A Sabbatical Message from Rabbi Shawn, November 2019

In Leviticus 25:2-4 we learn: “When you enter the land that I assign to you, the land shall observe a Sabbath of the Lord. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of complete rest, a Sabbath of the Lord.”

Dear Hevre,

What a wonderful month we have just celebrated together ushering in the Jewish New Year, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. In the blink of any eye- with much gratitude to our leadership, rabbinic and office staff and all of you, I have the blessing and privilege of a six-month Sabbatical beginning November 4, 2019, through May 11, 2020.

I will return for two weeks from January 17- 30. During those two weeks, there is a whirlwind of activities over MLK weekend, as well as New Members Shabbat, Izzy Field’s bar mitzvah service, and more.

I feel many things. I feel gratitude to our community, our staff, our lay leadership (especially our President Steve Jones and the Executive and Sabbatical Committees) and the many members who are stepping up to cover various aspects of our communal life. I want to appreciate in advance, this opportunity to renew and recharge and come back to you for what I pray are many more years.

The question I am often asked is, “what will you do?” I do have some writing, music, projects that I have had on the burner or dreamed of completing for a long time, and my outside Mishkan work (which is contractually ¾ time), that is ongoing. I hope to visit family, including our two young granddaughters in Cleveland, Toronto and British Columbia. In addition, I am looking forward to having the space to explore what turning 60 means for me and to discern among the many “things,” ideas and life lessons I have accrued both materially and spiritually over the

(continued on the next page)
year; what still supports who I have become, what needs to be developed and what needs to be let go in order to make space for this next phase of life personally and professionally. As Rabbi Simcha continues her work at the Narberth Havurah and as the rabbinic chaplain at HUP, I will be here for large portions of the time so do not be so surprised if we bump into each other!

At the same time, as I communicated through Acts of Caring just before Rosh Hashanah, my mother Sheila, just turning 80, is now facing a rare form of cancer and is entering the limited treatment available to us very soon. We simultaneously have my dad Lester, 81, who is in the middle stages of Alzheimer’s, on a waiting list for a supported care facility. When the primary caregiver becomes ill, everything shifts. We simply do not know how this year will unfold, and so some of the travel and other plans we were looking at, need to be penciled in to make space for whatever needs arise in Victoria, BC, where they live. Your ongoing prayers are of great comfort and I will, as it makes sense, update people through Acts of Caring.

I care about each of you and my own way of being in life has become so connected to being of service and support to our shared Mishkan Shalom and the greater community- and will miss being part of the daily life of Mishkan. I feel incredibly honored and blessed to be a part of your lives through joy and sorrow, and I ask your forgiveness in advance if I am not there for you as I would wish to be this next while. Of course, with Rabbi Yael stepping up to double her time, along with Maria, Gari, Gabby, Mr. Charles, our Hebrew school teachers, member rabbis, our board, and other skilled leaders—the pastoral, spiritual life, justice work and day-to-day running of our community is in great hands. Please reach out to them as you need depending on the issue and they will be happy to help.

I will periodically check and make brief replies to emails, primarily to our Mishkan Shalom leadership and staff. Otherwise, my away reply in email and phone will help direct people to those in leadership roles.

Our Mishkan Shalom is an amazing community. Caring. Passionate. Diverse. Spiritually Active. Committed to one another, to the Jewish people, Greater Philadelphia and to the world. We are strong, gifted with so many people of so many talents. I look forward to this time away, to discover how we shall both grow and change, and I look forward to an exciting and important future together when I return.

See you again soon and wishing you loving connections, resilience, wellbeing and clarity of purpose and meaning in life—now and always, b’vrachah v’hoda’ah— with blessing and gratitude,

Rabbi Shawn Israel Zevit

Opportunities for Israel/Palestine Discussion in November...

*** Please click the title of each event for further details. ***

A Reason for Hope:  
An Evening with “Combatants for Peace”  
Saturday, Nov. 2 - 7:00pm - at Mishkan

Perceptions of One Another & the Ideologies Underlying the Conflict  
(2) Thursdays, Nov. 7 & Nov. 14 - 7:30 pm - the home of Harold and Natalie

Israel-Palestine Discussion Gatherings- Sunday, Nov. 10, 10:00 am - at Mishkan
Dear Friends,

Shanah tovah, once again and blessings for 5780. As I was preparing for the Holidays, I realized that this is my 25th year at Mishkan Shalom. I started here in 1994 while I was still a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. I grew into a rabbi under the guidance of founding Rabbi Brian Walt and among many of you. My role and responsibilities have shifted and changed over the years and I am deeply grateful for the depth and width of the journey.

This year, as Rabbi Shawn goes on sabbatical, I will be taking a larger role in the services including Friday nights. I will be present at school on Wednesday nights and more involved in the day-to-day comings and goings of synagogue life. Even as I will miss Rabbi Shawn (a lot), I look forward to this opportunity to explore and grow together.

Please be in touch if you have any questions or if you would like to get together. You can reach me at the synagogue at 215-508-0226 ext. 2 or by email at ravyael@mishkan.org. Please note that I do not answer calls or emails on Shabbat except, of course, for emergencies.

I will also be continuing my work with A Way In Jewish Mindfulness Organization, which offers retreats, web teachings, weekly meditation sits in addition to Shabbat services. I am excited to let you know that a book I have been working on for a long time has just been published by A Way In. It is called; Directing the Heart: Weekly Mindfulness Teachings and Practices from the Torah. We will be celebrating the book’s release on November 10, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Mishkan. I hope to see you there. I will also have books available in the next couple of weeks.

As the season continues to unfold, may we continue to be strengthened and inspired by each other. May goodness and blessing come through the words of our mouths, the work of our hands and the meditations of our hearts.

Shalom,
Rabbi Yael

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Email articles by the 15th of each month to levinson@Leavys.com
President’s Message

On the wall in our community room, the Heschel-King Room, there is a dedication to our founding rabbi, Brian Walt, and an image of civil rights marchers in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, whose number include Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King, Jr. The text of the dedication includes an excerpt from Heschel's essay “On Prayer,” published in 1969:

“Prayer is meaningless unless it is subversive, unless it seeks to overthrow and to ruin the pyramids of callousness, hatred, opportunism, falsehoods.”

I have always been drawn to the image and text, partly because of the Hawaiian leis the marchers, including Heschel, are wearing, a gift from Rev. Abraham Akaka of Kawaiaha’o Church.

Also, I have always had a particular fondness for the word “subversive.”

The larger context of Heschel’s “subversive” comment, and its link to our mythical experience in Egypt, is a discussion about the need for a new Jewish liturgy, a discussion that, fifty years later, is still at the core of the re-working of prayer practice that happens every day at Mishkan Shalom.

In other places in Heschel's essay, he spells out more clearly the link between prayer and what we would call activism:

“...The divorce of liturgy and living, of prayer and practice, is more than a scandal; it is a disaster...[P]rayer as a voice of mercy, as a cry for justice, as a plea for gentleness, must not be kept apart from public life. Let the spirit of prayer dominate the world. Let the spirit of prayer interfere in the affairs of man. Prayer is private, a service of the heart; but let concern and compassion, born out of prayer, dominate public life.”

In recent years our community has made strides in linking together our prayer and our activism. Thanks to the leadership of our rabbis, I think we understand better that our prayers on Saturday morning are not worth much if we don’t act for justice, in our own ways, on the other six days of the week. And similarly, we are not going to be able to carry out our activism without a sustaining life of the spirit.

One of my hopes for 5780 is that we continue to develop meaningful forms of prayer, whether it is Saturday morning services led by Rabbi Yael, a Friday night sing-along at Nancy and Seth’s house, prayers for those whose needs are expressed in Acts of Caring, participation in the Rosh Hodesh group, or our own private prayers.

And linked to that hope for 5780 is that we use the strength we gain from our spiritual practice to act for good in the world. We have joined other religious communities in the POWER coalition, which will need our energy in the struggle for a living wage and decent working conditions for low-wage workers in our region. We will need that strength, after a long day of our other work, whether it is paid or unpaid, to live out that core aspect of our identity as Jews to love and support the stranger, through our work with our own Immigrant and Refugee Rights Committee, or Philadelphia’s New Sanctuary Movement. And we need that power of the spirit for the everyday acts of menschlichkeit which, I believe, are the foundation of a meaningful life.

And what about the third leg, the third pillar of our understanding of a commitment to living as a Jewish community: Torah? I am so optimistic about us that I believe we can walk, chew gum, and hum a niggun at the same time. This year I clearly see a religious school that sustains our kids, their families, and also enlivens the wider community. I see more of us having the chutzpah to step forward to lead Torah study sessions before services. I see an energized Library Committee bringing us explorations of Jewish texts, including this year’s One Book selection, The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit. I see a renewed Lifelong Learning Program that organizes members to learn together.

And what makes me so optimistic about us in 5780? It’s my faith in our subversiveness.

L'shalom, b’ahava, solidarity,
Steve Jones
Hello Mishkan Members!

This page was going to share pictures of our kids doing some good work on behalf of the environment at our annual Mishkanathon but, because it was a rainout, this is an adjusted report about our school, our kids and more.

First of all, our Site Stewards DID manage, through the wetness, to plant two hackberry trees donated by Mindy Maslin and Sid Ozer on the island in the lower parking lot and 60 plants donated by the LandHealth Institute along the edges of the upper parking lot. Thank you!

AND – we are especially happy to report that we will try again for Mishkanathon on Sunday 11/10 from 11:00 am to noon. There is still more to do: cut the old trees from the island, create fencing around our new plantings, pick up trash.

WHICH MEANS that there is still time to make a contribution in support of the school. Our kids raised more than $2,800 in pledges and we would love to get to $3,000! $3,600? Do you think it is possible? Here is the link to use to make your contribution.

Lastly, we want to share these pictures made by the Dalet class as they studied Bereshit and the Seven Days of Creation with teacher Amy Goldman. Each one will bring a smile to your face and illustrates exactly why we all do this and why Mishkan Shalom – and our school – is so vital and exciting. Please consider supporting the school and the upcoming Mishkanathon.

Best always – Gari and Gabby

Mishkanathon Rescheduled: Sunday, Nov. 10, 10:00 am to Noon
Noah Barkan
November 9

He remembers learning the aleph-bet and earning prizes. He remembers playing gaga during a Hebrew School elective. And he remembers how baffling trop was at first—all those letters, minus the vowels, plus the cantillation marks, each with its own name and melody.

“I would read through the phrase, learn all the trop marks, hear what it sounded like, and I’d put it together,” he says. “I was nervous about the service—about reading from the Torah. But I felt excited about seeing all my family,” who are spread from Seattle to Washington, D.C. to Boston.

In Noah’s parasha, Lech L’cha (Gen. 12:1-17:27), Avram and Sarai (not yet Abraham and Sarah) “leave their house and go to a new land that’s had a famine,” Noah says. “The beginning was kind of confusing; they’re walking through a bunch of different lands.”

From those verses, Noah teased out an enduring theme. “I’m going to talk about helping each other achieve our goals,” and how our own actions, such as Avram’s sexist attitudes toward Sarai in the parasha, may become obstacles to our success.”

“Teachers can help you achieve your goals. A lot of people know what they want to be when they grow up. But teachers help put you on the right path to be that or help you figure out exactly what you want to do,” he says.

Noah’s received some of that guidance at Bala Cynwyd Middle School. He liked the open curriculum of the “Evolve” program in 6th grade; he wrote a screenplay based on the life of journalist Nellie Bly. This year, he likes science—they’re learning physics—though English is consistently his favorite subject.

For his tikkun olam project, Noah volunteers at a senior citizens’ home, playing bingo with residents who have Alzheimer’s, witnessing their pleasure when they receive candy for a winning card. Some of them remind Noah of his great-grandparents; though he was in elementary school when they died, he remembers talking to them and going with them to feed the ducks. From older adults, he says, “I’ve learned to appreciate the life you have in the moment. Even when you’re older, you can still appreciate the life you have.”

Noah’s a veteran performer: he’s been in several Wolf Performing Arts Center productions, including Peter and the Starcatcher. Currently, he’s playing the gander in Charlotte’s Web. He plays the piano, too—mostly classical music.

If he feels nervous before his bar mitzvah—and he might, as he remembers his anxiety before opening the ark at his sister’s bat mitzvah —“I’ll remember that everyone’s there to support me,” he says.

Noah appreciates Mishkan for its untraditional approach and its acceptance of people. Bar mitzvah, he says, “feels like a marking point. You’re probably not going to have an experience like this any other time in your life. The more work you put into it, the more rewarding it is.”
The morning service at Masada was just the prelude. As part of a three-generation family trip to Israel last December—including visits to Jaffa, the Galilee and Jerusalem—David and his mom co-led an intimate weekday service.

“It was just my family. The climb was fun,” David says. “I did some prayers. I’d started studying for my bar mitzvah the month before. That gave me a kick-start.”

That Israel trip left other impressions: how everyone seemed to know each other; how many people spoke English; how underwhelmed he was by meals of falafel.

His path toward bar mitzvah—an “of course” rather than a decision in his family—began when he was five. “I remember Gabby singing songs to us as little children,” he says. Later, David remembers, he and some classmates did a project that involved naming world problems and creating a poster about the global water shortage.

“The plusses [of Hebrew School] were that it was fun, it wasn’t that hard and I got to talk to some of my friends. The down side was that it cut time out of my weekend.”

His parasha, Vayera (Gen. 18:1-22:24), covers a lot of ground: “It’s about how Sarah can’t have a baby, and then God gives them a child. Also, God tries to destroy Sodom, but Abraham tries to stop him by using irregular tactics. He says, ‘Would you destroy it if there were 50 righteous people?’ and God says no. Abraham almost convinces God, but then God destroys it anyway.

“I thought it was really cool the way Abraham tries to convince God, because usually no one does that. They just state their opinions.”

For his tikun olam project, David was certain he wanted to do something with animals. He loves elephants and hippos—“they’re so different from humans,” he says—but working with dogs seemed more plausible. So he volunteers at Doggie Style Pets in Narberth, walking and playing with dogs that are waiting to be adopted.

At Welsh Valley Middle School, David likes math, even the early-in-the-year review of how to divide and multiply fractions. He plays trombone. He used to wrestle and play baseball and soccer; at the moment, bar mitzvah preparation gobbles much of his free time.

“I’ve learned some new prayers,” he says. “I’ve learned more about the community as a whole. Mishkan is less formal than other synagogues. We don’t have to do certain things or dress a certain way. It’s not as strict.”

And while age 13 is far from being fully grown, David does see his bar mitzvah as a threshold of sorts. “When you’re age zero to 12, you’re pretty dumb,” he says. “From 13 to 18, you’re still a kid, but you have more understanding about the world; you can talk to people and understand what older people are talking about.”

David’s grandfather turns 83 this year, the age at which, according to Jewish custom, one may have a second bar mitzvah. He’ll have a special aliyah in honor of the occasion. As for David, he’s looking forward to the moment when he receives Mishkan’s mark of congregational adulthood. “I’ll have my nametag,” he says. “I’ll have status.”
New Member Corner

**Talia Hoke**

by David Calloway

Talia Hoke (pronounced Tah-lee’-ah) calls herself “a textbook version of diversity in one person.” As a young child, with both her African-American birth mother and her mom’s Italian Catholic partner working full-time, she spent her weekdays with Spanish-speaking caretakers. Talia still regrets that she totally lost her Spanish after her family moved from Los Angeles to Philadelphia. Although neither of Talia’s moms is Jewish, to her eclectic, “new-Age-y” birth mother, thinking of her young daughter as a “Jewish soul” somehow just felt right.

At around age twelve, after Talia attended services of many religions, her mom suggested she choose one. Talia, having long “just felt Jewish,” chose Judaism. Through early adulthood, Talia lived in various locales on both coasts, including a “life-changing” stay on an Oregon commune—“If I’d known about kibbutzim, I would have tried that.”

After graduating from Southern Oregon University, she again moved east. In 2015, having recently completed her conversion to Judaism at a Brooklyn Reform synagogue, Talia moved to Manayunk. She Googled “synagogues in Manayunk,” and “of course, Mishkan popped up.” Talia was immediately drawn by Rabbi Shawn’s bullhorn-wielding rally photo. She talked to Rabbi Shawn, came to a service, and quickly joined. Seeing the “diversity and ethnicities and the building itself, I immediately felt at home,” Talia says. “Mishkan Shalom is so unique… talking to Jewish friends in other parts of country, even in Philly, they’re dumbfounded. Friends who come to services say they’ve never been to a service like this before…it’s awesome! I feel blessed and fortunate to have stumbled across it.

Asked what she loves most about Mishkan Shalom, Talia replied, “The acceptance, the atmosphere and culture of understanding, have been an inspiration and influence and support in my life, thru some of the challenges I’ve had in the past four years…I wouldn’t be where I am today without Mishkan Shalom. “When I was struggling,” Talia recalls, “people reached out, never with judgment, always expressing concern: I love you, can I take you out for dinner. Here I am keeping my struggle a secret, and people could see I was suffering.” She “got just enough of a gentle push to help me leave a difficult relationship, and arms that caught me when I fell. I’m eternally grateful.”

Talia finds Mishkan “like the bed in goldilocks, not too firm or too soft, just right.” She likes getting the Acts of Caring emails “when someone needs something; it’s just the right frequency.” Talia enjoys whatever Mishkan events she can get to. Although her evenings are mostly taken up with client family sessions, she would gladly support other members in other ways, such as professional networking. Talia says she would “love to see a Celebrations! group for people of color with challenges.” Talia sees the need for “a group where Mishkan’s people of color can work on their Jewish identity, and to validate our experiences; maybe a quarterly potluck.” She describes two such experiences: “I hate it when I go into a Jewish store, and get challenged for wearing a Star of David. Or in Jewish settings, people wanting to explain what’s going on, assuming I don’t know. Talking to others experiencing that, sharing stories and experiences, would be helpful.”

“My partner now is African-American, and not Jewish,” Talia says. Several of her friends are in interracial and mixed religious (Jewish and Christian) partnerships and raising children. She is in an organization of such families, whose poster, “Jews come in all colors,” is “on display at Mishkan.” She looks forward to talking to Rabbi Shawn about spearheading such a group for herself and her partner, as well as other similar families at Mishkan Shalom.
## Immigrant and Refugee Rights Committee – November 2019

By Gail Bober

**Our Mission:** The Immigrant and Refugee Rights Committee seeks to engage Mishkan as an institution and our individual members in the struggle for immigrant justice and refugee protection. We do this through:

- Coordinating and building upon existing efforts as a member congregation of New Sanctuary Movement, supporter of HIAS PA/HiAS International, participant in the Northwest Philadelphia Immigrant Action and Mobilization and interfaith initiatives that assist refugees, asylum seekers and those facing deportation.
- Acting as a clearinghouse and resource to provide information throughout the congregation hands-on support activities, advocacy and direct action and protest.
- Educating ourselves and members of our congregation on immigrant and refugee rights, connecting our experience as Jews who fled persecution and oppression to the experience of today’s immigrants and refugees.

**CHECK THIS PAGE OUT EACH MONTH** for activities, volunteer and advocacy opportunities relating to immigrant and refugee rights at Mishkan Shalom and the wider community. We will provide links to resources and allied organizations. Questions? Suggestions? Please contact Gail Bober, gbober52@gmail.com. Interested in joining a special list-serve for this committee to get up-to-date information? Contact Seth Horowitz at reachseth@gmail.com

### Happenings At or Connected with Mishkan Shalom

Human Rights Shabbat, December 7, when the religious school hosts a program on immigrant and refugee rights

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### Request: Seeking a sewing machine and someone who can teach a 17 year old to sew. She is part of the family Mishkan members are supporting through the asylum process. She lives in Lawncrest, and the person would probably have to go to the house in the evenings or on Sundays to teach her. If you have a sewing machine OR can teach sewing, please contact Judi Bernstein-Baker at judibernsteinbaker@gmail.com

### Mishkan and the Community

1) Mishkan is member of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower & Rebuild). POWER is an interfaith organization committed to building communities of opportunities that work for all. It represents over 50 congregations in the region. POWER’s major campaigns include: Economic Dignity; Education Justice; Moral Health Care; Climate Justice; and Live Free (Justice Reform). For more information go to the website: [www.powerinterfaith.org](http://www.powerinterfaith.org)

2) A program that provides support and counseling to immigrant youth, many of them who entered recently without parents, is seeking sewing machines. If you can donate one, please email: art.puentes.program@gmail.com

### Also Happening in the Philadelphia Region

The Supreme Court will hear the DACA (Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals) case on November 12, 2019. A national coalition, HOME IS HERE, will mobilize and bring Dreamers to the Supreme Court. Information is on this Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/fwd.us/](https://www.facebook.com/fwd.us/). In Philadelphia, the #HomeisHere March will be arriving on Nov 1. This march will bring 30+ DACA, those with Temporary Protection status (TPS), undocumented youth together from New York, Philadelphia and other parts of the country as they make their way to DC asking the Supreme Court and Congress to stop DACA and TPS from ending and to find a solution for Immigration Reform. Stay tuned for updates.

Watch for information about a possible Elder Witness action in Harrisburg with the Shut Down Berks Coalition on November 12.
Raise Your Voices in Song:  
Soup & Song Shabbat, Community Potluck and Singalong  
2 Friday nights - November 15 and December 13, 7:00 p.m.

by Ellen Tichenor

One of the several good things about R. Shawn’s Sabbatical is that we have a chance to make new traditions, or revive old ones, that bring us together as a community outside of more formal services and events in the building. Many of us recall with deep warmth Friday night musical Shabbat evenings, filled with spirit and laughter, at the home of Nancy and Seth Kreimer. People brought along instruments, soup or simple fare for sharing. We used the peace and protest songbook *Rise Up Singing*, as the foundation. And we improvised. But all you really needed was a desire to lift your voice and sing.

We’re delighted to let you know that Nancy and Seth are reviving this wonderful tradition in honor of R. Shawn’s Sabbatical, by offering three Soup and Song Shabbat evenings over the next six months. The first is Friday night, November 13, at 7:00 p.m. The second one will be on December 15, same time. Check the directory for their address, or call the office: 215-508-0226.

If you have a copy of *Rise Up Singing*, bring it along. Or bring something new you want to share with others. If you have copies it will be helpful. You don’t have to be a musician to add your voice. Bring something savory or sweet.

We’re excited to see you on November 15. Our community will make beautiful music together.
by Susan Richards, Wendy Galson, and Susan Windle

SoulCollage® is a unique intuitive collage process for self-discovery and community, developed by Seena Frost. When Wendy Galson and Susan Windle (and their co-leader Shoshana Bricklin) learned that Susan Richards became a SoulCollage® Facilitator in 2011, they asked her to demonstrate SoulCollage® in the Mishkan Shalom Rosh Hodesh Group. Because of their interest, it evolved into an Adult Ed program. Susan Richards has been leading SoulCollage® with a Jewish Spin as a Mishkan Shalom Adult Education class since March 2012.

The SoulCollage® Fall workshop will be on Sunday, November 10, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and all are welcome. The theme will be Transitions, and cards can be made for any transition that wants to be marked by a card. It can be a current transition or a past one, a happy one or a sad one. This particular session will mark a transition for SoulCollage® with a Jewish Spin since Susan will be stepping down as leader, and gifting her SoulCollage® materials to Mishkan Shalom. At the end of the session there will be a ritual “passing of the chime” to Wendy Galson and Susan Windle.

Wendy and Susan’s 2020 workshops (dates will be February 16 and May 3) will have a new name and a new emphasis, in line with Mishkan Shalom’s theme for 5780 as articulated by our Rabbis: SoulCollage®-Awakening to Earth’s Call.

Each session will include a new process for written journaling as well as the familiar visual journaling that is SoulCollage®. Wendy and Susan will be inviting participants to experience our card creation process as dream work, and to talk about our cards as dreams. They are excited to bring a dream interpretation process learned from Rabbi Jill Hammer into our experiencing of our cards and our sharing.

Susan Richards says, “I can’t wait to pay my $40 like everyone else and just show up! This community is so important to me and I look forward to remaining part of it. And I look forward to experiencing the creative and innovative directions Wendy and Susan are going to take us.”

Please join us on November 10! You can register online at mishkan.org, under Lifelong Learning, Adult Education.
Join Us for Mishkan’s “One Book Mishkan” Discussion: *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit, by Lucette Lagnado*

Sunday, November 17, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

By Adam Blistein

Committee members Natalie and Harold Gorvine will lead a discussion of our One-Book Mishkan this year, Lucette Lagnado’s *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit, A Jewish Family’s Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World*.

Come even if you haven’t read the book. While it is a memoir of one family’s struggles, the issues it raises - immigration, refugees, assimilation, family dynamics, the central place of food in those dynamics, differences between Jewish communities, differences between Jewish and gentile communities, health care systems - are ones we live with every day, especially in these times.

Food also has a central place in Library Committee activities, so high quality snacks will be provided, and we promise to get you home in time for the Eagles’ 4:25 kickoff!

Visit the Library After Services
Would you like to know what’s in Mishkan’s Library? We’d like to show it off. On November 23 and December 7, Library Committee members will be in the Library for about an hour right after morning services. Stop by and let us show you the wonderful resources we have, and how you can take advantage of them.

Save the Date:
**On Saturday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.** we’ll show a movie that complements the one-book. Title to be announced.

Join the Committee
One of the three areas in Mishkan’s Statement of Principles is Torah/Study. Would you like to help the Mishkan Library Committee to support the Congregation’s work in that area by taking care of the Library space, selecting a book for the Congregation to read each year, and then organizing programs around that book? This involves four or five meetings each year and pitching in at Committee events. We’re always looking for new members. Send an e-mail to Committee Chair Adam Blistein ([blistein@comcast.net](mailto:blistein@comcast.net)).

The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit, A Jewish Family’s Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World by Lucette Lagnado,

After the fall of King Farouk and the rise of the Nasser dictatorship in the early 1950s, Lagnado’s family had to leave a relatively prosperous life in Egypt and flee to any country that would have them. After some intermediate stops, the family arrives in New York where some thrive, and others don’t.
G’milut Hasadim/Acts of Caring

by Gene Bishop, Stephanie Shell and Ariel Weiss

**Mazel Tov**
We offer a hearty *mazel tov* to Sam Tonkan, Noah Barkan and David Schwager and their families as they become *b’nai mitzvah*. Another *mazel tov* to Gari and Mike Weilbacher on the engagement of their daughter Hannah to Logan Bayroff.

**Condolences**
We send condolences to Jacob Bender and his family on the loss of his mother Sabell Bender. May Sabell’s memories be for a blessing and may Jacob and his family be comforted among all who mourn.

**Love and Support**
This month we send our ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to Mishkan members Ray Kaplan, Joyce Hanna, Gene Bishop, Gena Lopata, Robin Berenholz, Bernice Bricklin, Robin Leidner 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 Eleazar Shimon Hakohen ben Shoshana v’Ahron Yosai (father of Rabbi Shawn Zevit), Sarah Rivka bat Elizabeth (mother of Rabbi Shawn Zevit), Lynn, Shifra Leah bat Gershon v’Minoocha (mother of Gabby Kaplan-Meyer), Alvin Saltzman (father of Alyse Saltzman Flowers), Shoshana bat Akiba v’Chaya (mother of Homer Robinson), Carol Dombroski (mother of Brian Dombroski), Natalie Caplin (mother of Wendy Caplin), 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 Eilen 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:actsofcaring@mishkan.org).
T’filot

Please join us every Saturday for Torah Study from 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

Friday, November 1, 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn. Sam Tonkon will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Saturday, November 9, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Yael. Noah Barkan will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat “Shabbat, Soup and Song” Service at the home of Nancy Fuchs Kreimer and Seth Kreimer

Saturday, November 16, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Yael. David Schwager will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Saturday, November 23, 10:00 a.m. – A Way In Mindfulness Service, with Rabbi Yael

Thursday, November 28 – Rosh Hodesh Celebration

Saturday, November 30, 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Service