>
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<td>Edgar Read</td>
<td>5/16</td>
<td>Iyar 11</td>
<td>Father of Art Read</td>
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<td>Judy Goldberg</td>
<td>5/17</td>
<td>Iyar 12</td>
<td>Mother of Elissa Goldberg</td>
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<td>5/17</td>
<td>Iyar 12</td>
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<td>Mildred Stone</td>
<td>5/18</td>
<td>Iyar 13</td>
<td>Mother of Andrew Stone</td>
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<td>Sidney Shore</td>
<td>5/20</td>
<td>Iyar 15</td>
<td>Father of Neal Shore</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Segel</td>
<td>5/22</td>
<td>Iyar 17</td>
<td>Father of Amy Segel</td>
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<td>Charles Parnes</td>
<td>5/23</td>
<td>Iyar 18</td>
<td>Grandfather of Charles Honeyman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Mock</td>
<td>5/25</td>
<td>Iyar 20</td>
<td>Father of Harry Mock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evelyn Antonowsky</td>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>Iyar 21</td>
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<td>Maggie Fine</td>
<td>5/26</td>
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<td>Harry Horwitz</td>
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<td>Iyar 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Andrew Morozin</td>
<td>5/31</td>
<td>Iyar 26</td>
<td>Brother of Kerry Goldman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please join us for Torah Study each Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. – A Way In Mindfulness Service, with Rabbi Yael

Sunday, May 5, 7:00 p.m. – Rosh Hodesh celebration

Friday, May 10, 7:00 p.m. – Yad l’Yad and Kabbalat Shabbat Service , with Rabbis Shawn and Yael

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn. Lily Weston will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn. Jessie Wein-Gold will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

Saturday, May 25, 10:00 a.m. - Shabbat Service with Rabbis Phyllis Berman and Arthur Waskow

FOR ALL SHABBAT AND WEEKEND PROGRAMMING
VISIT THE WEBSITE CALENDAR

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Kol Shalom is published monthly, September through June.
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