

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

January 2021

Tevet/Shevet 5781

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

This month we remember the *yahrzeits* of two men whose lives were intimately connected politically, spiritually, and ethically. I am talking about Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (18 Tevet; observed Jan. 2) and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (observed Jan. 18). And it also turns out that *Parashat Sh'mot*, a Torah portion that falls between these two dates, is the beginning of the

story of liberation and freedom in the Torah. This mystical connection, if you will, is compounded by the fact that *Parashat Sh'mot* contains the story of the first non-violent act of civil disobedience by two midwives, Shifrah and Puah, who defied Pharaoh's order to kill all newborn Hebrew boys. What could be a more powerful connection for Heschel and King who walked side by side against racism in America?! As Heschel said, “I was not just marching. My legs were praying.”

When I read this famous quote from Heschel's march in Selma, Alabama, I couldn't get the power of these words out of my head. “My legs were praying.” What an image! What does it mean? Have you ever felt that feeling? What can these words teach us today? For me, they embody the religious imperative to do G-d's work on earth with both body and soul.

I believe all humankind was created in G-d's image with the ultimate mission of living in peace and harmony. Our differences, divinely intended from the moment of Creation, were not meant to divide us. They were meant to enrich the existence of humankind. What a boring world this would be if it were filled with “cookie-cutter” human beings. We must embrace our differences because ultimately we are all on the same mission of bringing G-d's plan to fruition.

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***Kayruv* means “Welcoming.”**



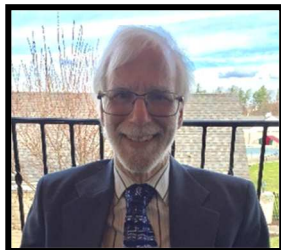
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Religion, I believe, is a tool in bringing about G-d's plan. Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists...we each have our own unique way of living G-d's will. And as long as one's religion does not preach hate or violence, it is a legitimate expression of what G-d requires of us. I do not believe there is one right religion, just one right mission and that is a caring, peaceful co-existence and stewardship of G-d's earth. We Jews fulfill our mission on earth guided by the teachings of Torah and its *mitzvot*. We are distinctly commanded not to hate or oppress. Our ethics and laws are grounded in love, love for G-d and all our fellow human beings. And we are reminded of this daily when we recite those familiar words of the *Sh'ma*, "And you shall love the Lord, Your G-d, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might." These words compel us daily to be sure that our "legs are praying". Let the *yahrzeits* above be the beginning of a daily routine of asking ourselves, "What have I done today to help bring about G-d's plan of peace and harmony to the world? Are my legs praying?" May each one of us come to know the feeling of "praying legs" well!

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Rhonda Nebel

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends

Happy New Year! Great News! Cheryl, our illustrious secretary, asked me to please keep this column brief, in order to fit it into the Kayruv which has

already been laid out. So my 46 page New Year's inspirational message has been repurposed!

2021. The question is whether the cup is half empty, or half full? You will have to decide!

1. We can't meet in person, BUT...now members who moved out of state, family members who live out of state, and friends in other states can join us in Zoomland. Also, congregants who couldn't travel to synagogue can join us from their homes.
2. Covid presents fiscal challenges, BUT... we save on cleaning and garbage expenses, paper supplies, kiddush supplies, etc.
3. We can't see you in person and ask "How are you?", But...we can call, ask the question, be more likely to listen and be interested in the reply!
4. We can't go out and do our usual activities, BUT...our houses have never been cleaner, we finish projects we always meant to do, talk to friends we haven't spoken to in ages, play more games together, watch more movies, and are enjoying binge watching as never before!
5. We have no time for anything, our lives are so busy, BUT...now we have more time than ever and have to decide how to use it, read, TV, games, FaceTime, ZOOM, etc.
6. We hardly ever get to see our family, BUT...now we see them all the time. Who are these people? I am learning so much about them.
7. I can never get time to go to a movie, and they are so expensive, BUT...now I can't count all the movies we have seen. Special blessings for Netflix, Hallmark, and Disney!
8. So many people now are unemployed, BUT... our community is stepping up to help fill the much needed St. James Food Pantry and the Connecticut Food Bank. I thank everyone for your contributions. Thus far we have collected over \$2,500.00.

Life is what you choose to make it! Is the cup half empty or half full?

Another program we support, Laundry Love, is always in need of both donations and volunteers. Please contact Susan Tritter at susantritter@aol.com for more details.

Glen again, until I'm not!

Mark It on your calendar!

February 7, 11:00 A.M.

Dedication of the Jean Ohring and Peter Ohring Sanctuary (via ZOOM.)

JANUARY EVENTS

January 14th at 6:00 PM ZOOM Dinner with Rabbi Nebel

January 14th - at 6:00 P.M. Dinner with Rabbi Nebel and Jokes In January!

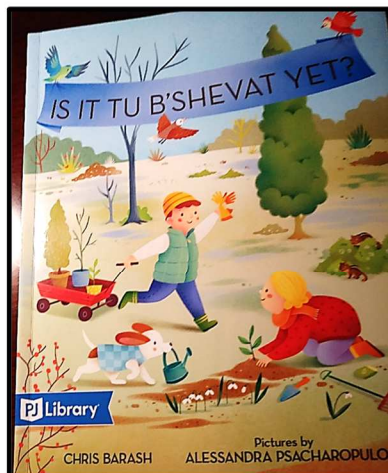


A ZOOM dinner with Rabbi Nebel. Bring your dinner to eat and a joke to share with all.



Mark your calendar for PJ Library *Tu B'Shvat* Pajama Party January 24th - at 6:00 p.m.

Come one, come all, in your pajamas as we share a story, do a craft and sing a song or two with you on Zoom. Please RSVP by email to cconti@jfed.net to receive an email with the Zoom Link prior to the event.



Materials
needed for our **special**
craft project:

8 1/2x11 sheet of paper
Black crayon
Brown crayon
Green paint
Purple paint
Q-tip
Wet paper towel

A PJ Library event for the community at large facilitated by Rabbi Nebel of Congregation B'nai Israel, Danbury, CT and The Jewish Federation of Western CT
Questions??? 475-329-2611

LOOKING AHEAD

Keep your eye out for these great events (all via ZOOM) happening in February!

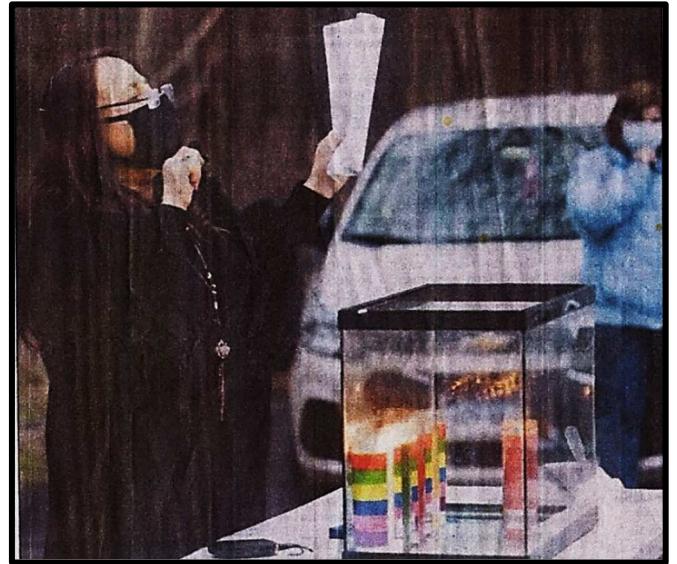
February 7th at 11:00 A.M. - The Jean Ohring and Peter Ohring sanctuary dedication

February 13th at 9:30 A.M. - A very special shabbat morning service that you won't want to miss visiting clergy, Cantor Rob and Rabbi Vicki Lieberman. Enjoy the beautiful cantorial tones of Cantor Lieberman a JTS Cantorial School graduate, as he leads *Hallel*, *Musaf* and chants *Haftarah*. Gifted *darshanit* Rabbi Lieberman, a JTS Rabbinical School graduate, will stimulate and inspire us with her Torah insights.

February 20th at 7:00 P.M. - Game Night! Join us for a fun evening of parlor games and laughs!

February 25th – at 6:00 P.M. - Dinner and a Show! Celebrate Purim with us as we begin with *Seudat Purim* - Dinner with the Rabbi followed by an original parody of the Purim story written by our own Joel Levitt at 6:30 P.M. A modified Zoom Megillah reading will follow.

GOOD TIMES WE SHARED



CBI'S CHANUKAH SING-IN SING-OUT EVENT AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Rabbi Nebel lights Chanukah candles in our "wind-protected environment" and leads assembled CBI members during the Chanukah Sing-in Sing-out event in our parking lot on December 13th.

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 25 Tevet, January 9, Sh'mot:** The Israelites are enslaved and Moshe is called by God to confront Pharaoh.

Haftarah: Jer. 1:1-2:3

☆ **Shabbat, 3 Shevat, January 16, Va'era:** Pharaoh refuses to set the Israelites free and Egypt is beset with plagues

Haftarah: Eek. 28:25-29-21

☆ **Shabbat, 10 Shevat, January 23, Bo:** Free at last! The Israelites leave Egypt.

Haftarah: Jer. 46:13-28

☆ **Shabbat, 17 Shevat, January 30, B'Shalah:** Crossing the sea and singing for joy!

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

☆ **Shabbat, 24 Shevat, February 6, Yitro:** Standing at Sinai and receiving the Word of God.

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6;9:5-6

☆ **Shabbat, 1 Adar, February 13, Mishpatim:** Sealing the Sinai Covenant and receiving the Code of Civil Law. *Haftarah:* Num. 28:9-15; Exod. 30:11-16; II Kings 12:1-12:17

CANDLE LIGHTING

January 8, 2021	4:28 PM
January 15, 2021	4:36 PM
January 22, 2021	4:44 PM
January 29, 2021	4:52 PM
February 5, 2021	5:01 PM
February 12, 2021	5:10 PM

Yahrzeits

1 Shevat, January 14, 2021

Louis Heller (Marc D. Heller)

8 Shevat, January 21, 2021

Bertha Blumenthal (Susan Tritter)

16 Shevat, January 29, 2021

Louis Lerner (Fredda Fuchs)

17 Shevat, January 30, 2021

Sophie Bloomfield (Heather K. Mazarakos)

20 Shevat, February 2, 2021

Lisa Sharon Steinberg (F. Richard Steinberg)

24 Shevat, February 6, 2021

Doris Hornstein (Heather K. Mazarakos)

27 Shevat, February 9, 2021

Sara Kruzansky (Dina Markind)

30 Shevat, February 12, 2021

Meir Rabinovich (Eliezer Rabinovich)

Steven Schorr Heather K. Mazarakos

1 Adar, February 13, 2021

Edward Steinberg (F. Richard Steinberg)

Esther Breeman (Barbie Steinberg)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the General Fund

☆ Fran and Jeff Kass in celebration of Jeff's 80th birthday

☆ Dina Markind in memory of Alvin Goldman and In honor of her son Matan's marriage to Chaviva Moshavi