

CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

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Congregation Sons of Zion

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About the Month of Tevet

This month begins with the last days of Hanukah. By internalizing the message of the ever-increasing lights of the menorah, we are able to reveal the good that is hidden in our lives and in the world around us.





From the Rabbi

Dear Member or Friend of SOZ,

Recently I asked a friend about why she often attends weekday minyan at Temple Beth El in Springfield.

She said that people were there for her when she was saying Kaddish for her parents. So now that she is no longer mourning her parents, she continues to attend the minyan to show

appreciation for those who helped make the minyan for her when she needed it. [Note: a minyan or quorum of 10 Jews over the age of bar/bat mitzvah is required for public recitation of certain prayers like the mourners Kaddish.]

She paused briefly, adding that the minyan also provides her with space and time to step back from the busyness of the day for quiet reflection. There are personal issues in her family such as health, and the minyan gives her the opportunity to ask God for help and strength in dealing with them.

She described the weekday afternoon service at Temple Beth El as taking only about 10-15 minutes. She would be happy with prayers that were less rushed so there could be a little more time for reflection.

I explained that since we at SOZ are considering making changes in our weekday minyan (see more on this below), I thought it would be helpful to share her remarks with our congregation. I requested and received her permission to do so because she highlighted, in a very personal way, some of the key reasons for participating in a weekday minyan.

For many of us as well, the weekday minyan is about saying Kaddish during the mourning period or on the yahrzeit (annual anniversary of the death) of a loved one who has died. This is one way we fulfill the mitzvah of k'vod ha-met, honoring the deceased.

For those who are not grieving the loss of a loved one, we might attend a weekday minyan to help fulfill the mitzvah of nichum aveilim, giving comfort and consolation to those who are in mourning. This is often a time of feeling vulnerable and alone, and the presence of a caring community can make a world of difference.

We might be as altruistic as my friend who continued to attend minyan as an expression of appreciation for people in the minyan who were there for her when she needed to say Kaddish. Or we might simply come to the very practical assessment that if we want there to be a minyan when we want to say Kaddish, we need to be there for others in their time of need.

Clearly, saying Kaddish or enabling someone else to say Kaddish is a very important aspect of the weekday minyan. But why? What is so special about Kaddish?

From the Rabbi (continued)

In Saying Kaddish, one of the many excellent books on the topic, prize-winning author Anita Diamant writes: “Jewish mourners begin saying Kaddish at the funerals of their loved ones, and continue reciting it for the rest of their lives. Jews who never pray say Kaddish. Atheists say Kaddish...it...does not require belief in the words—or even understanding...This is not as mechanical as it sounds, because it is simply impossible to understand the impact or value of saying Kaddish without first doing it. The mystery of Kaddish is revealed every time it is spoken aloud with others. The truth is that the sounds of the words are more important than their definitions. The text is secondary to the emotional experience of the recitation. The meaning only comes clear when given communal voice...Like music, there is no understanding Kaddish without hearing it and feeling it and letting go of the words.”

There is great personal meaning that can be derived from reciting Kaddish or enabling someone to recite Kaddish in a minyan. I recommend Diamant’s book as a way of helping us understand its significance both for the individual and for the community. But what if there is a week when no one needs to say Kaddish in the congregation? If the minyan is so important for the saying of Kaddish, why bother with a minyan when no one needs to say Kaddish?

While a minyan **is** important for the saying of Kaddish, it is also important and meaningful **for much more than only saying Kaddish.**

A weekday morning (shacharit) minyan can help us to provide direction and set priorities for the day about to unfold. An afternoon (mincha) or evening (ma’ariv) minyan might enable us to step back, take note of how we are using our time, and make adjustments in the course of our day. These opportunities to get in touch with ourselves can add focus, self-awareness, and productivity to our daily lives.

The weekday minyan also gives us an opportunity to speak with God in a way that is different from how we might pray on Shabbat. The Amidah on Shabbat, for example, consists of 7 blessings, focusing on gratitude, praise and appreciation. The weekday Amidah contains 19 blessings, most of which are petitionary, asking to provide for our physical, emotional, or spiritual needs, such as wisdom, health, sustenance, justice, and compassion.

On the weekday we look at the proverbial glass as half empty and concentrate our energy on filling it. On Shabbat we look at the same glass and see it as half full to foster a sense of appreciation for the many blessings in our lives. Both – the weekday striving and productivity, and the Shabbat resting and gratitude – are important to living a fulfilling and meaningful life.

The weekday minyan also can give us a welcome social opportunity. As writer Isaac Metzger wrote, “my father was a Socialist and a freethinker, but he went to shul...Once when I chided him about his piety in view of the fact that he was a freethinker, he answered me, ‘These people are my brethren, they are the people among whom I was raised, and I love them. Dudja Silverberg [a very pious Jew] goes to shul to speak with God, I go to shul to speak with Dudja.’”

Whether or not Kaddish is said, the weekday minyan has intrinsic value for enabling us to get in touch with ourselves, our God, and one another.

From the Rabbi (continued)

Despite the many personal and spiritual benefits of a weekday minyan, it has become increasingly difficult as of late to sustain a quorum for Monday and Thursday morning minyan at SOZ. We have fewer retired members of advanced age who are free in the morning, and some cannot travel on their own. Work and/or family demands make it difficult for others to attend a weekday morning service. This is not unique to SOZ; congregations much larger than ours are in a similar situation.

Our synagogue is thus faced with a painful dilemma. Do we continue to cling to Monday and Thursday weekday morning services even though they no longer regularly achieve a full minyan? Or do we reluctantly acknowledge that weekday morning services are no longer working, and therefore cancel them?

Thanks to everyone who responded to the September survey about weekday services – nearly 45% of the congregation, very impressive! – and to everyone who participated in the discussions that followed, it seems like we are moving toward a middle ground.

Given the importance of attaining a minyan so that Kaddish can be said, we are exploring replacing the Thursday morning minyan with a late afternoon minyan meeting around 5:15 or so on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. This will make it easier for some people to attend after their workday concludes. Rides may be offered for those who might need them. The main hoped-for result is that we may once again have a weekday minyan for reciting Kaddish or for supporting those who wish to do so.

Given that a weekday minyan has personal, religious, and communal value even if a quorum for Kaddish is not attained, the Monday morning service is and remains important and meaningful for those who attend. While it may not ensure a full minyan for Kaddish, there is good reason to continue as it is.

As I write this, you should be receiving a second survey to help determine questions like whether Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon should be the new time for the Thursday morning minyan. Please complete and return the survey by Tuesday, January 7. Feel free to also contact Religious Committee Co-chairs Joan Rosner at joanrosner@comcast.net or Rich Freyman at rlf@comdis.umass.edu with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

For all of the reasons cited above – and more, SOZ has a long and proud history of sustaining one another through weekday minyanim. Please consider what participation in a weekday minyan can mean for you and for the congregation, and do whatever you can to help this meaningful tradition continue at SOZ.

With warm wishes for 2020,

Rabbi Saul Perlmutter



TEVET/SHEVAT

5780

January 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
29 1 Tevet	30 2 Tevet	31 3 Tevet	1 4 Tevet	2 5 Tevet 8am Minyan	3 6 Tevet	4 7 Tevet Shabbat Services, 10am followed by Kiddush Va-Yigash
5 8 Tevet	6 9 Tevet 8am Minyan	7 10 Tevet	8 11 Tevet SOZ Board of Director's Meeting, 7pm	9 12 Tevet 8am Minyan	10 13 Tevet Challah Havurah, 9am	11 14 Tevet Shabbat Services, 10am followed by Kiddush Va-Yechi
12 15 Tevet	13 16 Tevet 8am Minyan	14 17 Tevet	15 18 Tevet	16 19 Tevet	17 20 Tevet	18 21 Tevet Renewal Shabbat Service, 10am followed by Kiddush Shemot
19 22 Tevet	20 23 Tevet 8am Minyan	21 24 Tevet	22 25 Tevet	23 26 Tevet	24 27 Tevet	25 28 Tevet Shabbat Services, 10am followed by Kiddush and Song Session Va-Era
26 29 Tevet Tikkun Olam at Kate's Kitchen 11:45am	27 1 Shevat 8am Minyan ROSH HODESH SHEVAT	28 2 Shevat	29 3 Shevat	30 4 Shevat	31 5 Shevat	1 6 Shevat

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, January 4, 2020

Shabbat Services at 10am followed by Kiddush

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

SOZ Board of Director's Meeting, 7pm

Friday, January 10, 2020

Challah Havurah, 9am

Saturday, January 11, 2020

Shabbat Services at 10am followed by Kiddush

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Renewal Shabbat Service at 10am followed by
Kiddush

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Shabbat Services at 10am followed by Kiddush and
Song Session

Sunday, January 26, 2020

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

Monday, January 27, 2020

Rosh Hodesh Shevat

Thursday, February 13, 2020

SOZ Adult Education Lecture Series III: What was
the Dreyfus Affair?

CHALLAH HAVURAH

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2020 AT 9AM

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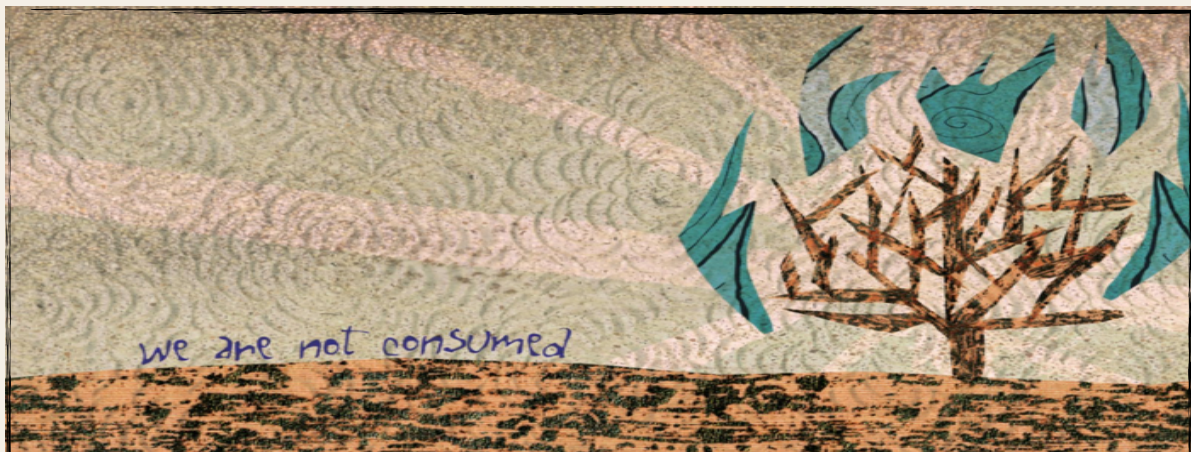
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An artistic illustration featuring a person with long dark hair singing into a microphone. Several musical notes are floating in the air. In the background, there is a stylized blue flame or smoke design. In the foreground, an open book is visible with the words 'Song Session' written on its pages.

Saturday,
January 25, 2020

We will be doing mostly songs dealing with nature, the earth, trees etc to help usher in Tu B'Shvat, which begins a couple weeks later.

All are welcome!



Congregation Sons of Zion's

RENEWAL SHABBAT

This renewal Shabbat we will be encountering Parshah Shemot which means "names" in Hebrew. We will be exploring through chant and song the many names the Jewish tradition offers us to address the Divine.

Renewal-style group aliyot will offer us the opportunity to deepen our understanding of identity— including our Jewish identity— through the story of Moses, Pharoah's daughter and other ancestral role models.

SHABBAT SHEMOT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020
21 TEVET

SERVICE BEGINS AT 10AM
A FESTIVE KIDDUSH TO FOLLOW

Congregation Sons of Zion

378 Maple Street

Holyoke, MA 01040

(413)534-3369

*Please use accessible Cabot Street entrance

All are welcome! No prior knowledge of Hebrew is necessary.

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!

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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

**A special and heartfelt welcome to our newest
2019-20 sustaining members, Norman and
Marion Halpern.*

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)	Aaron & Gail Lansky
Elaine Baskin	Stephen & Lois Levin
Irene Bernstein	Stephen & Joan Levine
Joseph Boucher	Sidney* & Elizabeth* Paul
David & Nancy Carmen	Burton & Marjorie Resnic
Louise Citron	Michael & Joan Rosner
James Eisenstock	William Robbins* & Mollie Blatt*
Andrea Fox	Ellen Saltman*
Richard & Ellen Freyman	Paul Saltman
Albert Goldberg*	William & Joanne Saltman
Herbert* & Barbara* Goldberg	Elihu & Joan Schepps
Debra Goldberg and Seth Waxman	Nitza Seaver
Rose Gorin*	Charles Weinstein
Janet & Richard Greenfield	Frances Welson & Thomas Osborn*
Rachel Henderson	Sherwin & Rhoda Wernick
Alfred & Lee Hutt	Thomas & Eleanor Wilson
Ira Laby	

*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 or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.



Donations: Thank you!

General Fund

- ♦ George and Gail Baquis: Yom Kippur Donation
- ♦ Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's father, Mischa Barowsky
- ♦ Irene Bernstein: In memory of her husband, Russell Bernstein
- ♦ Elizabeth and Kevin Ferry: In memory of Elizabeth and Sidney Paul
- ♦ Andrea Fox: Happy Birthday to all of her Capricorn family
- ♦ Lee Frankl: Year End Donation
- ♦ Atty. Richard Gaberman & Mrs. Betsy Heit Gaberman: In memory of Richard's father, Harry Gaberman
- ♦ Richard Goldman and Myra Orlen: Giving Tuesday
- ♦ Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki: In appreciation of Simon's brilliant knowledge as a lecturer and kindness as a person
- ♦ Carol Halpern-Wernick: In memory of Karen Levine's beloved brother, Steven Polansky
- ♦ Gail Hornstein: Giving Tuesday
- ♦ Gail Hornstein: Year End Donation
- ♦ Alfred and Lee Hutt: Giving Tuesday
- ♦ Harold Resnic: In memory of his father, Samuel Resnic
- ♦ Joan and Michael Rosner: For Ken Jaffe, in memory of his sister Ellen Connington
- ♦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Happy Birthday wishes to Andrea Fox
- ♦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Happy Birthday wishes to Yitzchak (Chris) Carlton
- ♦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Happy Birthday wishes to Ken Vieu
- ♦ Elihu and Joan Schepps: Year End Donation
- ♦ Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Vapnek: Year End Donation

Cemetery Fund

- ♦ Edith Eskenasy: In memory of her grandmother, Lena Seamon
- ♦ Susan Craig: In memory of her husband, Philip Craig
- ♦ Susan Craig: In memory of her father, Milton Palmer

Endowment Fund

- ♦ Margie and Buddy Resnic: In memory of Buddy's father, Samuel Resnic



January Yahrzeits

December 19 – January 4: Lois Levin

December 29	*Milton Jerome Laufer
	Adele Robbins
December 30	Marcelle Freyman
December 31	*Ethel Haley
	Paul Meyer
January 1	*Ida Laskin
	Rose Rubin
January 4	*Shirley Eisenstock
	*Isadore Ziff
	Osborn Thomas

January 5 – 11: Andrea Fox

January 7	*Mischa Barowsky
	Sarah Lipnick
January 8	*Mollie Schlosberg
January 9	Shirley Fortgang
January 10	Sarah Reiner
January 11	Bessie Jolles
	*Batya Segalovitch

January 12 – 18: Steve Levin

January 12	*Pauline Jaffe
	*Sarah Stein
	*Elizabeth Zellan
January 13	*Theresa "Babe" Resnic
	*Menecham Segalovitch
	*Arkady Shulman
January 14	*Aaron Kingsberg
January 15	Benjamin Messias
January 16	Ruth Laskin
January 17	Ida Gold
	Leah Persoff

January 19 – 25: Deb Levine

January 20	*George Eisenstock
January 21	*Martin Bassell
	*Bertha Wernick
January 22	Benjamin Tenenbaum
January 23	Lena Rubinwitch

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



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There is always room for more!!!