

FROM THE RABBI

Three New Holy Days

Religions don't change much over time, and when they do, they tend to change very slowly. That's actually one of the things that people tend to like about religion. It is a reliable and consistent presence. The unchanging nature of a religion is a message in itself – the world may change, but our beliefs and our values stay the same.

Yet, sometimes change is necessary, even rapid change. The calendar of Jewish holidays has stayed remarkably stable for hundreds, even thousands, of years. Yet, Judaism added three new holy days to the calendar in the 20th century and they are likely to remain important times in the year for centuries to come.

Yom HaShoah is the Jewish day of remembrance for the victims and heroes of the Holocaust, or Shoah. The first official observance was held in 1951, just six years after the end of the Holocaust. At Temple Sinai, we will observe the remembrance at our Shabbat service on April 9. Our guest speaker this year will be my mother, Monique Goldwasser, who will share the story of how her parents escaped Paris in 1940 with their three children under the age of three, just days before the German army marched down the Champs-Élysées.

The second holy day added in the 20th century is the one least known to American Jews, but it is a day of great solemnity for Israelis. Yom HaZikaron is the memorial day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. Because virtually everyone in Israel has at least one family member who has died in Israel's wars, and because virtually every Jewish and Druze citizen of Israel has served in the IDF or other national service, this is a day of great personal meaning. The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island holds a service every year to mark Yom HaZikaron. This year's service will be on Zoom, Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM. If you are a lover of Israel, I encourage you to attend.

Finally, we have a joyful holiday. Yom HaAtzma'ut is Israeli Independence Day, marking the day that Israel declared itself to be an independent state in 1948. Temple Sinai will mark the day this year with a guest speaker at our Shabbat service on Friday, April 16. Alana Deluty is a member of Temple Sinai who has served as our Youth Group Advisor and as the director of our High Holy Days Family Service. She is living in Israel this year and will speak to us from her home in Lod, Israel, to share her observations about how Israelis are celebrating their independence during the pandemic.

Join us for all of these holy days as we find meaning and solidarity in remembering our past.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser



See You On Zoom

In this time of physical distancing, Temple Sinai is continuing services and programs on Zoom, the video conferencing platform. To participate in programs, or to view recordings of past programs, go to the Temple's website on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

- **Shabbat Evening Services**
Rabbi Goldwasser and Cantor Johnson are leading services on Zoom every Friday at 6 pm.
- **Shabbat Morning Torah Study**
Rabbi Goldwasser is leading Torah study on Zoom on Saturdays at 10 am.
- **Torah Reading Service**
Saturday, April 3rd (also Yizkor) and the 17th at 11 am.
- **Meditation Service**
Friday mornings at 10 am.
- **Concerts with Raymond Buttero**
Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 3 pm.
- **Havdalah**
Saturday, April 10th at 8 pm

Please look at our Future Activities Section on page 5. We have listed, with a little explanation, what we have coming up so far.

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE
templesinai.org
FOR CURRENT INFORMATION.**

From the Cantor's Desk

By Cantor Deborah Johnson



Many of us are attached to the Jewish music we grew up with, and often think of it as the “real” Jewish music. However, one of the greatest strengths of our Jewish traditions, musical and otherwise, has been its adaptability to context – differing places and differing times. This has created a remarkable resource of Jewish practice that is both resilient and rich. In our own times, at least to my mind, three important factors have

contributed immeasurably to this beautiful bounty – changes to traditional worship, the input of an increasingly diverse community, and the integration of music by women.

I hope that you were able to come to our “Women Composers Shabbat” at the end of March. While I like to include something like this in our worship every year for Women’s History month, it also serves as a reminder that so much of our modern music – our “new” classics – have been composed by women. It certainly was not always like this. We know since Miriam sang, danced, and played her timbrel at the crossing of the Reed Sea that music has been important to Jews. We also know that the demands of women’s lives as keepers of the household completely pre-empted any opportunity for involvement in the arts; music, visual art, and literature by women prior to the 16th century almost invariably came out of the nunneries. Some names of women composers since the

9th century have been noted, but it is only with Barbara Strozzi (1619-1677) that enough music survives to qualify the composer as an exceptional -- and professional -- musician.

Today’s notable women composers of Jewish music – Debbie Friedman, Elana Arian, Beth Styles, Linda Hirschhorn, Julie Silver, Lisa Levine, and so many others – largely came out of the Reform movement, and were either a part of or the inheritors of – the Jewish camp movement. Debbie Friedman (1951-2011) can, in fact, be said to be the mother of it all. Jewish overnight summer camps began to proliferate in the ‘50s and ‘60s, and Friedman picked up on their philosophy early on: worship should be fun and participatory, unpretentiously spiritual, and full of singable, clappable, danceable music. She was also the great age of the “new” folk music, and by invoking the sound of some of her secular musical heroes –artists like Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary -- she created a unique Jewish variant. And while love of God and God’s creations was her abiding message, she communicated this with the accessibility of her humble singing voice, lively guitar strumming, and lyrics in both English and Hebrew. Love the Mi Shebeirach we sing? The Havdalah melody? Our usual Ahavat Olam or soulful Shalom Aleichem? That’s Friedman, and she and her younger female colleagues have changed our worship forever.

See you at Services!

Cantor Deborah

From our school

Susan Oclassen, Lead Teacher

Tikkun Olam, the Repair of the World – How Much is Our Responsibility?

As the promise of spring beckons, I have been drawn to the following Jewish quotes:

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” Anne Frank

“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, neither are you free to abandon it. The Talmud

Anei Ircha Kodmin, is a Jewish value, a concept that your primary tzedakah responsibility is to those closest to you, your family (then the poor of your city, then the poor of other cities). (Bava Metzia 71a)

During the lengthy pandemic, most of us have concentrated on what my family calls ‘turtling,’ staying at home, much of it indoors, with immediate family. Walking in our neighborhoods, doing more cooking and baking than ever before, chatting and texting on cell phones, and television bingeing have become common pastimes. Cautiously, perhaps, we have ventured out with masks and social distancing, to pick up necessities.

Now that many of us have been vaccinated, our horizons are widening and we are considering needs beyond those of our loved ones. Recently, a colleague mentioned her wish to venture out in her newly-found freedom and shop to support local, small businesses she had temporarily abandoned. Another friend suggested he planned to donate his unneeded government stimulus money to the food bank. With spring cleaning, many are clearing cluttered closets and bookshelves and recycling the goods with donations to charities. Two friends are ordering seeds to plant and cultivate in their respective community gardens. In ways large and small, we can take part in *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world.

From our Keshet Worker

Shana Prohovsky

Many of us struggle with feelings of uncertainty as well as other challenges related to day to day life and the pandemic. As the Keshet worker for the temple, I am available by telephone and virtually to offer congregants confidential support during these trying times.

Are you feeling “done” at the end of the day with little energy left to devote to your relationships? Look for tips in the latest Keshet article, “Tips for Maintaining Healthy Relationships in Pandemic Life” on the temple website.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Keshet programs: On April 29 at 7 p.m., Shana and her Keshet co-worker Tara Watkins, LICSW welcome back Scott Libman, CPA, CGMA to discuss budgeting during COVID and beyond. On May 24 at 7 p.m., Shana and Tara will facilitate a panel discussion on grief and loss. Zoom links will be posted on the temple website.

What is Keshet and how can Keshet support me right now?

Keshet is the congregational outreach program of Jewish Collaborative Services, which offers services to congregants at Temple Sinai. All Keshet services are confidential and provided at no cost to congregants, as Keshet is generously

funded by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, as well as private donors.

Shana Prohovsky, our Temple's Keshet worker, is currently available by phone 401-428-4084 and email shana@jfsri.org.

Congregants, families, and individuals can reach out for consultation, resource guidance, referrals for counseling, and just to talk.

Shana can provide specific guidance related to housing needs, homecare, eldercare, food programs, financial assistance and more.

Shana has access to all the services currently running at Jewish Collaborative Services (tele-mental health counseling sessions, case management, Lifeline emergency medical alert system monitoring and client support, kosher nutrition, and telephone support offered by JERI and Partners In Care volunteers), as well as those provided through social service agencies throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Temple Sinai is also serving our members through this difficult time with these programs:

- **Crisis Relief Fund** Temple Sinai has launched a Crisis Relief Fund to bring aid to Temple members who are facing financial hardship due to the pandemic. If you are in need of assistance, or you know of a Temple member in need, please contact Rabbi Goldwasser or Keshet Worker Shana Prohovsky.
- **"I Can Run Errands for You."** Some of our members, especially the elderly and people living with chronic health issues, are not able to run routine errands like picking up prescriptions or groceries. Temple members are volunteering to help them. Contact Rabbi Goldwasser or Keshet Worker Shana Prohovsky if you or someone you know could use help with errands or transportation.
- **Drop in with the Keshet Worker.** Shana Prohovsky, our Keshet Worker, is available by phone **401-428-4084** or email her at shana@jfsri.org to talk with her about a difficult transition or struggle you are going through. Shana can also make referrals to additional supportive services.

Many thanks

We would like to thank **Ellie Wasser & Sandy Maldavir** who bagged all the chocolates and printed & attached the notes with Passover wishes. Sandy & Ellie also coordinated all the volunteers who delivered nearly 250 bags to congregants' homes. A huge thank you to all those who delivered the candy. This wouldn't have happened without you!



DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Terry & Marc Charren, In memory of our daughter,
Julie Ann Charren
Sandy, Tom & Steve Dupree, In memory of
Joseph M. Becker, father of Sandy Dupree
Donna Sinel, In memory of Sidney Gittleman
Arleen & Marvin Jacobson, In memory of Etta Jacobson
Marilyn Baker, In memory of Jean Baker
Freda, Stacey, Andrew & Jia Lehrer, In memory of
Elliot M. Stone
Beverly & Steven Pollock, In memory of Michelle Pollack
Judith & Ernest Glantz, In memory of Sylvia Glantz
Barbara & Nathan Shapiro, In memory of
Laura Buckler, yahrzeit
Ellie & Marvin Wasser, In memory of
Peter Haller, brother-in-law of
Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser & Jonquil Wolfson
Curt & Irene Abbott, In memory of Peter Haller
Judy & George Cohen, In memory of Peter Haller
Shirley Kirsh, In memory of my brother-in-law,
Donald Horovitz
Shirley Kirsh, In memory of Saralee Stein
Shirley Kirsh, In memory of Edythe Witles

Capital Improvement Fund

Phyllis B. Solod, In memory of Donald Horowitz,
brother-in-law of Shirley Kirsh
Dottie & Peter Swajian, In memory of Saralee Stein
Phyllis B. Solod, In memory of Saralee Stein
Curt & Irene Abbott, In memory of Saralee Stein
Curt & Irene Abbott, In memory of Eileen Gilbert
Phyllis B. Solod, to Barbara Brandt, in honor of the birth of
her great grandson, Dexter Myles Anderson
Phyllis B. Solod, In memory of Sarah Mandell,
my bubbi's yahrzeit
Phyllis B. Solod, In memory of Max Mandell,
my zadye's yahrzeit
Judy & George Cohen, In memory of Donald Horowitz
Phyllis B. Solod, to Mrs. Carolyn Solod & Family, In memory
of your beloved husband, Michael A. Solod
Phyllis B. Solod, to Neal Drobnis, In appreciation of
your time
Phyllis B. Solod, to Joel Kangisser, In memory of your
beloved sister, Amy
Marian Goldstein, In memory of Teresa Goldstein
Sukey & Malcolm Denniss, In memory of
Stephen Lehrer
Norman & Judith Goodman, In memory of Louis Goodman,
yahrzeit
Abigail McLean, In memory of David Latner,
beloved stepfather, yahrzeit

Horovitz/Wexler Minyan Breakfast Fund

Joan Gray, In memory of Ruth Albert
Sherry Feldman, In memory of Peter Haller
Adrian Horovitz, In memory of Murray Howard
Sherry Feldman, In honor of Bob Serinsky's birthday
Sherry Feldman, Continued good health to
Cantor Deborah Johnson
Ann F. Anesta, In memory of Deborah Horovitz

Cantor Rennie J. Brown Fund

Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Ruth Jaffa Albert

Lisa & David Malin, In memory of Isidor Shapiro,
Grandfather of David

Lorraine & Irving Waldman, In memory of Leo Phillips

General Fund

Scott & Mitzvah Williams, In loving memory of Ruth Albert
Susan & Irv Vederman, In memory of Saralee Stein
Roz & Ron Guarnieri, In memory of Stephen Lehrer
Ellen & Barry Rappoport, In memory of Jane St. Angelo
Mark & Dr. Amy Schneider, In memory of Ruth Jaffa Albert
Gilstein, Kinder & Levin, LLP, In memory of Ruth Jaffa Albert
Stephen L. Saltzman, In memory of my cousin
Ruth Saltzman Jaffa Albert

Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser & Jonquil Wolfson, In honor of
Meri Kaufman for taking on the editorship of the Scroll
Scott & Mitzvah Williams. In memory of
Edith & Harry Lebovic

Linda & Paul Miller, In memory of Marty & Molly Garber
Linda & Paul Miller, In memory of Babe & Sandy Gertz
Linda & Paul Miller, In memory of Marian Treger,
with deepest sympathy

Philip & Barbara Segal, In memory of Hilda Kopel

Philip & Barbara Segal, In memory of John Segal

Shapiro/Goldstein Beautification Fund

Suellen, Sam & Seth Shapiro, In memory of
William Goldstein

President's Fund

Sherry Kriss, In memory of Seymour Kriss, yahrzeit

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Gadon, In memory of Rebecca Pepper
Joel & Deborah Gerstenblatt, In memory of
Beatrice Gerstenblatt

Joel & Deborah Gerstenblatt, In memory of Milton P. Forman
Temple Sinai Board, Wishing Gregg Rosen
a complete recovery

Music Fund

Phyllis B. Solod, Wishing a speedy & complete recovery to
Cantor Deborah
Audrey Shapiro, Congratulations to Marvin & Ellie Wasser
on the birth of grandson, Sam
Audrey Shapiro, Congratulations to Helen Abrams on the
birth of great grandson, Sam
Cindi & Richard Portno, In honor of Cantor Deborah: We
hope you feel better
Helen Abrams, Wishing a speedy recovery to
Cantor Deborah
Abigail McLean, In memory of Helen S. Latner, beloved
mother, yahrzeit
Shirley Kirsh, to Judy & George Cohen, In honor of the birth
of their 1st great grandchild
Shirley Kirsh, to Phyllis B. Solod, on the Bat Mitzvah of her
granddaughter, Aviya

Religious School Fund

Suzanne Glucksman, In memory of beloved mother,
Charlotte Schwartz Miller
Suzanne Glucksman, In memory of treasured sister-in-law,
Sylvia Feingold
Dorothea, Ellen & Julie Snyder, In memory of
Ruth Jaffa Albert

DONATIONS *(continued)*

Ira L. Schreiber Music Fund

Joyce Schreiber Tesler, In memory of my loving husband,
Marvin G. Tesler

Joyce Schreiber Tesler, In memory of my dear brother,
Donald A. Cohen

Dottie Swajian, Get well wishes to Cantor Deborah
Cantor Deborah Johnson, In gratitude for Dr. Marvin Wasser's
skillful leadership of our Israeli film class

Maureen & Howard Krasnow Fund

Fredda & Stuart Yaras, In memory of Haskell Broadman

Helen & Marc Davis, In memory of Maureen Krasnow

Jill & Andrew London, In memory of Maureen Krasnow

Endowment Fund

Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Linda Newman

Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Stephen Lehrer

Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Peter Rysk

Cindi & Richard Portno, In memory of Saralee Stein

Helene & Joel Chase, In memory of Norman Landroche, Sr.

Crisis Relief Fund

Sukey & Malcolm Denniss, In memory of Ruth (Jaffa) Albert

SUNSHINE

Get Well Wishes to:

Michael Mroz
Marian Goldstein
Andrew Brem
Ellen Rabinowitz

Future Events

Five Modern Jewish Women Who Changed the World

As we watch the well-deserved ascendancy of Black women on the national stage, it is a good moment to consider some of the contributions Jewish women have made to shaping the modern world, from culture to politics. Over six Thursday night sessions, March 4 to April 1, at 7PM, Cantor Deborah Johnson will guide us in an exploration of Sarah Bernhardt, Emma Goldman, Golda Meir, Gloria Steinem, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg and discuss the issues their Jewishness raises for themselves and others.

Yizkor Service

On the seventh day of Passover, April 3, at 11:00 AM, we will have a Yizkor service immediately following Torah study. Yizkor is the memorial service that occurs four times a year to remember departed loved ones. Join us to remember and to support members of our community as they remember the people they cannot forget.

Reconsidering the Catholic Church and the Holocaust

Holy Silence is a new thought-provoking documentary that examines the individuals who played a crucial role in shaping the Vatican's response to the rising Nazi threat across Europe. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is hosting a webinar panel discussion of the film on Thursday, April 8, at 7PM, with noted scholars. Registrants will receive a link to view the documentary 72 hours before the event. This event is also being promoted by Theological Exchange Between Catholics and Jews at Providence College.

Yom HaShoah Service

In commemoration of Yom HaShoah, our Shabbat service on Friday, April 9, at 6PM, will focus on remembrance of the Holocaust. Our guest speaker will be Monique Goldwasser, mother of Rabbi Goldwasser, sharing the story of her family's escape from the Holocaust and the new life they created in America.

Yom HaZikaron

Join members of the Rhode Island Jewish community on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 PM, in commemorating Yom Ha'Zikaron, Israeli Memorial Day. This is a day in which we honor Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. The memorial program will be held on Zoom in both English and Hebrew. For more information, contact Or Cohen at ocohen@jewishallianceri.org.

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Service

At our Shabbat service on Friday, April 16, at 6PM, we will be celebrating Israel's birthday, Yom Ha'Atzma'ut. Our guest speaker will be Alana Deluty, a Temple Sinai member who is on a year-long program in Israel. Alana will tell us over Zoom about festivities for the nation's Independence Day.



Yahrzeits



April

*Paul Stephen Cohen	1	*Beatrice Katz	8	Kathryn Jean Wright Dendy	15	*Arthur Rosensweet	
*David Friedman		*Charles Goldberg	9	Aaron Pashkow		*Gertrude Stein Nelson	
*Ann Strashnick		*Ireene Ozer		*Richard Shuster		Jason Broomfield	26
*Beatrice Gerstenblatt	3	*Edward Blackman	10	*Ira Bazar	17	*Bernice Gourse	27
*Louis Astrachan	4	Frieda Malin		*Harriet M. Koslow		Samuel Shechtman	
*Eva Cohen		*Irma Silverman		*Celia Fleisig	18	Solomon Tanenbaum	
Jennifer Galpin		*Israel Siperstein		*David London		Elvira Wintner	
*Morris Rosensweet		Sophie Parduski	11	*Ruth Davis Gershman	19	*Simon Aron	28
*Rebecca Woled		*Sadie Port		*Elaine London	20	*Alvin Beiner	
Christeen Record Dendy	5	*Sarah Russian		*Buzia Wasser		Evelyn Wasser	
Norma Mirow		*Jacob Brem	12	*Harriet Gluckman	21	*Alan Goldstein	29
*Irma Goldwasser	6	*Leonard Halpern		*Leonore Edenbaum	22	*Norman M. Kahn	
Rose Grabowsky		Eli Schwartz		*Eli Monzack		Samuel Marcus	
Sarah Levy		*Louis Brown	13	*Joseph Polofsky		*Frimette Roberts	
*Morris William Gadon	7	Myer Malin		*Henry Leventhal	23	*Dr. Scott E. Wang	
*Ida Nalibow		*Sherwin Steven Shapiro		*Michael M. Harrison	25	*Jonathan Gotlib	30
*Rose Wallace		*Charles Leon Baker	14	*Max Hirsch		*Emerson Proctor Joslin	
						*Marion Miller	
						*Phyllis Sigal	

*indicates Hebrew date

We read the names of people whose Yahrzeits fall in the preceding week at our Shabbat services on Friday evenings. For both Hebrew and Gregorian dates, the Yahrzeit begins on the preceding evening at sundown. Many people have the custom of lighting a memorial candle at that time.

Non-Orthodox Conversions in Israel

In a significant shift in Israel's policies toward non-Orthodox Judaism, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled on March 1 that Israel must recognize Reform and Conservative conversions in the State of Israel. The ruling will allow those who complete the conversion process with Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel to be officially registered as Jews. It will also allow these new Jews to qualify to permanently settle in Israel under the Law of Return.

Previously, those who converted to Judaism outside of Israel have been allowed to immigrate and be recognized as Jews.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, responded to the ruling in a statement, saying, "This decision was years in the making and reflects the diversity and vibrancy of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. Today, the Court has affirmed the reality that the Jewish people are stronger because of the contributions of Reform and Conservative Movements and their commitment to bringing more Jews into the Jewish People. We hope this ruling establishes a precedent that will lead to further recognition of the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel."

There has already been a backlash against the ruling from orthodox religious parties in Israel. United Torah Judaism, a political party that is mostly supported by orthodox and ultra-orthodox Jews of Ashkenazic descent, aired a television advertisement comparing Reform converts to dogs. The advertisement has been widely criticized in Israel and in the U.S. Jewish community as racist and insulting to non-orthodox.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser

April 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 7 p.m. Five Jewish Women	2 10 a.m Morning Meditation 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert 6 p.m. Passover Festival Service	3 10 a.m. Shabbat Torah Study 11a.m. Yizkor
4 9 am Religious School	5 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert	6	7 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert	8 7 p.m. Reconsidering the Catholic Church and the Holocaust	9 10 a.m. Morning 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert 6 p.m. Friday Night Yom HaShoah Monique Goldwasser Speaker	10 10 a.m. Shabbat Torah Study 8p.m. Havdalah
11 9 am Religious School	12 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert	13 7 p.m. Yom Ha'Zikaron	14 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert Happy Birthday Rabbi Jeff!	15	16 10 a.m. Morning Meditation 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert 6 p.m. Friday night Services Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Alana Deluty	17 10 a.m. Shabbat Torah Study 11 a.m. Shabbat Torah Service
18	19 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert	20	21 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert	22 7 p.m. Faith in the Age of Covid	23 10 a.m. Morning 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert 6 p.m. Friday night Services	24 10 a.m. Shabbat Torah Study
25	26 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert	27	28 3 p.m. Raymond's Mini concert	29 Evev LaG B'Omer	30 Lag B'Omer 10 a.m. Morning 3 p.m. Raymond 6 p.m. Friday Night Services	



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