

# CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 5 | Issue 6 | February 2020 | Shevat/Adar 5780

## Congregation Sons of Zion

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## About the Month of Shevat

During Shevat, the days begin to grow longer, and the sun shines a bit brighter. In Israel, spring begins in Shevat. Deep underground, the roots of trees slowly wind their way towards water. High above our heads, branches stretch toward the brightening sun.

In Israel almond trees begin to blossom in Shevat. Because they are the first to bloom each Shevat and the nut resembles an eye, an almond tree is called shaked (watcher). Almond trees are said to "keep watch" for spring.



## From the Rabbi

### Signs of Renewal: Four Days in the Life of Congregation Sons of Zion

Saturday, January 18 – Services this Shabbat incorporated many aspects of the Jewish Renewal movement. Accompanied by Yitzchak Carlton's guitar, he and Rivka Mazel-Carlton led beautiful singing, including new melodies that really touched the soul. Rivka explained the

themes of the Torah reading in a way that invited us to make a personal connection to the text, as evidenced by the large number of people who came up to the Torah for each of the group aliyot. Fran Welson's introduction to the silent Amidah helped us connect with this part of the service with greater insight and intensity, and her initiating a Rekindle Shabbat grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation made possible an extra special lunch following the service.

For many who attended, this was their first time at Sons of Zion. Judging by the warm welcome they received and by their participation during and after the service, this hopefully won't be their last visit to SOZ. In fact at least one of them showed up bright and early at services the following Shabbat.

Wednesday, January 22 – Last month I wrote about our experiment with moving the Thursday morning service to Wednesday afternoon at 5:15, following a light snack at 5:00 pm. This was our first attempt, and I am pleased to report that it was a resounding success! We had more than enough participants to make a minyan of 10.

To my great dismay, however, I was not among them. Just my luck, I was stuck on Route 91 for nearly 4 hours because a truck carrying lumber dropped its load and tied up traffic. Fortunately congregants stepped up to lead the service and saved the day. I am really sorry that I missed this historic occasion, but I am so grateful for the many people who showed up and for those who spontaneously stepped up to lead the service.

Saturday, January 25 – We regularly have a strong minyan on Shabbat mornings, but this week we attained the quorum of 10 especially early in the service. Several new participants helped make the singing even more uplifting than usual. We had to bring additional chairs to the tables to accommodate the large crowd for lunch, and at least part of the lively conversation over lunch included a spontaneous discussion of the Torah portion.

We then gathered for a scheduled session after lunch to do songs about trees, nature, and the environment in preparation for Tu B'Shvat, the holiday known as the New Year of the Trees. I thought I had made more than enough copies of the songs for everyone, but so many people

## From the Rabbi (continued)

stayed that we had to double up. Also about five people who could not attend services that morning at SOZ because of other obligations, joined us just for the song session. It went so well that several people wanted to keep singing even after we had completed all the planned songs. So sing some more we did!

Wednesday, January 29 – How would we do on our second Wednesday afternoon service? We had a full minyan again, so we're off to an even better start! And this time I was able to make it and enjoy it.

At a time when other congregations much larger than ours no longer have weekday minyanim, we are rallying to preserve ours so that folks can say kaddish if they need to and so that folks can enjoy a brief service and time together if they don't. We are here for each other.

We step up to lead services as well -- be they Renewal services that offer a new approach to one another or a minyan when the need arises.

New folks continue to find their way to SOZ. Here they find that our smaller congregation offers a warm personal welcome and a sense of belonging that cannot always be found elsewhere.

We are here because we are looking for more, not less. We want to sing more, not less. We may be small in number, but strong in spirit and connection.

The four days described above demonstrate the growth and vitality of SOZ. If you have been here during this time, you know what I mean. If you have not been here in a while, check it out.

Tu B'Shvat, the holiday that we celebrate on Sunday night, February 9, marks the renewal of nature and the beginning of the new growth of spring. I believe that Tu B'Shvat also serves as a metaphor for the renewal of energy and commitment that we are experiencing at SOZ. It's happening here and now: come and enjoy and be renewed!

*Rabbi Saul Perlmutter*



# TEVET/SHEVAT

## 5780

# February 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
26 29 Tevet	27 1 Shevat	28 2 Shevat	29 3 Shevat	30 4 Shevat	31 5 Shevat	1 6 Shevat  Shabbat Services, 10am followed by Brielle's 11 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Kiddush  <i>Bo</i>
2 7 Shevat GROUNDHOG DAY	3 8 Shevat Minyan, 8am	4 9 Shevat	5 10 Shevat Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm	6 11 Shevat	7 12 Shevat	8 13 Shevat  Shabbat Services, 10am followed by Kiddush SHABBAT SHIRAH  <i>Be-Shallach</i>
9 14 Shevat Tu B'Shevat Seder, 5:30pm	10 15 Shevat Minyan, 8am	11 16 Shevat	12 17 Shevat Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm  Light Dinner, 5:45-6:30pm SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm	13 18 Shevat	14 19 Shevat Challah Havurah, 9am	15 20 Shevat  Shabbat Service, 10am followed by Kiddush  <i>Yitro</i>
16 21 Shevat	17 22 Shevat Minyan, 8am	18 23 Shevat SOZ Lecture Series III: Dreyfus Affair Holyoke Public Library, 6pm	19 24 Shevat Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm	20 25 Shevat	21 26 Shevat	22 27 Shevat  Shabbat Services, 10am followed by Kiddush and Song Session  <i>Mishpatim-Shekalim</i>
23 28 Shevat SOZ Book Club, 10am Tikkun Olam at Kate's Kitchen 11:45am	24 29 Shevat Minyan, 8am	25 30 Shevat	26 1 Adar Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm  ROSH HODESH ADAR	27 2 Adar	28 3 Adar	29 4 Adar  Shabbat Services, 10am followed by Kiddush  <i>Terumah</i>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Shabbat Services at 10am followed by Brielle's 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday Kiddush

Sunday, February 2, 2020

Groundhog Day

Monday, February 3, 2020

Minyan, 8am

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Ma'ariv Minyan - 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Shabbat Service at 10am followed by Kiddush

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Tu B'Shevat Seder, 5:30pm

Monday, February 10, 2020

Tu B'Shevat

Minyan, 8am

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Ma'ariv Minyan - 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service

Light dinner, 5:45 - 6:30pm

SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm

Friday, February 14, 2020

Challah Havurah, 9am

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Shabbat Services at 10am followed by Kiddush

Monday, February 16, 2020

Minyan, 8am

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

SOZ Lecture Series III: What was the Dreyfus Affair?

At the **Holyoke Public Library**, 6pm

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Ma'ariv Minyan - 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service

Saturday, February 22, 2020

Shabbat Services at 10am followed by Kiddush and Song Session

Sunday, February 23, 2020

SOZ Book Club, 10am

Tikkun Olam at Kate's Kitchen, 11:45am

Monday, February 24, 2020

Minyan, 8am

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Rosh Hodesh Adar

Ma'ariv Minyan - 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service

Saturday, February 29, 2020

Shabbat Service at 10am followed by Kiddush



# TU B'SHEVAT S E D E R

The New Year  
of the Trees



Rosh HaShana  
La'llanot

SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2020  
AT 5:30PM

-Celebrate with fruits, nuts, wine, grape  
juice, singing and dancing



-A Jewish mystical experience



-Something for everyone

## PLEASE JOIN US!!

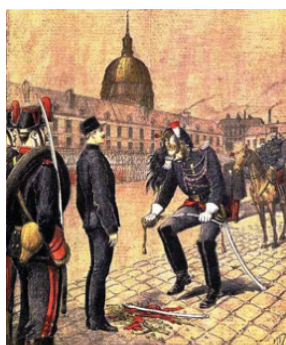
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HOLYOKE, MA 01040

\*PLEASE USE THE ACCESSIBLE CABOT STREET ENTRANCE

Please Contact the office at (413)534-3369 or  
[office@sonsofzionholyokey.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyokey.org) for more information.

# Sons of Zion Adult Education Lecture Series III: **WHAT WAS THE DREYFUS AFFAIR?**

*Presented by Author and Scholar, Dr. Simon Sibelman*



When Alfred Dreyfus was arrested for espionage in 1894, few in France or around the world could have imagined the case would mangle for a bitter 12 years. It would also set the stage for many events that would engulf the world – Jewish and non-Jewish – over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the *Affaire Dreyfus* unleashed a tidal wave of anti-Semitic rhetoric and visual imagery the intensity of which had previously been unknown. Many individuals would sense the need to become philosemitic, to stand with Dreyfus and the Jews, and for Viennese journalist

Theodore Herzl to recognize the necessity to establish a Jewish State. This illustrated lecture will explore these and other pressing issues born of the Affair.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020 AT 6PM**

This event includes a 1 hour lecture, a 1/2 hour Q & A, followed by light refreshments.

## LOCATION:

**HOLYOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
COMMUNITY ROOM**

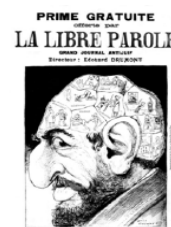
**250 CHESTNUT STREET, HOLYOKE, MASS. 01040**

Dr. Sibelman is a native of Richmond, VA and a graduate of the University of Richmond and King's College, University of London. He has taught in many universities in the US and abroad. Dr. Sibelman has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ashdown Trust, and the French Ministry of Culture. He has authored several books and lives in Western Mass. This is the third year he has taught a lecture series at SOZ.



Questions? Contact Congregation Sons of Zion  
at (413)534-3369 or  
[office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org)

**DONATIONS ARE WELCOME**



# CHALLAH HAVURAH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 AT 9AM



We knead you!!!!



CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION  
378 MAPLE STREET  
HOLYOKE, MA 01040

Research and learn hallah recipes from around the world the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month!

PLEASE RSVP TO: MAGGIE GRUSZECKI  
(413)883-2307

Sponsored by: Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Congregation Sons of Zion

An artistic illustration featuring a person's profile with long dark hair, singing into a microphone. Above the person, several musical notes float in the air. A large, stylized blue flame or wave-like shape is positioned behind the person. In the foreground, an open book is visible, with the words 'Song Session' written on its pages.

Saturday,  
February 22, 2020

We will be singing songs  
in preparation for Purim,  
as well as other light-  
hearted songs.

All are welcome!



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

Turn on your computer and speakers.

1. Run an internet browser (Internet Explorer or Chrome, for example)
2. Type **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 10am. 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

Ned and Cindy Barowsky

Richard and Ellen Freyman

Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki

Norman and Marion Halpern

Alfred and Lee Hutt

Steve and Lois Levin

Buddy and Margie Resnic

Michael and Joan Rosner

Bill and Joanne Saltman

*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@sonsofzionholioke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholioke.org) or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.



# Donations: Thank you!

## General Fund

- ✦ Jamie Benjamin: In memory of beloved mother and grandmother, Addie Firestone
- ✦ Maureen Gagnon Craig: In memory of Adelaide R. Firestone. She was a sweet, loving, kind, generous and smart woman. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.
- ✦ Jerome Epstein, Gregg Epstein, Alexa Epstein, Ken Miller and David Goodman: In memory of Adelaide Firestone
- ✦ Deborah Glasser: Year End Donation
- ✦ Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki: In honor of Brielle's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday and with loving gratitude for the many gifts she brings to us. You rock Brielle!
- ✦ Judy and Robert Katz: In honor of Brielle Burkett's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ✦ Judy and Robert Katz: Wishing Refua Shlema to Cindy Vieu
- ✦ Jordan and Gloria Koltz: In memory of Adelaide Firestone
- ✦ Aaron Posnik & Co., INC: In memory of Adelaide Firestone
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: In memory of Addie Firestone. We miss her!
- ✦ Joan Rosner: To Ken Vieu for all that he does for the Congregation

## Cemetery Fund

- ✦ Michael Karukin: In memory of his father, Samuel Karukin
- ✦ Harold Resnic: In memory of his mother, Babe Resnic
- ✦ Francine Stewart: In memory of her loving father, Martin Jaffe
- ✦ Rhoda and Sherwin Wernick: In memory of their son, Richard Wernick
- ✦ Rhoda and Sherwin Wernick: In memory of Sherwin's mother, Bertha Wernick
- ✦ Rhoda and Sherwin Wernick: In memory of Rhoda's mother, Sarah Lipnick

## Endowment Fund

- ✦ Andrew Barowsky: In memory of Addie Firestone
- ✦ Margie and Buddy Resnic: In memory of Buddy's loving mother, Babe Resnic

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ✦ Gellya Shulman: In memory of her husband, Arkady Shulman
- ✦ Gellya Shulman: In memory of her son, Michael Shulman

## Shabbat Shalom

- ✦ Gellya Shulman: In memory of her husband, Arkady Shulman
- ✦ Gellya Shulman: In memory of her son, Michael Shulman





## February Yahrzeits

### **January 26 – February 1: Laura Marks**

January 27	*Jerome Jaffe Samuel Samel
January 29	*Leopold Mausel
January 31	*Clarence Irving Garber *Rebecca R. Katz
February 1	*Lenore Kingsberg *Elizabeth Orlen

### **February 2 – 8: Joan Rosner**

February 3	Isidor Becker *Richard Wernick
February 7	*Samuel Karukin

### **February 9 – 15: Michael Rosner**

February 10	*Samuel Garber
February 11	Rebecca Wolf
February 12	Doris Goldberg Selbie
February 13	*Frances Brams Evarts
February 15	Harris Cohan

### **February 16 – 22: Joanne Saltman**

February 17	*Eda G. Solomon
February 18	*Edwin Os *Rae Schepps Michael Shulman
February 20	*Beatrice Kahan

### **February 23 – 29: Simon Sibelman**

February 23	*Sylvia G. Welson
February 25	*Marcia Greenspan Friedman
February 26	Theodore Belsky Harry Gruszecki *George Rose
February 27	*David Epstein



On Monday, minyan is cancelled if the Holyoke Schools are delayed or closed.

On Wednesday, if the weather is inclement call the office at (413)534-3369 after 2pm. The message will be adjusted if the minyan is cancelled.



January 18, 2020

# Renewal Shabbat

21 Tevet

Harold Grinspoon Foundation Supported in part by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Provided by Andrea Fox



## Reflections on the Renewal Service by Katalina Van Santos

"I haven't been to Saturday morning services in over a decade and generally have no idea of the structure of Jewish services at all. Today, I went 5 minutes away from my apartment to Holyoke for a Renewal Service and was greeted by fellow service-goers in such a warm fashion for a stranger that it really caught me off guard. Tell a stranger the door was open? Help me hang my coat? In an age of heightened security, this congregation used trust to guide me into their shul.

The renewal service led by Caroline Rivkah Mazel-Carlton was nothing short of amazing. We sat in a circle of folding chairs, chanting people, a humble but extraordinarily proud congregation had been in Holyoke this whole time and I hadn't known it.

I wanted to cry about 10 minutes after I walked in the door. Crying is how I marked my need to convert. Crying is not something my body does easily. Crying is primal and vulnerable and I felt wholeness being this fractured broken prayer-goer helping to hold together our cries to the Divine with our gaping flaws. My mouth kept pushing out prayers I hadn't heard before-thats always been the case with me and Judaism but I've never told a rabbi for fear of being called "crazy."

I realized it was fine to hear voices. This is something I'd accepted on a very base scientific level, but I felt it root within me this time. I realized it was fine to see things. Hallucinations are visions and whispers of a brain trying to meld the multiple worlds we and our souls navigate.

This morning was so, so blessed and I'm so thankful that I got to experience it."





January 18, 2020

# Renewal Shabbat

21 Tevet

Harold Grinspoon FOUNDATION Supported in part by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Provided by Andrea Fox





January 18, 2020

# Renewal Shabbat

21 Tevet

Harold Grinspoon Foundation  Supported in part by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Provided by Andrea Fox



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There is always room for more!!!