

# HAPPY



# PURIM

**BEGINNING ON THE EVENING OF  
FEBRUARY 25TH - FEBRUARY 26TH**

## Our Torah Members

*We honor these generous individuals who have chosen to help those Synagogue members who are less fortunate and in need of assistance. They have voluntarily elected to contribute dues at a higher level in order to assist other Jews .*

### ETERNAL LIGHT MEMBERS

*Our Eternal Light members have generously added \$1,000 to their synagogue membership dues in order to provide assistance to our other congregants who are enduring financial hardship.*

Anonymous  
Lior & Andrea Elrom  
Harvey & Barbara Fishman  
Steven & Suzette Kolitch



David Korn  
Marvin & Judith Platt  
Joni Rosen  
Myrna Weissman

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*Our Chai members have generously added \$500 to their synagogue membership dues in order to provide assistance to our other congregants who are enduring financial hardship.*

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Suzanne Warshavsky

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# Our President's Council



Our President's Council was established to 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 and above*

- |                     |                            |   |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| * Reggie Feuerstein | * Steven & Suzette Kolitch | Joseph Lempel <i>a”h</i><br>Congregation Sons of Israel |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|

## **CHAI-FOUNDERS** *Gifts of \$18,000 - \$24,999*

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| * Anonymous (1) | * Gary & Lisa Maier |
|-----------------|---------------------|

## **FOUNDERS** *Gifts of \$10,000 - \$17,999*

Kenneth Feldman *a”h*

## **BENEFACTORS** *Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999*

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- |                 |            |                        |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------|
| * Anonymous (2) | Sisterhood | Loren & Lori Wasserman |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------|

## **BUILDERS** *Gifts of \$1,750 - \$2,499*

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Anonymous (2)</i><br>Regina Friedman | Manfred & Renee Gruenspecht <i>a”h</i> | Stephen & Merilee Obstbaum<br>Joni Rosen |
|---|--|--|

## **SUSTAINERS** *Gifts of \$1,250 - \$1,749*

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Anonymous (3)</i><br>Mark & Audrey Altschul<br>Alice & Arnold Grodman | Ruth Korn<br>David Korn<br>* Leo Rettig | * Richard & Nancy Schiff<br>Laurie Singer<br>Ellen Yuder<br>Suzanne Warshavsky |
|--|---|--|

\* Charter Members - Indicates annual contributions since 1995.

## VACCINATION MIRACLE BRINGS ISRAEL BACK TO ITS ROOTS



*I read this opinion piece a couple of days after it came out in early January. I re-read it again the day after President Biden spoke about his administration's plan and vision for combating the coronavirus: invoking the Defense Production Act for everything related to the vaccine and protective gear, and coordinating a national plan not*

*unlike our mobilization in World War II. It outlines steps that are bold, inspiring and necessary. It is my hope that it will also produce a unifying experience for many, many Americans. God knows, we sure could use it! Since Daniel Gordis' opinion piece was published Israel's vaccination stats have only increased—from 20% of those eligible to more than 20% of its entire population. He writes that so often Israel looks to the United States; now we look to Israel.*

*Let's hope that once we get our act together (which likely will take months) we will be able to demonstrate to the world that we are still the United States. No one should count us out as we transform a program that was in shambles into one that other countries will envy.*

### **Vaccination Miracle Brings Israel Back to Its Roots**

**Daniel Gordis     January 1, 2021     Bloomberg News**

In just under three months, Israel will head to the polls for the fourth time in two years. With parties still being formed, old alliances collapsing and new partnerships emerging, it is too early to predict the outcome.

Nonetheless, most polls indicate that for the first time ever, the Labor Party will get no seats in the Knesset. Labor was Israel's founding party, the party of its first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, the party that ruled almost absolutely for Israel's first 29 years. Thus, Labor's apparent demise is yet another indicator that the Israel of 1948 is all but gone.

The image of Israel as a small country surrounded by enemies is giving way to a new Middle East in which Israel has peace with Egypt and Jordan, normalized relations with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan, made progress with Morocco and, apparently, movement with Saudi Arabia. A country that barely held on in the face of what seemed imminent economic collapse in the 1950's is now a technology powerhouse and boasts a formidable economy. Its population has grown tenfold since 1948, from approximately 800,000 in 1948 to 8.6 million now.

While Israelis take pride in all they've accomplished, we are often wistful for the simpler, more innocent Israel of

yesteryear. We miss that sense of social cohesion that once felt omnipresent, the sense of shared destiny that early socialist roots cultivated.

Few would have predicted that the simple process of getting vaccinated against Covid-19 would restore, however briefly, the Israel we sometimes long for. Every Israeli citizen is a member of one of a handful of national HMO's, so we are fairly easily reached. A couple of days before the vaccinations were set to begin — first for frontline medical staff and the next day for those 60 years old and above — we got emails inviting us to make an appointment. The demand was overwhelming, but after a few tries, I got us appointments for the end of the first day that the vaccine would be available to non-medical staff. As the vaccinations were being given in one of Jerusalem's large sports arenas, I anticipated utter bedlam, the sort of Israeli chaos that I usually can't stand, and drove to the arena with a bit of dread. But I was entirely mistaken. Inside, there was a hushed calm, even a sense of sanctity.

We waited only a very few minutes, and as I looked at the eyes of other people waiting, their faces hidden behind their masks, I could tell that I was not the only one overwhelmed by a profound sense of gratitude for being part of this country. None of us knew — and still don't — how exactly Israel managed to procure so many doses of a vaccine developed in part by an American company but still not easily obtainable in America. But we were deeply grateful that it had. The small army of nurses and medical techs injecting one person after another with utter efficiency was that old Israel, the Israel that knows how to come together when facing a mortal enemy. It's a different sort of enemy this time, but the battle still evoked that abiding belief in our national resilience.

When my family moved to Israel more than 20 years ago, we were astonished that our 12-year-old daughter and her friends would stay out with their youth group until 1 a.m. Parents didn't worry about their daughters being out late at night, and for the most part, they still don't.

This is still a country that when a little kid is crying outside without an adult in obvious proximity, people scoop him or her up and wait for someone to show; it never crosses their mind that parents would object to their child being held by strangers, just as it rarely occurs to a parent that anything untoward is going to happen to their lost child. These past few weeks have evoked once again that Israel that sees itself as a family.

Still, I was momentarily confused as we waited the

required 15 minutes after the shot before leaving, as staff members walked around handing out copies of little booklets. “Games for children?” they asked quietly, offering people as many copies as they wanted. “What on earth are these for?” I wondered. “We’re not vaccinating kids, it’s nighttime and there isn’t a kid in sight. Except for the staff we’re all over 60. Who needs kids’ games?” And then it struck me, as people happily and gratefully took copies of the booklet — and then asked for another copy or two. The booklets weren’t for us — they were for our grandchildren. The HMO intuited why so many of us were there that night; we hadn’t hugged our grandchildren in almost nine months. Obviously, we were also relieved to reduce the possibility of getting sick, but somebody in an office somewhere, far from the arena, understood instinctively who would be getting on line first, and why.

Friends of ours, just a few years too young to have been eligible for the vaccine, look after an elderly woman who lives not far from them. When she needs a ride or assistance with something, they’re there for her. She, of course, was eligible, and got an appointment; so they drove her downtown to her HMO’s location. Parking downtown is often impossible, so they went together — the wife would take the woman inside while the husband waited in the car.

But a few minutes later, my friend told me, his wife called, told him to park the car and come inside right away. “They’re going to vaccinate us,” she told him. When he reminded the nurse that they weren’t really eligible because they were still too young, she simply said, “You brought in an elderly person who needed to get here? You deserve to get the vaccine,” and soon thereafter, the three of them walked out, vaccinated. It reminded him, he told me, of that Israel that so many of us miss.

At moments, in these recent weeks, the warmth of the past and the promise of the future seemed to meld. A prominent Arab physician from the Galilee told another friend of mine what these past months of being on the front lines have felt like to him. “Usually, when Israel goes to war,” he said to her, “we’re not in the army, we can’t help. But this time, Israel went to war again, and we Arabs got to be soldiers, too!” When she wiped a tear from her eye, she told me, his eyes also watered.

Israel has now inoculated nearly a million people. Israel’s is a very young population, so almost a third are too young to get the vaccine anyway — which means that in two weeks, this country vaccinated just shy of 20% of eligible citizens. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose political future looked precarious just a week or two ago, is hoping that a national sense of gratitude for this extraordinary accomplishment might just catapult him back into office — and things could well play out that way. After crises, Israelis often rip their governments apart; in the midst of the challenge, though, they often bond together, even at the ballot box.

Israel, like most countries, still has enormous obstacles to address, many of them important, a few of them existential. But there are still moments here when we recognize that this is not a country like any other. It is a country that was founded to give sanctuary to a particular people that desperately needed it, one that has weathered more in seven decades than most countries do in centuries, and that has produced a sort of familial resilience that can’t be replicated anywhere else.

For decades, Israelis have often gazed across the ocean at Americans, wondering when we could be just like them. These past few weeks, we’ve been profoundly grateful to be just who we are.

# SCHOLARSTREAM

AN INITIATIVE OF THE RA, USCJ, JTS, AND ZIEGLER

## How We Navigate Ethical Dilemmas and Reshape Rituals To Draw Us Closer to God

Tuesdays at 8 PM ET  
February 2, February 9, and February 16

## The Stories We Tell: Revealing Ourselves in Ancient Narratives

Wednesdays at 10 PM ET  
February 3, February 10, and February 17





## PURIM IS SUCH A JOYOUS HOLIDAY: GOOD OVER EVIL!



Purim will be celebrated this coming month on Thursday night February 25th and the following day. Many consider this holiday as the most fun-filled religious observance of the Jewish

year. It's an occasion for feasting, giving and masquerading. We use "graggers" to make noise, especially during the reading of Megillat Esther, both in the evening, and the next morning. There is usually added foot stomping in the shul at the mention of the villain, Haman!

The Jews only hope in the story has to do with the beautiful Queen Esther. Esther, at the last minute, approached King Ahasuerus and told him that she was in danger because she was a Jew. The king hearing the words remitted his decree and the people were saved. Purim is a time when we celebrate good over evil.

I've enjoyed Purim over the years as I'm sure you have, because of the Megillah, the Hamentashen, the children who dress up like kings, queens and villains. There are those who enjoy a Purim Se'udah (meal or banquet) and we exchange Mishloach Manot (gifts) and give Tzedakah (charity). For me it is always the music and those upbeat songs that make this holiday so enjoyable

and memorable. Some of my favorite songs include: Oh Today We'll Merry Merry Be, Chag Purim, and "Grammen," that relate to part of the Purim story. On this one day the students are able to sing silly things about our teachers, Rabbis and Cantors with special Grammen (musical parodies).

I close with actual words from Megillat Esther: these are the same words we utter each and every Saturday evening, when we recite Havdalah



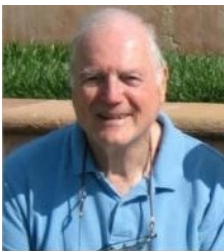
***"Layehudim hayta ora v'simcha, v'sasson, v'eekear..." For the Jewish people then, and now, for us there was light and joy and celebration..."***

These are words used in the Megillah when Mordechai replaced Haman— for the Jews of Persia there was light and gladness and honor.

Join us for Megillah reading on Thursday evening, February 25th on Zoom... and let's remember the bravery of Esther, as she lives on in each of us today, tomorrow and forever.

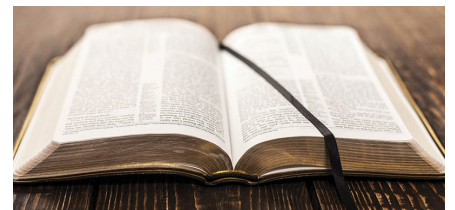


**HAPPY PURIM!**



### The Bible as Literature: **Led by Marvin Chertkoff**

**Fridays at 11:30 am**



In addition to being the basis of three major religions, the Bible is one of the great works of world literature. This course emphasizes understanding and appreciating the text and the literary devices used. Come join us for a completely new way of looking at our sacred book.



### ***Come to Megillah Reading***

Please join Rabbi Ken Stern, Rabbi Eric Wasser and Cantor Paul Zim as we listen to the **Megillah Reading** on Thursday, February 25th at 7:00pm. Dress in costume and have a “gragger” handy. Just “tune” in to **ZOOM** with your electronic device.

### **Purim February 25th**



As the Purim holiday approaches Sisterhood once again invites you to participate in the mitzvah of **Mishloach Manot**; The sending of a gift to members of our Synagogue family.

This all charity project supports our Synagogue and charities in the United States and Israel.

Due to the Covid-19 virus, this year each person on your list will be mailed, **not** delivered, Purim greetings and a special gift.

Your Purim gift lists have been mailed. Please fill them out with your check made out to **Sisterhood /JCC Fort Lee**. Help make this a success.

### **Condolences**

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Shirley Kochansky** and her family on the loss of her beloved husband **Marvin**.

They have been active members of the Synagogue for almost 65 years - Marvin serving in numerous leadership positions on the Board of Directors.

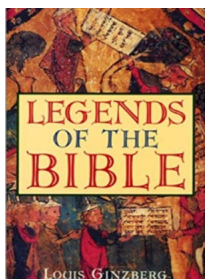
He will be missed.

~

### **Thank You**

We wish to thank Matt Chertkoff and his combo for their entertaining **Kosher Jazz** concert in late December during Coffee Talk on Zoom.

It featured Hebrew, Yiddish and holiday melodies treated to the Jazz Idiom. It was most enjoyable!



### **Re-Inventing the Bible Thursdays at 11:00 am**

The Rabbis were both close readers of the text, sensitive to every nuance, and, it turns out, also great fiction writers and spinners of yarn. Using Louis Ginzberg's masterful narrative compiling these legends, *The Legends of the Bible*, we will continue our exploration of these tales, known as Midrash Aggada.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTORS

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*Jacob Lindenthal  
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*Tzedakah  
Tzedakah  
Tzedakah  
Tzedakah  
Iris Coleman's New Grandson  
Nancy Schiff Speedy Recovery  
Nancy & Richard Schiff's Anniversary  
Alice Grodman Birthday  
Alice Grodman Birthday  
Cantor & Roz Zim's New Grandson  
Nancy & Richard Schiff's Anniversary  
Nancy Schiff Speedy Recovery*

## *Our condolences to . . .*

**ARNOLD GRODMAN**  
*On the loss of his brother,  
EDWIN GRODMAN*

~

**RAY EISDORFER**  
*On the loss of his mother,  
our esteemed member,  
ESTHER EISDORFER*

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June Kerman  
June Kerman  
June Kerman  
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Harry Richman  
Harry Richman  
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***Shirley Kochansky** and her family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Synagogue who have called, sent cards and made donations in memory of her dear husband **Marvin**. It was thoughtful and much appreciated.*

*Donations listed were received in December*



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2	<i>Michelle Reisner</i>	16	<i>Irith Insler</i>	25	<i>Suzanne Fasman</i>
4	<i>Leo Rettig</i>	16	<i>Robert Mohl</i>	25	<i>Rose Jakoby</i>
5	<i>Irving Spielman</i>	17	<i>Audrey Altschul</i>	26	<i>Arnold Insler</i>
8	<i>Judith Platt</i>	17	<i>Milton Breit</i>	26	<i>Gloria Singer</i>
8	<i>Florence Silverberg</i>	18	<i>Alan Uliss</i>	27	<i>Nancy Schiff</i>
11	<i>Diana Yacobi</i>	21	<i>Richard Rosenberg</i>	27	<i>Diane Sudakoff</i>
12	<i>Loren Wasserman</i>	21	<i>Laurie Singer</i>	28	<i>Craig Barnett</i>
14	<i>Karen Brady</i>	23	<i>Elsie Zeilberger</i>		
		15	<i>Lisa &amp; Gary Meier</i>		
		28	<i>Selma &amp; Rabbi Irving Spielman</i>		


### The Changing Face of the American-Jewish Family



Monday February 1st at 8:00 pm

Like the American community at large, Jewish families no longer look like what they did in generations past. Today, whether be it due to differences in color, race, ability, sexual-orientation or even gender identification, our families are diverse.

Fortunately, we also are part of a tradition that perceives each person as created in the image of God. Join us as we meet some folks who have unique stories to share.



*Siddurim have been  
dedicated in memory of:*

***Sol Karpman***

***And***

***Mordechai Warshavsky***

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*Generations of our families  
 have been honored to serve  
 Generations of your family*

# FEBRUARY 2021

## Shevat/Adar - 5781

Daily Online/Phone Service Times  
 Sunday - Friday 9:00am & 7:00pm  
 Saturday 10:30am & Minchah

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 19 Shevat Rabbi Wasser's The Changing Face of the American-Jewish Family 8:00 pm	<b>2</b> 20 Shevat	<b>3</b> 21 Shevat Coffee Talk Virtual Tour of Israel I 12:00 pm	<b>4</b> 22 Shevat Rabbi's Class 11:00 am	<b>5</b> 23 Shevat Bible Study 11:30am  <b>4:56</b>	<b>6</b> 24 Shevat Service via zoom 10:30 am Havdalah 6:00 pm YITRO
<b>7</b> 25 Shevat	<b>8</b> 26 Shevat	<b>9</b> 27 Shevat	<b>10</b> 28 Shevat Coffee Talk Virtual Tour of Israel II 12:00 pm	<b>11</b> 29 Shevat Rabbi's Class 11:00 am	<b>12</b> 30 Shevat Bible Study 11:30 am  <b>5:05</b>	<b>13</b> 1 Adar Service via zoom 10:30 am Havdalah 6:15 pm MISHPATIM
<b>14</b> 2 Adar	<b>15</b> 3 Adar	<b>16</b> 4 Adar	<b>17</b> 5 Adar Coffee Talk Virtual Tour of Israel III 12:00 pm	<b>18</b> 6 Adar Rabbi's Class 11:00 am	<b>19</b> 7 Adar Bible Study 11:30 am  <b>5:14</b>	<b>20</b> 8 Adar Service via zoom 10:30 am Havdalah 6:15 pm TERUMAH
<b>21</b> 9 Adar	<b>22</b> 10 Adar	<b>23</b> 11 Adar	<b>24</b> 12 Adar Coffee Talk Virtual Tour of Israel IV 12:00 pm	<b>25</b> 13 Adar Rabbi's Class CANCELLED Megillah Reading 7:00 pm	<b>26</b> 14 Adar Megillah Reading 9:00 am Shushan Purim and Shabbat Celebration 7:00pm  <b>5:22</b>	<b>27</b> 15 Adar Service via zoom 10:30 am Havdalah 6:30 pm
<b>28</b> 16 Adar					<b>PURIM</b>	<b>TETZAVEH</b>

During these unprecedented times, all synagogue prayer services and programs are being conducted over ZOOM.  
 You can participate in your choice of: Dial in - or - Using internet access with a computer, tablet or smartphone  
 You will only need two Zoom links:

### Fort Lee Virtual Shul Prayer Services:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89446247890?pwd=ZlVNdmtNZTNxalJxV1g0U25zQjhPd09>

**Participant ID/Passcode:** 585121 **Dial in:** 929 205 6099 **Meeting ID:** 894 4624 7890

### Fort Lee Virtual Shul Classes/Programming

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82296486657?pwd=ZXUzVlpaVWUzVmprdGFScmxNdzNSQT09>

**Participant ID/Passcode:** 144384 **Dial in:** 929 205 6099 **Meeting ID:** 822 9648 6657

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קקראסגבש.