

CSI SCHOLAR FUND EVENTS THIS SPRING AT THE JCC OF FORT LEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 17th

VISITING SCHOLAR ELAN EZRACHI

The Story of Jerusalem After 1967

Refreshments 12:30 pm - Speaker 1:00 pm

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25TH

VISITING SCHOLAR EDITH SOBEL

“A Trio con Brio”

A CSI Scholar Fund, Sisterhood, and ORT event

Refreshments 12:30 pm - Speaker 1:00 pm

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NEW DATE* TUESDAY, MAY 8TH

JEWISH AMERICAN COMPOSERS

FEATURING LOIS BRUNO & COMPANY

A CSI Scholar Fund, Sisterhood, and ORT event

Refreshments 12:30 pm - Speaker 1:00 pm

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Our Torah Members

These generous individuals have voluntarily chosen to support our Synagogue at a higher level of dues than is required, in order to help other Jews who are less fortunate and in need of assistance.

ETERNAL LIGHT MEMBERS

These members provide financial assistance and synagogue membership for families who are enduring financial hardship, as well as a full religious education for their children.

Anonymous
David Korn
Stephen & Merilee Obstbaum
Joseph & Tikva Ofeck

"Offerings of the Heart"

*The names of our
Torah Members
are inscribed on the
sculpture in our
Community Room.*

Joni Rosen
Steven Schwalbe &
Annmarie Krim
Myrna Weissman

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These members provide financial assistance and membership for families who are enduring financial hardship.

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Barry & Barbara Sussman
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2016 *President's Council* 2017

The President's Council was established to recognize and honor our "**Leadership Donors**" who contribute \$1,250 or more to our *Kol Nidre Annual Fund*.

These generous individuals are the "**Financial Guardians**" of our synagogue.

GUARDIAN LEADERS *Gifts of \$25,000 or more*

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Estate of Ken Feldman

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(* Indicates a Charter Member since 1995)

POST-WEDDING RUMINATIONS



It has been a very hectic two months for me. It seems that I've had something of major significance going on every other week, and that the intervening "off-week" has not given me nearly enough time to get my work done.

Still, somehow I managed to pack in everything I needed for the weeks that I've been away, to lose only one insignificant item, to generate a Shab Sha! each week, to write my sermons, and even to pay my taxes! As of this writing it remains to be seen whether I'll be ready for Passover.

The highlight of these last two months has to be officiating at Zach's and Rinat's wedding, an event that I looked forward to with tremendous anticipation and a sense of privilege, even as I was terrified.

Terrified! Would the bride and groom be pleased with the ceremony? Would my natural inclination toward sarcasm and cynicism be too much? Would I go overboard? Would my family and/or our newly acquired relatives disown me, right there, under the chuppah? Would the effort that I put into the ceremony (not unlike preparing high holiday sermons) bear fruit? In short, there was a lot riding on this and on me.

A few days after the ceremony I watched the season finale of "*This Is Us*" on DVR. There were all the Pearsons enjoying themselves in being "in the moment", as they witnessed Kate and Toby getting married. I realized that I didn't exactly have that kind of experience; I was too anxious and had too much to do to be "in the moment." What had I done to myself? What had I missed out on and deprived myself of, by officiating at the wedding instead of just taking it all in?

But I also realized that had I sat this wedding out, I would have felt that I was missing something. How could I stand there and let someone else perform the wedding ceremony for my kids? I can't imagine the frustration I would have experienced.

I am blessed that my kids trusted me enough, despite whatever misgivings and trepidations they may have had, to perform their ceremony. I am blessed with my kids,

period! (okay, exclamation mark). And the only time I cracked emotionally during the ceremony was when I asked God's blessings on them.

Here is the essence of what I said to them under the chuppah (minus the jokes and the teasing): The Hebrew word for wedding is *Nisuin*. Its three letter root, *nun*, *sin*, *alef* connotes three distinct meanings, each of which has a bearing on some aspect of marriage.

NaSA means to carry or to bear—it implies responsibility—responsibility to and for each other. That sense of responsibility is concretized in the mutual obligations outlined in the traditional and egalitarian *ketubot* that they commissioned.

NaSA also means to lift up or to elevate. Marriage is the institution *par excellence* for nurturing spiritual growth and attaining heights that one cannot achieve on one's own. Marriage defies mathematical principles: the whole that a couple creates is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Finally, *NaSA* means to forgive (as we say so often on the high holidays, God is *NoSAy avon va'fesha*—forgiving of sin and trespass). It is inevitable that misunderstandings – or worse – will occur between a couple. The ability to suck it up and apologize on the one hand, and to be generous and forgiving on the other, it is absolutely essential.

And it just may be that because of this final meaning of the Hebrew root word *NaSA*, there are so many associations between one's wedding day and Yom Kippur: one fasts, one recites the *Vidui* immediately before the ceremony—the high holy day confessional, and one wears white: not just the bride, but traditionally the groom also dons a white kittel.

The three-fold meanings of *NaSA* conjures the rabbinic ideal, the *Chut ha'M'shulash*, a braided cord composed of three individual ropes, whose bonds are so strong that they cannot be broken.

5778 Passover 2018

Intermediate days / Hol haMo'ed

Monday - Thursday

April 2nd - 5th

7:00 am & 7:45 pm

Concluding days:

Friday, April 6th

9:00 am *Minchah* at 1:00pm, following Kiddush

7:00 pm *Ma'ariv* for Shabbat and the 8th night

Saturday, April 7th

9:00 am (including *Yizkor* and a guest speaker)

Mr. Mark Schonwetter, In observance of *Yom Hashoah*, a survivor who was hidden in Poland by several courageous non-Jews, will share his experiences.

Minchah at 1:00 pm, following Kiddush

8:30 pm *Ma'ariv* & Havdalah for conclusion of the holiday

Please wait until 9:00 pm for the Rabbi to transact the return of any Hametz that you may have "sold" through him.

Yom Hashoah to be observed on the last day of Passover

Yizkor on Pesach is five days before Yom Hashoah; this year Yizkor falls on *Saturday, April 7th*.

During our services - just before we rise for our Yizkor prayers, we will hear from

Mark Schonwetter, who survived the war with his mother and sister in the Polish countryside.

Mark's message to us is especially important this year as we try to understand the ramifications of the new Polish laws making it a crime to associate Poles and Poland with the Holocaust, and the role that Polish Christians played in protecting Jews, turning them in, and actively participating in acts of vandalism and destruction, bodily harm and murder.



Mark Schonwetter feels blessed to have had a lifetime. As a young Jewish boy in Poland during World War II, he spent the war years in hiding with his mother and sister in the Polish countryside. When the war ended, the family stayed in Poland until 1957, when they emigrated to Israel. Due to a lack of job opportunities, Mark decided to move to the U.S. in 1961, with the backing of his mother's relatives here, and only five dollars to his name. Unable to speak English, he nonetheless obtained work at a jewelry factory, where he swept floors under the supervision of a man who spoke Yiddish. He soon learned English and rose through the ranks in five years to become the factory manager, and within five more years had the opportunity to purchase another jewelry company, Lieberfarb, which he turned into a successful wedding ring and bridal company, and owned and ran for over forty years. He took the American Dream to heart and built a life in his adopted country.

On the Road with the Rabbi to the Metropolitan Museum of Art



A Post-Passover Tour of Egypt April 26th 11:30 am \$45/person space limited

Guided tour by: **Nachliel haCohen Selavan**
Director of Torah InterMedia whose mission it is to
“*Bring Tanach and Jewish History to Life In the Classroom and the Museum*”

Your fee must accompany your reservation
Priority given to shul members



More About the Exhibit: *The Met collection of ancient Egyptian art consists of approximately 26,000 objects of artistic, historical, and cultural importance, dating from the Paleolithic to the Roman period (ca. 300,000 B.C.–A.D. 4th century). More than half of the collection is derived from the Museum's 35 years of archaeological work in Egypt, initiated in 1906 in response to increasing Western interest in the culture of ancient Egypt*

Call the Rabbi for more information:

201-947-1735 ext. 314

Or email rabbi@geshershalom.org





CELEBRATING ISRAEL AND ITS MUSIC AT 70



David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime minister, declared the nation's independence on the 5th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar 5708, according to the Jewish calendar (corresponding to May 14, 1948). Israel will celebrate its 70th independence day, Yom

Ha'atzmaut this year on Thursday, May 19th.

I am sure that so many wonderful celebrations for this honor are being planned. As we celebrate this important milestone, we owe it to our children and grandchildren to talk about the importance of a Jewish state. We must acknowledge that it is our duty and a "Mitzvah" to never turn our backs on a nation that is so central to our Jewish identity.

Medinat Yisrael (The State of Israel) is what 6.5 million Jews and two million people of other faiths and ethnicities call home. It's where they go to work, attend school, fall in love, sing songs, and laugh and cry. It's the only real democratic country in the Middle East. How would you like to visualize the true and authentic Israelis living in their own land? Consider this: The 2017 world happiness report ranked Israel 11th out of



155 nations. Israel has been a sacred place of devotion to Jews for three millennia, to Christians for two millennia, and to Muslims for more than one millennium.

On the day of its special birthday, I have no doubt that one of the most popular songs ever written about our beloved Israel, will be heard all over the world. It's called "**Am Yisrael Chai**" - the people of Israel Live! This song gained recognition and popularity many years ago

through the annual Chassidic song festival. This song is identifiable with the movement in the 1960s and the 1970s to get the Russian Jews out of Russia and to emigrate to Israel and America.

Another important song to come out of Israel is taken from the last sentence of the "Kaddish" that you all know and sing with such fervor; "**Oseh Shalom**," by Israel's own **Nurit Hirsch**. She wrote this after the six day war in 1967.

As we celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut at 70 in May, let's hope that this prayer for peace will be answered: "Am Yisrael Chai" - The people of Israel live! Happy Birthday Israel at 70!!

Israeli Shabbat Dinner & Musical Service Friday, April 20th 2018

Dinner 6:00pm - Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:15pm

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JOIN US FOR AN ISRAELI-THEMED SHABBAT DINNER IN HONOR OF YOM HA' ATZMAUT. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THE SERVICE. RESERVATIONS FOR THE DINNER ARE A MUST!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by April 18th. Call 201-947-1735

Members: Adults: \$20 **Non-Members:** Adults: \$22 Children (12 & under): No Charge

The CSI Scholar Fund of the JCC of Fort Lee is proud to present

VISITING SCHOLAR ELAN EZRACHI

AWAKENED DREAM: 50 YEARS OF THE COMPLEX UNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

THE STORY OF JERUSALEM AFTER 1967

TUESDAY APRIL 17th

Refreshments at 12:30 pm followed by lecture at 1:00 pm

In June 1967, within days, Jerusalem was transformed; from a small, divided and threatened town, it became a large metropolis, under Israel's control. The unification of Jerusalem radically changed the city's character. The residents, regardless of their religious or ethnic composition, were sharing in the new city that was now managed by Israel during one of its most euphoric and triumphant moments.

Elan Ezrachi was one of these residents: a third generation native of Jerusalem who chose to stay in the city and establish his adult life there. He will describe Jerusalem first hand, through the prism of a teen who matured with the new city and later on became a concerned and loving community activist. He presents what occurred in Jerusalem during the fifty years of unification: the euphoric peaks and the low moments, between despair and blossoming, without filters but with a caring and discerning eye.



Elan Ezrachi is a Jerusalem-based independent consultant, who was born and raised in Jerusalem. After six years in the Israeli Air Force as a helicopter pilot, Elan pursued a career in Jewish education serving in various executive roles including: Director of the International Dept of Melitz – Center for Jewish Zionist education, Director of the Charles Bronfman Mifgashim Center, Executive Director of Masa – Israel Journey and Director of the International School for Jerusalem Studies at Yad Ben-Zvi. Elan received his BA and MA from Hebrew University and his doctorate from JTS in New York. An active player in the Israeli Jewish Renaissance scene, he was the founding chair of Panim –for Jewish Renaissance in Israel. In addition to his professional life, Elan has been a community activist in Jerusalem in areas of urban renewal, pluralism and Jewish culture. He is married to Rabbi Naamah Kelman and a father of three.

There is no charge for this lecture.

All are welcome to attend, RSVP not required.



The CSI Scholar Fund of the JCC of Fort Lee, Sisterhood and ORT
are proud to present

VISITING SCHOLAR EDITH SOBEL

Lecture - "A Trio con Brio"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25TH

Refreshments 12:30 pm - speaker 1:00 pm

Refreshments
Bring a Friend

Program Coordinator
Naomi Altschul

Our Executive Board is pleased to announce the beneficiaries of this year's Mishlo'ach Manot Project. First and foremost we were able to give a generous donation to our Synagogue. The charities listed below are part of our Humanitarian Outreach Program. We hope that in some small way we have brought a little sunshine into someone's life. We say thank you for your generosity in making it all come to pass.

In Israel:

Magen David Adom: Israeli Red Cross
Myriam's Dream: Assists senior citizens to become self-sufficient
Neve Hanna Children's Home
Schneider Children's Medical Center
Friends of Israeli Defense Force

World Wide:

Mazon: Alleviating worldwide hunger
Jewish Braille International

Bergen County:

Center for Hope & Safety: Assists women in abusive relationships
Jewish Family Service
Chai Life Line - I shine (Teaneck)
Jewish Association for Developmental Disabilities
Tomchei Shabbat (Bergenfield)

Dorot USA

Once again thank you to everyone who participated.
You made our huge effort most gratifying.

Mark your calendar!!

*Jewish American Composers
Featuring Lois Bruno & Company
Tuesday, May 8th - 12:30 pm*

*Sisterhood Shabbat Service
Friday, June 15th*

A Quote to Remember

Each of us has her own unique voice, and our many distinct voices joined together can, and do, make a difference. Become a member of Sisterhood and have an impact by adding your voice to an organization grounded in Jewish observance and tradition.

Sisterhood Book Group

Wednesday, April 18th - 1:00 pm

"The Muralist"
By B.A. Shapiro

Refreshments served

*Chairpersons
Kathy Grazian & Naomi Altschul*

The CSI Scholar Fund of the JCC of Fort Lee, Sisterhood and ORT are proud to present

VISTING SCHOLAR EDITH SOBEL

“A TRIO CON BRIO”

FABULOUS FICTION FROM CONTEMPORARY ISRAELIS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 25TH

Refreshments at 12:30 pm followed by lecture at 1:00 pm



A discussion of three stars of the modern Israeli literary galaxy – Amos Oz, A.B. Yehoshua, and David Grossman. All are sabras, largely left wing, who deal with the important domestic issues of their time such as nation building and

Middle Eastern peace. Thus their works, most of which have now been translated into English, show us the complex issues of Israeli society as viewed by those actually living them. Ms. Sobel presents an articulate and scholarly discussion filled with wit, whimsy, and exuberance.



Edith Sobel received her BA from Beaver College and an MA in English from Montclair College. For almost 20 years she worked as editor of the JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS, the bimonthly, award-winning publication of the Jewish Federation of North Jersey. She has served as Chairperson of Adult Jewish Education for the Northern New Jersey Region of Hadassah. For many years she has been one of the prime lecturers on the north Jersey Jewish circuit covering Jewish and Israeli literature, film, drama and poetry.

There is no charge for this event.

All are welcome to attend, RSVP not required.



NEW START TIME FOR FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES

The Ritual Committee has decided to experiment with an earlier time for our Friday evening Shabbat services. Instead of starting at 7:00 pm, service will begin at 6:30 pm. The proposal was brought to our Board of Trustees in February, and hearing no objection, a three (3) month trial period will begin on **April 13th** and will run until **June 29th** when it will be re-evaluated.

Please let Richard Schiff, chairman of the Ritual Committee, or Rabbi Stern know what you think of the time change.

Please note: On evenings when the synagogue hosts a Shabbat dinner, dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, and the service will begin at 7:15 pm. With other special services the time may change.

HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

MYRA LONDON & ZEEVA SKLAR
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF LAG B'OMER?

In Israel, months before the festival of Lag B'Omer (the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot) people bring all types of things from fallen trees to broken chairs to old mattresses to the nearest empty lot. They pile these items in tall piles and wait eagerly until the mountains of refuse are turned into bonfires. Ask anyone what the bonfires are for, and you'll be told they are in celebration of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.

But why do we really celebrate the festival of Lag B'Omer? What's really so special about the 33rd day of the Omer? And why the bonfires? The first 33 days of the Omer are observed as a period of mourning. We are not supposed to get haircuts, perform weddings, or listen to music. What's the mourning all about?

Rabbi Akiva, the famous rabbi mentioned in the Mishna is said to have had 24,000 students. During the first 32 days of counting the Omer, a terrible thing happened. It is said that they died due to their lack of respect and love for each other. They were all Torah scholars, but never cared for each other or the group they belonged to. Had they survived, we might have had the benefit of their interpretations of Torah. Their deaths represent the death of lives that might have enriched our own in countless ways. That is a part of our mourning in Lag B'Omer.

The Torah we study today is endless. One can study for a lifetime and not "finish it". The Torah is only complete when enhanced by each and every Jew. No Jew on his own, no matter how smart, talented or advanced, can reach the totality of Torah. Therefore a

prerequisite for connecting fully with the Torah is the ability to appreciate the contribution of another. As the Sages ask, leading into an invaluable teaching "Who is wise?" Their response: "One who learns from every person" (Ethics of the Fathers)

We must continue to strive to be a group that stays together. We are in a very concerning time in Jewish life. Families are busy, parents are working hard to offer all the opportunities possible for their children. But synagogues and Hebrew schools all over the country are experiencing declining membership and enrollment. May we devote this Omer period to self examination and determine what we can do to keep our group together. We do not want to be left with nothing because we have devoted ourselves to only our own personal endeavors. Let's put our heads together and stick together like a family.

Lag B'Omer is a time for reinforcing our unity, specifically in looking to each other and developing the idea that Judaism, is a joint effort. The more we learn to appreciate this, the more the teachings of the Torah -- and our own souls -- will open up to us.

Getting back to those bonfires. On Lag B'Omer, we honor the memory of Rabbi Shimon by lighting candles or bonfires, symbolic of the light provided by the Torah, particularly the deeper meanings which were revealed by Rabbis and teachers in ancient times to today. The Torah is a living framework that is not simply something we teach in Hebrew school. It is a framework for our lives today that is dependent upon us to keep alive.

The CSI Scholar Fund of the JCC of Fort Lee, Sisterhood and ORT are proud to present

JEWISH AMERICAN COMPOSERS



Featuring Lois Bruno & Company

TUESDAY MAY 8TH

Refreshments at 12:30 pm followed by concert at 1:00 pm



This musical program will feature classics from the Jewish American Songbook. Spanning a century's worth of iconic melodies and lyrics from the Gershwins and Rodgers and Hammerstein to Billy Joel and Carole King, there really is something for everyone. So sit back, tap your feet, hum along, and enjoy!

Lois Bruno is an accomplished vocalist and bandleader with a rich and diverse range of musical experience. Over the course of her career, Lois has worked with such legendary musicians as Billy Cobham, Bill Mobley, James Williams, George Cables, and countless others. As an entrepreneurial bandleader, she has performed at hundreds of club dates since the early 1980s.

From the Catskills in the 60's to the Rainbow Room today; from small Brooklyn jazz clubs to large festivals; Lois has honed her craft and perfected her soulful, sultry delivery.



There is no charge for this event.

All are welcome to attend, RSVP not required.



JCC OF FORT LEE/CONG GESHER SHALOM ☆ 1449 ANDERSON AVE FORT LEE, NJ 07024 ☆ 201-947-1735 ☆ GESHERSHALOM.ORG

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IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Mort Shapiro



Shalom

Our Sages taught:
The giving of tzedakah is as great
as all the other mitzvot together
Bara Batra 9a

Our condolences to . . .

IRA SMILOVITZ

On the loss of his brother

CRAIG SMILOVITZ

NANCY VORBACH

On the loss of her beloved father

MELVIN WEISSLER

THE FAMILY OF

JACK ROSENTHAL

Our Esteemed Member

Donations listed were received in February

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1	Paul Cohen	12	Suzette Josif	21	Hugh Gilenson
1	Shari Whitman	13	Laurie Small-Levy	22	Judy Geller
8	Shira Feuerstein	16	Doryne Davis	23	William Lowe
9	Ian Gilenson	16	Terry Gensler	24	Frances Aguilar
9	Alex Gilenson	16	Tobey Lyden	24	Casey Danoff
11	Karen Meyers	18	Rachel Geller	24	Vera Kishinevsky
11	Barry Sussman	19	Jacob Herzig	28	Jeffrey Gordon
3	Mary & Leo Rettig	7	Janet & Marvin Chertkoff		
3	Lauren Peccoralo & David Kessler	16	Tobey & John Lyden		
3	Miriam & Harry Richman	18	Rochelle & Martin Carus		
6	Annemarie Krim & Steven Schwalbe	18	Ethel & Irving Plutzer		

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JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF FORT LEE

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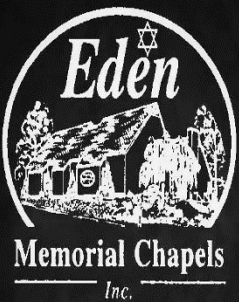
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APRIL 2018

Nissan/ Iyar - 5778

Daily Service Times

Mon -Thur	7:00am & 7:45pm
Friday	7:00am & 6:30pm
Saturday	9:30am & Minchah
Sunday	9:00am & 7:45pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 16 Nissan <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> CLOSED Service 9 am Minchah 1:00 pm Ma'ariv 8:30 pm	2 17 Nissan	3 18 Nissan Sisterhood Board Meeting 1:00 pm	4 19 Nissan CSI Scholar Fund Lecture 12:30 pm <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> CLOSED	5 20 Nissan Rabbi's Class 10:30 am Erev Yom Tov Service 7:45 pm  7:07PM	6 21 Nissan <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> Service 9 am Minchah 1:00 pm Ma'ariv 8:30 pm  7:08PM	7 22 Nissan Service 9 am includes Yizkor & Speaker Minchah 1:00 pm Ma'ariv 8:30 pm
PASSOVER	INTERMEDIATE DAYS - - - - - INTERMEDIATE DAYS				PASSOVER	PASSOVER
8 23 Nissan <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> CLOSED	9 24 Nissan	10 25 Nissan	11 26 Nissan	12 27 Nissan Rabbi's Class 10:30 am YOM HASHOAH  7:15PM	13 28 Nissan Bible Study 11:30 am Service 6:30 pm NEW TIME  7:15PM	14 29 Nissan Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 7:00PM SHEMINI
15 30 Nissan	16 1 Iyar	17 2 Iyar CSI Scholar Fund Lecture 12:30 pm	18 3 Iyar Sisterhood Book Club 1:00 pm YOM HAZIKARON	19 4 Iyar Rabbi's Class 10:30 am YOM HA'ATZMAUT	20 5 Iyar Bible Study 11:30 am Congregational Dinner 6:00 pm Musical Service 7:15 pm  7:23PM	21 6 Iyar Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 7:15PM TAZRIYA- METZORA
22 7 Iyar	23 8 Iyar	24 9 Iyar	25 10 Iyar CSI, Sisterhood & ORT Lecture 12:30 pm	26 11 Iyar On the Road with the Rabbi 11:30 am	27 12 Iyar Bible Study 11:30 am Service 6:30 pm NEW TIME  7:30PM	28 13 Iyar Birthday & Anniversary Service 9:30 am MINCHAH 7:15PM ACHAREI MOT-KEDOSIM
29 14 Iyar	30 15 Iyar					

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