

# CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 5 | Issue 11 | July 2020 | Tammuz/Av 5780

## Congregation Sons of Zion

378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
Phone: (413) 534-3369

Email:  
[office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org)

Website:  
[www.sonsofzionholyoke.org](http://www.sonsofzionholyoke.org)

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## About the Month of Tammuz/Av

Tammuz is the fourth month of the 12 month Jewish calendar beginning with Pesach in Nisan. The month of Tammuz begins the "season" of the summer. The three months of this season are Tammuz, Av and Elul.

The 9th of Av is an annual fast day in our tradition. A number of disasters occurred, primarily the destruction of both Solomon's Temple by the Babylonians in 587BCE and the Second Temple by the Romans in 70CE in Jerusalem. Thus, Tisha B'Av is regarded by many as the saddest day in the calendar.





## From the Rabbi

This has been a year of profound and far-reaching change, unlike any we have seen before.

A year ago, who among us had ever heard of covid-19? Today how many people all around the globe have not heard about and been affected by covid-19?

A year ago, who among us had ever heard of George Floyd? Today how many of us have not heard about George Floyd? His death at the hands of police has sparked unprecedented world-

wide calls for social change and racial justice that we could not have imagined just one year ago.

Back here at SOZ these changes have affected our lives as a synagogue community.

Because of covid-19, we can no longer gather together in the physical space of our synagogue. Our religious services can only be accessed by Zoom or by phone. We can't sing together in the same way. We can't shake hands and wish one another Shabbat Shalom in the same way. We can't sit down together in the social hall and enjoy a festive Shabbat kiddush together.

Faced with all these challenges, we might well have expected that our services might have suffered dramatically. But the result has been just the opposite!

- Where, before covid-19, we did not always get a weekday minyan, we now always get a minyan-PLUS for the Wednesday afternoon service.
- Pre-covid-19 on Shabbat, we pretty much always got a minyan, but often well into the service. Now both for the weekday service and for Shabbat, we almost always have a full minyan or more right at the beginning of the service.
- People arrive earlier and, even though there is no communal food, often remain on Zoom after the service to schmooze.
- Not only are **more people attending** and **attending on time**, **new people** have become regulars as well. We even have one lively 93 year old who is the friend of the mother of one of our congregants join us each week from the Boston area.
- While we have a synagogue tradition of Seder Together providing home hospitality for Passover, that was not possible this year. So instead, we had our first ever Zoom seder that enabled us to continue to be together, rather than alone and isolated, on this most communal of holidays.

Why are services thriving despite all the constraints of covid-19? What do you think?

I'd like to venture a couple guesses...

- There is a sense of personal comfort for many of us in praying together yet still being at home. We don't have to hassle with traffic. We don't have to worry if we're wearing the right shoes, since no one sees our feet...We can even go barefoot to services and still feel right at home, literally. Several of us set up very comfortably in our favorite chair, in our favorite room like a sunroom, or even outside. During the silent Amidah we can get up, stand by a window, look out at nature and meditate about our lives without having to rush.

## From the Rabbi (continued)

•We have learned that group singing of certain sections of the service works best on zoom when everyone but the leader is muted. That way everyone can still sing at their own pace, but only the leader's voice is heard it does not sound out of sync. That means we can sing any way we want to -- loud or soft, on or off-key, trying new harmonies -- in our own home, without having to worry about how we sound to anyone else.

•A synagogue is called a beit kneset, a house of gathering. It fills a deep human need to be part of a community. At this time of physical social distancing, the shul plays a more important role than ever in enabling us to feel connected rather than isolated, supported rather than fearful, part of something larger than ourselves.

So actually we are experiencing a lot of benefits by being part of services during covid-19. If you haven't joined us yet in this way, consider giving it a try. You might be very pleasantly surprised. Feel free to contact Joan Rosner or Rich Freyman for excellent coaching on how to connect to services by zoom or by phone.

Another item. We have begun discussions about how to conduct High Holidays this fall if we are still experiencing physical distancing, which is likely. Again there are many possibilities. We might be able to share certain programmatic aspects with other synagogues in the area. SOZ members and friends who do not live locally might still be able to join us via zoom. And we are also looking at ways we can greet the New Year and one another not just through services, but also through discussions, personal sharing, study, and possibly even tashlich with social distancing. If you have any ideas or requests, please tell Joan, Rich or me. High holidays could turn out to be very special and memorable this year.

Speaking of High Holidays, do you remember the study topic for second day of Rosh Hashana last year? It was about the relationship, if any, between the words we pray in shul and the lives we live outside of the synagogue. One of the study questions that we considered in small groups was: What leaps of communal action might we consider as a synagogue? Is there a benefit to applying Jewish ethics to our collective action as a Jewish organization, rather than just to our individual actions?

In other words, should SOZ as a community, take actions to apply Jewish values and teachings to current ethical and societal issues? SOZ did not have a long tradition of publicly addressing social issues, and the lively discussions on Rosh Hashana did not necessarily result in any clear consensus, although they may have helped people think about these questions in a new way - as Jewish questions, as Jewish issues, as social justice issues - rather political issues.

Now let's skip ahead about nine months to the present.

Not just as individuals, but as a synagogue community, the Sons of Zion Board issued a clear and powerful statement on a social justice issue: the legacy of racism that contributed to the death of George Floyd and negatively affects the lives of black and brown skinned people in our country.

Speaking out in this way is still pretty new for our synagogue, but I greatly welcome this development at SOZ.

In summary, this has been a year of unprecedented change and challenge - and we have emerged closer to one another and stronger as a community. May we continue to grow as a supportive, caring congregation that is meaningfully connected with one another and the world. I'm looking forward to us continuing to change and grow together.

*Rabbi Saul Perlmutter*

# *Mazel Tov*

The annual meeting met via Zoom on June 24<sup>th</sup> and elected the following board members, and in turn, the board elected officers for the coming year.

## Officers

Joan, B. Rosner, President  
 Laura Marks, Treasurer  
 Lois Levin, Recording Secretary  
 Joanne Saltman, Financial Secretary

## Board

Marjorie Bloom\*  
 David Carmen  
 Andrea Fox  
 Richard Freyman, PhD  
 Alfred Hutt  
 Judy Katz\*  
 Ira Laby  
 Lois Levin  
 Stephen Levin  
 Deborah Levine  
 Laura Marks  
 Burton Resnic, Esq.  
 Marjorie Resnic  
 Joan Rosner  
 Michael Rosner, MD  
 Joanne Saltman  
 Mady Schorsch\*  
 Barry Sparkes\*  
 Cindy Vieu  
 Kenneth Vieu

## HONORARY MEMBERS

IRENE BERNSTEIN  
 JAMES EISENSTOCK

## PRESIDENT EMERITUS

STEPHEN J. LEVINE

# *Mazel Tov and Thank you!*

\* Welcome to our new members!!!

TAMMUZ/Av  
5780

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 6 Tammuz	29 7 Tammuz Minyan Cancelled	30 8 Tammuz	1 9 Tammuz Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	2 10 Tammuz	3 11 Tammuz	4 12 Tammuz Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am  <b>4th of July</b> Chukat-Balak
5 13 Tammuz	6 14 Tammuz Minyan Cancelled	7 15 Tammuz	8 16 Tammuz Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)  SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)	9 17 Tammuz <b>Fast: 17th Day of Tammuz</b>	10 18 Tammuz	11 19 Tammuz Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am  Pinchas
12 20 Tammuz	13 21 Tammuz Minyan Cancelled	14 22 Tammuz	15 23 Tammuz Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	16 24 Tammuz	17 25 Tammuz	18 26 Tammuz Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am  Mattote-Masei
19 27 Tammuz	20 28 Tammuz Minyan Cancelled	21 29 Tammuz	22 1 Av Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom) <b>Rosh Hodesh Av</b>	23 2 Av	24 3 Av	25 4 Av Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am  Devarim
26 5 Av	27 6 Av Minyan Cancelled	28 7 Av	29 8 Av Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	30 9 Av <b>Fast: 9th of Av</b>	31 10 Av	1 11 Av Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am

\*(Zoom) and cancelled Monday minyanim assume that Covid-19 restrictions continue.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

Saturday, July 4, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

4th of July...Independence Day

Monday, July 6, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)\*

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Fast: 17th day of Tammuz

Saturday, July 11, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Monday, July 13, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

Saturday, July 18, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Monday, July 20, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

Rosh Hodesh Av

Saturday, July 25, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Monday, July 27, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Fast: 9th of Av

\*(Zoom) and cancelled Monday minyanim assume that Covid-19 restrictions continue.



## *Lets try something new...*

Please share a picture of you and/or your family while in quarantine! We would love to hear from everyone!

Please submit all photos to [office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org) or mail a copy to the office at 378 Maple Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. All submissions need to be received by July 24, 2020, in order to make it into the August 2020 Newsletter.

Let's brighten up our newsletter!!!

Sincerely,

Tara Neddeau  
Office Manager  
Congregation Sons of Zion



## Cemetery Rules

1. Synagogue member in good standing for at least 5 years prior to death are entitled to a free plot
2. Plot fee for non-members is \$4,500. Plot for a spouse on a double lot is \$2,250.
3. Opening and closing of grave is \$800
4. Perpetual care is \$1,500.
5. Cremated remains are permitted. Digging of hole for urn or ashes is \$100 in addition to the plot fee (instead of a grave fee).

Non-Jewish spouses or family members will be buried in a separate plot (no non-Jewish religious symbols are allowed).

No concrete vaults are allowed. Simple, unfinished wood caskets only.

Taharah-ritual Jewish washing and shroud are required, but a shomer or watch person is optional.

A particular plot may be reserved for \$100. There are several plots in the new section that were previously reserved and are now unused. Please call for more details.

Contact Joanne Saltman with any questions at:  
(413)575-0526 or [js24saltman@gmail.com](mailto:js24saltman@gmail.com)

## How to Watch SOZ's Past Shabbat Services on YouTube:

*(Zoom services are not recorded)*

Turn on your computer and speakers.

1. Run an internet browser (Internet Explorer or Chrome, for example)
2. Type [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) in the navigation bar and press enter.
3. In YouTube, type [Congregation Sons of Zion](#) (not just "Sons of Zion") in the box that says Search and then click on the magnifying glass or press enter.
4. Click on the video that has a red "Live" button on the bottom right corner. It may take up to 45 seconds for the video to load.

*Services start at 10:00am. Shabbat Shalom!*

## Sponsor a SHABBAT KIDDUSH

CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY, HONOR A LOVED ONE, MARK A SPECIAL  
EVENT OR ACHIEVEMENT, AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR  
SONS OF ZION FAMILY!

### Two Sponsorship Levels:

#### **Sosvin Basic:**

Our usual Kiddush, which includes lettuce, vegetables, tuna salad, herring, gefilte fish, coffee, juice, and small desserts - \$50



#### **Kishuti "Fancy":**

Everything in the Sosvin Kiddush, plus lox, kugel, and fancier dessert if desired - \$75



## A Special Thank You to Our Sustaining Members

Andrew Barowsky

Richard and Ellen Freyman

Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki

Alfred and Lee Hutt

Michael and Joan Rosner

***Please consider joining our generous Sustaining Members...at any time!***

## Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society

### ☆ Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society ☆

The following congregants have made arrangements in their wills to leave a bequest to Congregation Sons of Zion and/or have named Congregation Sons of Zion as a beneficiary in their life insurance policy and/or have established a tax-deductible fund for the synagogue, retaining a lifetime income from the fund.

Anonymous (4)

Elaine Baskin

Irene Bernstein

Joseph Boucher

David & Nancy Carmen

Louise Citron

James Eisenstock

Andrea Fox

Richard & Ellen Freyman

Albert Goldberg\*

Herbert\* & Barbara\* Goldberg

Debra Goldberg and Seth Waxman

Rose Gorin\*

Janet & Richard Greenfield

Rachel Henderson

Alfred & Lee Hutt

Ira Laby

Aaron & Gail Lansky

Stephen & Lois Levin

Stephen & Joan Levine

Sidney\* & Elizabeth\* Paul

Burton & Marjorie Resnic

Michael & Joan Rosner

William Robbins\* & Mollie Blatt\*

Ellen Saltman\*

Paul Saltman

William & Joanne Saltman

Elihu & Joan Schepps

Nitza Seaver

Charles Weinstein

Frances Welson & Thomas Osborn\*

Sherwin & Rhoda Wernick

Thomas & Eleanor Wilson

\*Deceased

Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society has participated in Create a Jewish Legacy of Western Massachusetts, which is jointly funded by the Jewish Endowment Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The Federations of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshires are program partners.

For further information about supporting Congregation Sons of Zion through a legacy or planned gift, please contact Michael Rosner at [office@sonsofzionholyoake.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoake.org) or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.



# Donations: Thank you!

## Building Fund

- ♦ Laura S. Weiss: In memory of her bubba, Fannie Weiss

## Cemetery Fund

- ♦ Amy Bernstein: In memory of her father, Milton Bernstein
- ♦ Amy Bernstein: In memory of her grandfather, James Samuel Hirshon
- ♦ Amy Bernstein: In memory of her mother, Shorrie Bernstein
- ♦ Cynthia Karukin: In memory of Frances Marshall Karukin
- ♦ Laura S. Weiss: In memory of her dad, Stanley Weiss

## Endowment Fund

- ♦ Buddy and Margie Resnic: In memory of "Bobbie" Levin

## Garden Fund

- ♦ Deb Levine: In memory of her father, Arthur Levine

## General Fund

- ♦ Ned and Cindy Barowsky, in loving memory of Norma Barowsky, Ned's mother
- ♦ Carol Halpern-Wernick and Family: In memory of Bobbie Levin, beloved mother
- ♦ Carol Halpern-Wernick and Richard Halpern: In memory of beloved mother, Sheila G. Halpern

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ♦ Dr. Morton Laby: In memory of his mother, Mrs. Lilyan Laby



"Toda" "Thank You"

## July Yahrzeits

### June 28 – July 4: Ken Vieu

June 28	*Felix Brawer
	*Doris Levin
June 29	Mary Epstein
	*Samuel Greenspan
	*Marilyn Jackler
	Nathan Kaplinsky
June 30	*Joseph Goldenberg
	Pauline Eskenasy McGilva
July 1	*Harold A. Kappel
	Mynn Lipson
	*Rheba Seaver
July 2	Isadore Elfman
	*Sarah Epstein
	Tillie Friedman
July 3	*William Hertzmark
July 4	*Louis Carlinsky

### July 5 – July 11: Marjorie Bloom

July 5	Anna Joseph Hertzmark
	Anna Levitan
July 6	Joseph Berman
	Dorothy Chesik
	John Cooper
	Sidney Epstein
	Goldie Halpern
	Nathan Halpern
	*Sigmund Leffeld
	Sidney Nathanson
	*Lillian Wolfe
July 7	Estelle "Cookie" Abrams
	*Sarah R. Magaziner Epstein
	*Sonia Soltz
	*Milton K. Welson
July 8	*Kate Koufax
	Michael A. Marks
	*Stephen Robbins
July 9	Benjamin Robinson
July 10	*Simma Daniels
	*Bertha Epstein
	Joe Fleischman
July 11	*Eve Gerstein Scheinblum



### July 12 – July 18: Dave Carmen

July 12	*Max Bussel
	Jacob N. Freedman
July 13	Louis Goldblatt
	*Joe Mandel
July 14	Samuel Hirsch
	*Aaron Posnik
	Dorothy Siegel
July 15	*Samuel Bernson
	Daisy Hirsch
July 16	Mamie Kahan
	*Sidney Levinson
July 17	Max Berman
July 18	*Stanley Jacobson
	Rose Polak

### July 19 – July 25: Andrea Fox

July 19	*Lilyan Laby
	Ida August Suher
July 20	*Benjamin F. Evarts
	*Julius Levenson
	*Harry Saul Nulman
July 21	Sidney Hirsch
	Morris Wolfe
July 22	Harry Herman
	*Anna Herman
	*Fannie Nathanson
July 24	*Harry Durlster
	Herman Fox
	Arthur I. Gold
	Syrel Kappel
	*Abraham Ritterman
July 25	Samuel Gellert
	Barnett Orlen

### July 26 – August 1: Rich Freyman

July 26	Reuben Barshay
	*Israel Goldberg
	*Clara Greenspan
	*Estelle Laufer
July 27	*Joseph Polansky
	*Lester A. Stone
July 28	Rose Epstein
	*Israel Epstein
July 29	Isadore Cramer
	Miriam Margolis
	*Sarah Zager
July 30	*Norma Magidson Barowsky
July 31	*Samuel Rosenbloom



## Cemetery Clean-Up After Storm

Provided by Steve Levine and Joanne Saltman

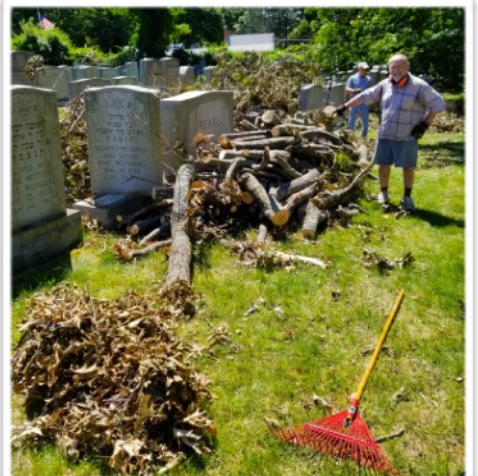
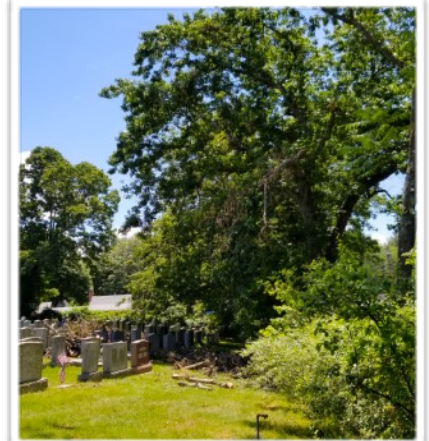
We had a large tree fall on the cemetery with a large cleanup. There are 4 stones that were felled by the tree and one that is dislodged. There also was a section of fence damaged by the tree. Bill Saltman cut up most of the branches with his chainsaw. We also got help cleaning up the branches, twigs and leaves from Steve Levin, Steve Levine, and Rich Freyman.

*thank  
you*

Before



After





## Ads from our Sponsors

### ASCHER ZIMMERMAN Funeral Home, Inc.

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**There is always room for more!!!**