

# CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 4 | Issue 9 | May 2019 | Nissan/Iyar 5779

## Congregation Sons of Zion

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Holyoke, MA 01040  
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## About the Month of Iyar

Although Iyar does not contain many “special days,” every single day of the month is included in the Sefirat HaOmer, the mitzvah of counting each of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. Sefirat HaOmer is a period of introspection and self-refinement, as we prepare ourselves to receive the Torah anew on Shavuot. Each day of Iyar represents another step in this spiritual journey toward Sinai.



## From the Rabbi

I hadn't wanted my article this month to be about shootings and bombings and hate targeting Jews and other religious communities.

But just six months after the deadliest attack on Jews in America at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, violence has struck again during a Shabbat service on the last day of Passover, this time at a synagogue in

Poway, near San Diego, California. Another hate-filled shooter. Another death. More wounded. More grief, more fear, more tears.

It is difficult to avoid the thought that violence directed against Jewish institutions is on the rise. And this violence is not just against Jews and not just in this country. Consider last month's murder of 50 worshippers at a mosque in New Zealand, live-streamed on video by the shooter. Or the simultaneous suicide bombings killing hundreds attending church services on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka.

I wish that I could dismiss these as stand-alone, isolated acts that will not recur. Unfortunately all-consuming hate and the conviction that one is doing something positive by acting on their hate seems to be spreading like a virus. I just read that the 19 year old college student who struck the synagogue in Poway wrote a letter before the attack indicating that he was inspired by the massacre in the mosque in New Zealand. He also claimed responsibility for attempted arson at a mosque in California.

These are not random acts. One builds upon the other. They are connected by a similar us vs them view of the world. As political leaders vilify groups such as immigrants for the ills of their countries, and as people are labelled as "deviant" based on sexual orientation or other characteristics, the door is open wider for more marginalization, demonization and victimization of those who are "different."

I had hoped to write something this month that would be upbeat and celebratory. I would have preferred to focus on the very special and loving community that we have at Sons of Zion. For example, I have heard from many members of our congregation about how they shared wonderful seders with others from the synagogue. Some of these seders were large, some were small, but all of them were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by hosts and guests alike who opened their hearts and homes to one another.

I also wanted to write about our most recent Shabbat service. It was considerably longer than a usual Shabbat service because it included additional elements for the eighth day of Passover. Several people told me after the service how much it had meant to them:

## From the Rabbi (continued)

both the spirited, uplifting singing of the Hallel and the quiet, meditative moments of reflection during Yizkor. They commented that they were so engaged in the service that they did not even notice that it was longer than usual. Along with a thoughtful and participatory Torah discussion, this service was a warm sharing of heart, mind and spirit that is so special about the feeling of community in our synagogue.

That sharing continued with a wonderful lecture and lively discussion the next day on anti-Semitism, led by Dr. Simon Sibelman, an outstanding scholar on the topic and a member of our shul. Our President, Joan Rosner, also announced that same day that Sons of Zion had just received a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security, part of which will be used for threat alert and safety response training. The grant, which was put together by board member Andrea Fox, Joan, and an expert consultant, will provide free training for up to 30 synagogue members.

So now the various strands of this article converge.

I wanted to write about how this congregation is a gift we give one another. The relationships and community we share are so very precious. Let us enjoy and celebrate them in gratitude and appreciation.

I needed to write about the increasing risks that our synagogue and other houses of worship need to take seriously. Thankfully, this grant, obtained by our synagogue leadership, takes the risks seriously and provides us with positive, concrete action we can take to keep our precious community safe and secure. Rabbi Hillel taught: if I am not for myself, who will be for me? Consider taking the important step for our safety by signing up for the excellent training and prevention made possible by the grant. To register or for more information, call the synagogue office 413 534-3369.

Rabbi Hillel also taught: if I am only for myself, what am I? We do not live in isolation. We must be concerned about and reach out to other faith communities and marginalized groups that are being targeted for intimidation and violence. It felt good to learn that an imam and a minister reached out to us in an act of solidarity by attending our program on anti-Semitism. Let us consider how we as individuals and as a religious community can stand together with other faith and marginalized groups, affirming respect and caring in the face of bigotry and hatred.

Rabbi Hillel asked one more question, which is really a call to action: if not now, when?

What will our answer be?

*Rabbi Saul Perlmutter*



# CHALLAH HAVURAH

FRIDAY, MAY 10TH AT 9AM

WE KNEAD YOU!!!!

CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION  
378 MAPLE STREET  
HOLYOKE, MA 01040

RESEARCH AND LEARN HALLAH RECIPIES  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT: MAGGIE GRUSZECKI  
(413)883-2307



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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

**NISSAN / IYAR**

**5779**

*May 2019*

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>28</b> 23 Nissan Kate's Kitchen, 11:45am  SOZ Lecture Series III: <i>The                      Longest Hatred</i> , 2pm	<b>29</b> 24 Nissan	<b>30</b> 25 Nissan	<b>1</b> 26 Nissan	<b>2</b> 27 Nissan	<b>3</b> 28 Nissan	<b>4</b> 29 Nissan Shabbat Services, 10am
<b>5</b> 30 Nissan Mak'hela Concert at Holyoke High School, 3pm	<b>6</b> 1 Iyar 8am Minyan  ROSH HODESH FIRST DAY IYAR	<b>7</b> 2 Iyar	<b>8</b> 3 Iyar	<b>9</b> 4 Iyar 8am Minyan Board of Director's Meeting, 7:30pm  ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY	<b>10</b> 5 Iyar Challah Havurah, 9am	<b>11</b> 6 Iyar Shabbat Services, 10am Followed by a festive Kiddush for Jerry & Rhoda Cohen  <i>Kedoshim</i>
<b>12</b> 7 Iyar  MOTHER'S DAY	<b>13</b> 8 Iyar 8am Minyan	<b>14</b> 9 Iyar	<b>15</b> 10 Iyar Holyoke Holocaust Remembrance at the Holyoke Senior Center, 6:45pm	<b>16</b> 11 Iyar 8am Minyan Tefillin Workshop, 9:30am Israel Bonds Dinner at Chez Josef, 6pm	<b>17</b> 12 Iyar	<b>18</b> 13 Iyar Shabbat Services, 10am
<b>19</b> 14 Iyar Lesléa Newman: Gittel's Journey, 1pm	<b>20</b> 15 Iyar 8am Minyan	<b>21</b> 16 Iyar	<b>22</b> 17 Iyar	<b>23</b> 18 Iyar 8am Minyan  LAG BA-OMER	<b>24</b> 19 Iyar	<b>25</b> 20 Iyar Shabbat Services, 10am Singing Session after lunch open to all  <i>Be-Har</i>
<b>26</b> 21 Iyar Tikkun Olam at Kate's Kitchen, 11:45am	<b>27</b> 22 Iyar 8am Minyan  MEMORIAL DAY	<b>28</b> 23 Iyar	<b>29</b> 24 Iyar	<b>30</b> 25 Iyar 8am Minyan	<b>31</b> 26 Iyar	<b>1</b> 27 Iyar   <i>Be-Chukkotal</i>

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Shabbat Services, 10am

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Mak'hela Concert at Holyoke High School, 3pm

Monday, May 6, 2019

Rosh Hodesh Iyar

Thursday, May 9, 2019

SOZ Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Israel Independence Day

Friday, May 10, 2019

Challah Havurah, 9am

Saturday, May 11, 2019

Rhoda & Jerry Cohen's 90th Birthday/70th Anniversary  
Kiddush after 10am Shabbat services

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Mother's Day

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Holyoke Holocaust Remembrance at the Holyoke Senior  
Center, 6:45pm

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Tefillin Workshop after Minyan Breakfast, approx. 9:30am  
Israel Bonds Dinner at Chez Josef, 6pm

Saturday, May 18, 2019

Shabbat Services, 10am

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Lesléa Newman: Gittel's Journey, 1pm

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Lag Ba-Omer

Saturday, May 25, 2019

Shabbat Services, 10am

Singing Session after lunch open to all

Sunday, May 26, 2019

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

Monday, May 27, 2019

Memorial Day




*The Family and Friends of*  
***Rhoda and Jerry Cohen***  
*invite you to a festive kiddush celebrating their*  
***70th Anniversary and Rhoda's 90th Birthday!***  
**Saturday, May 11, 2019**  
 Services at 10am  
 Kiddush to follow




**Congregation Sons of Zion**  
 378 Maple Street  
 Holyoke, MA 01040  
*\*Please use the accessible entrance on Cabot Street*

Kiddush is sponsored by:

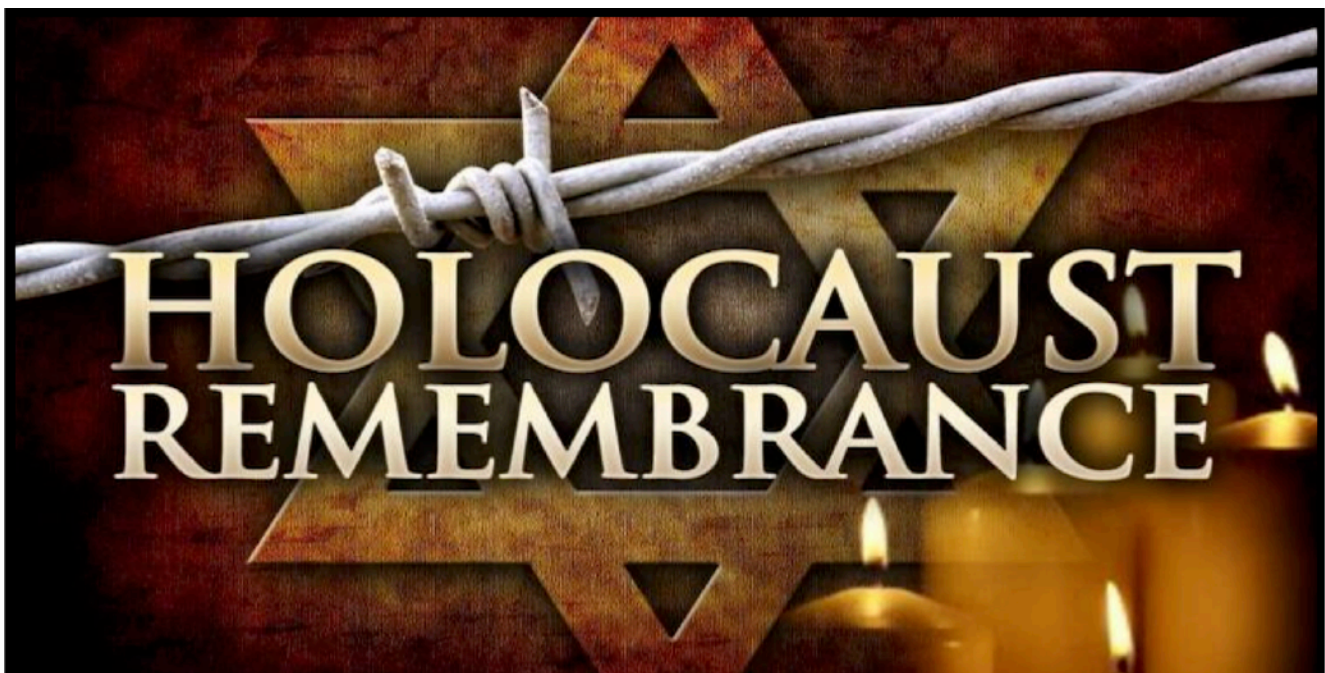
Andrea and Zachary Fox Laurie Fox and Danny O'Shea Arlene Fox and Paul Triber	Annette Cohen Ina Hemphill Lenny and Fran Aaronson
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## How to Watch SOZ's Shabbat Services on YouTube:

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!***



## ***DR. LEON CHAMEIDES “A HIDDEN CHILD”***

As a child Dr. Chameides spent the war years in hiding, under the German occupation. Author and Doctor in pediatrics and pediatric cardiology, Dr. Chameides is active in Holocaust education and will be telling us his story.

**Please join us for this Holocaust Remembrance event!**

With music performed by  
**THE HOLYOKE HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGALS**  
 Led by Director Mark Todd

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

**6:45pm**

Holyoke Senior Center  
 271 Pine Street  
 Holyoke, MA

Sponsored By:

Holyoke Council on Aging  
 Council for Human Understanding

Holyoke Community College  
 Holyoke Public Schools

The Family of Martin Stein

**NOTE:** If you are having trouble making reservations through the Evite™, simply call (860)656-2110 to make a reservation using a credit card.



# Israel Bonds

Invites You To Join Us As We Honor  
**WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
 CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS**

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 Chabad-Lubavitch of Northampton

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 Congregation B'nai Israel

ARIE SHTEYNTSAYG AND INNA STEIN  
 Congregation B'nai Torah

HERSCHEL LEVINE  
 Congregation Rodphey Sholom

LOIS BLOOM LEVIN AND STEPHEN LEVIN  
 Congregation Sons of Zion

RICHARD TICE ALPERT  
 Sinai Temple

DAVE RATNER  
 Temple Beth El

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**AMBASSADOR IDO AHARONI**

*"Israel's Incubator Incentive Program: It's Effect on Business and Tech Start-Ups"*

**Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 6:00PM**  
**CHEZ JOSEPH**

176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, Massachusetts

*Couvert: \$65/person (not tax deductible)*  
*Dietary Laws Observed*  
*RSVP by May 6, 2019*

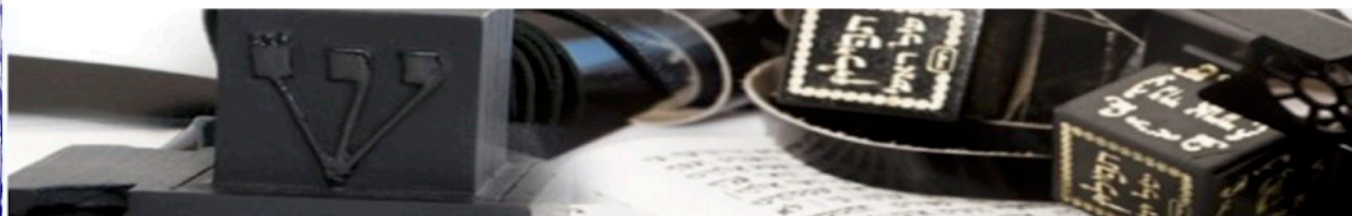


**ISRAELBONDS.COM**



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 Read the prospectus carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in Israel bonds.  
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# TEFILLIN WORKSHOP II



Are you interested in learning more about tefillin aka phylacteries?  
Workshop I was so successful....We welcome you to Workshop II.  
!!!EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!


## THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

**AFTER MINYAN BREAKFAST  
APPROXIMATELY 9:30AM - 10:15AM**

Congregation Sons of Zion

[office@sonsofzionholyoake.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoake.org)

(413) 534-3369



Saturday,  
May 25, 2019

Song  
Session

After lunch, we will be  
singing songs.

All are welcome!

## MAIDELS AND DREIDELS AND LADLES, OH MY! The Journey of a Jewish Children's Book Writer



**DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019**

**TIME: 1:00PM**

**LOCATION: CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION  
378 MAPLE STREET  
HOLYOKE, MA 01040**

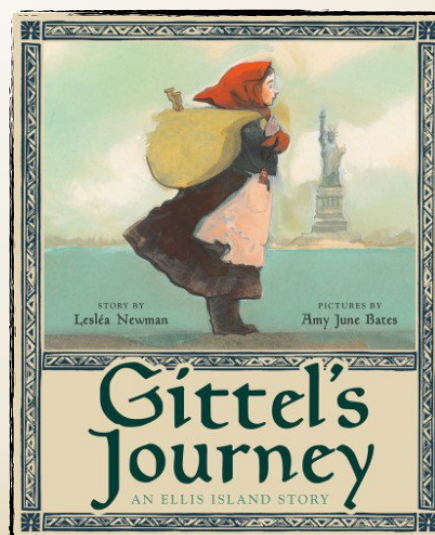
\*PLEASE USE THE ACCESSIBLE CABOT STREET ENTRANCE

Lesléa Newman will discuss her journey to become a children's book writer, which began when she was a child and developed her love of reading. She started writing when she was about 8 years old and basically has never stopped! She will discuss how her family, holiday celebrations, and pets, have all influenced her writing, and she will end with reading her newest children's book *Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story*, and showing a short film in which she interviews her Aunt Phyllis, daughter of the real Gittel.

Lesléa Newman is from Northampton, MA and is the author of over 70 books for readers of all ages.

- ♦ **REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**
- ♦ **PROGRAM IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION TO THE SYNAGOGUE)**
- ♦ **AMPLE PARKING IN OUR CABOT STREET PARKING LOT**

Please contact us at (413)534-3369 or [office@sonsofzionholyokey.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyokey.org) with any questions.



# Threat Alert and Safety Response Training at SOZ JUNE 3 and JUNE 4, 2019



The massacre of eleven Jews praying at the Tree of Life synagogue represented the most shocking evidence of the significant rise of Anti-Semitic acts in the United States and throughout the world.

Then, six months to the day from that horrible tragedy, we are still in shock over the attack in Poway, CA. Locally this year there have been reports of swastikas painted on trees in Holyoke and Easthampton as well as on a student's door at UMASS.

While we would like to think that this is a distant problem, these threats are real, and the more you know in advance, the better your chances of survival and the better prepared you are to help others.

Fortunately, Congregation Sons of Zion has received a generous grant from the Department of Homeland Security to prepare to respond to these threats. An important part of the grant will fund two 4 hour training sessions designed for us and our building.

Training will be lead by Eric A Stratton, owner and President of STS Consulting. Eric is a defensive tactics, firearms, safety and threat expert with 26 years of EMS and tactical training and over 18 years working for the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

**Eric has devised for us an eight hour training broken down into two four hour blocks.**

Eric has taught similar courses at DEA headquarters in Quantico, VA, Canada, Alabama, Maine, New Jersey, Ohio, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. He has also been a guest speaker for the Western Massachusetts Guidance Counselors Association and twice at the Department of Fire Safety annual Fire & Life Safety Education Conference.

**DATES: MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019 AND  
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019**

**TIME: 5PM LIGHT SUPPER AVAILABLE ALL EVENING  
5:30-9:30PM TRAINING**

**WHERE: CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION  
378 MAPLE STREET  
HOLYOKE, MA 01040**

**\*TRAINING WILL BE IN THE ACCESSIBLE SMALL SOCIAL HALL**

This training is for you no matter how often you come to the synagogue!

Training is limited to 30 people.

We hope you will join us for this interactive, educational, safe and important program.

To register, or if you have any questions, please contact the office at

**413-534-3369 or [office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org).**



**The Jewish Federation**  
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
Serving Hampden, Hampshire & Franklin Counties

**Dinner for this training will be paid in part from a grant by the  
Jewish Federation Of Western Mass**



## **A Special Thank you to Our Sustaining Members**

Andrew Barowsky

Ned and Cindy Barowsky

Richard and Ellen Freyman

Barbara Goldberg (z"l)

Steve and Lois Levin

Steve and Joan Levine

Sidney Paul (z"l)

Buddy and Margie Resnic

Michael and Joan Rosner

Bill and Joanne Saltman

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

# Donations: Thank you!

## General Fund

- ♦ Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Alfred Barowsky, Ned's uncle
- ♦ Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Saul Magidson, Ned's grandfather
- ♦ Andrea Fox: In memory of those who died at the Tree of Life Synagogue (6 month anniversary) and Poway, CA, with prayers and safety for healing
- ♦ Andrea Fox: Happy Birthday to Bonnie Gruszecki
- ♦ Andrea Fox: For good health to Michael Rosner
- ♦ Bonnie Gruszecki: In memory of her grandfather, Matias Gruszecki
- ♦ Bonnie Gruszecki: In memory of her grandfather, Jules Hecht
- ♦ Ira Laby: In appreciation of Simon's lecture and tea time following the lecture
- ♦ Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of their fathers, Henry Levin and Harry Bloom
- ♦ Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of Sidney Paul
- ♦ Steve and Lois Levin: In honor of Simon Sibelman's presentation of anti-Semitism
- ♦ Joan and Michael Rosner: In loving memory of Lillian Thorn, Michael's mother

## Cemetery Fund

- ♦ Fred and Elaine Clein: In memory of their father, Charles Kaplisky
- ♦ Steve and Ellen Kappel: In memory of their father, Charles Kaplisky
- ♦ Sherwin Wernick: In memory of his father, Harry Wernick

## Capital Project Fund

- ♦ Morton Laby: In memory of his father, George Laby

## Garden Fund

- ♦ Deborah Levine: In memory of her mother, Barbara Levine

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ♦ Charles Weinstein: In memory of his father, Samuel Weinstein



## May Yahrzeits

### **April 28 – May 4: Dave Carmen**

April 28	Ida D. Paul
April 29	*Robert Suher
April 30	Lillian Thorn
May 1	*Abraham H. Adelson
May 3	Herman Speiser
May 4	*Saul Firestone

### **May 5 – May 11: Joe Cohen**

May 5	*Charles Kaplinsky
May 6	*Eva Bernson
May 8	Susan Marks

### **May 12 – May 18: Andrea Fox**

May 13	*Sidney H. Wilson
May 14	*Robert Seaver
May 15	*Shorrie Bernstein
May 17	Selma Lesnow

### **May 19 – May 25: Rich Freyman**

May 21	*Joseph Gerstein
May 22	*Benjamin Wilson
May 23	*Saul Magidson
May 24	*Gilbert Saex
May 25	*Frances Karukin

### **May 26 – June 1: Ira Laby**

May 26	William Shirley
May 27	*Sheila Halpern
	Anna Goodman Samel
May 28	*Rachel Saltman
May 29	*Lloyd Everett Stein
May 30	*Harold Haley
June 1	Russell Bernstein



## Adult Spelling Bee



On Thursday, April 11th, veteran contestants and spelling aficionados Lois Levin as team captain and Michael Rosner were joined by Norman Halperin to become the “SOZ Beez” team in the Homework House Spelling Bee which took place at Mill 1 at Open Square. SOZ cheerleaders supporting them for this contest were their spouses, Steve, Joan and Marion respectively as well as Rich Freyman, Al Hutt, Steve Levine and David Scher. Congregation SOZ member Fran Welson, a Homework House volunteer, was involved in the event festivities.

Three rounds of more than ten teams each competed to be the winner of their “swarm.” The winner of each “swarm” moved on to the final round. The SOZ Beez put up a very respectable round three challenge forcing twelve words to be presented (out spelling rounds one and two by eight and four word respectively) before losing on the word “synecdoche” to the ultimate winners. (We had a “t” instead of a “d.”)

Thank you, Lois, Michael and Norman, for representing our SOZ community at this event, and kudos on your distinguished performance!

**6 PEOPLE COULD RESCUE OUR MINYAN!!!**  
**3 PEOPLE ON MONDAY      3 PEOPLE ON THURSDAY**

**Our minyan numbers are down. Before we consider more drastic suggestions, we're asking for people to join a minyan.**

**Minyan begins at 8:00am and ends about 8:40am. Optional breakfast and fun conversations follow for as long as you want to stay.**

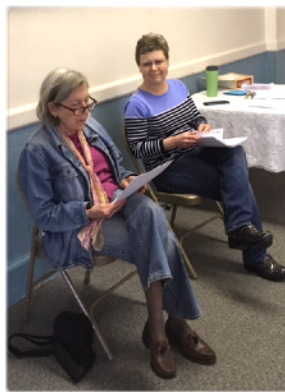
**Minyans offer the community an opportunity to say Kaddish. Sometimes we welcome new faces and offer comfort for mourners, making new friends.**

**Start your day with a Mitzvah!!! Contact the office and sign up for minyan!!!**

**(Once a week too much? Every other week could work if enough people participate. Let us know what will work and we'll try to find a way. Would different times make a difference? Let us know!)**

# SOZ Lecture Series III: The Longest Hatred

Photos provided by Andrea Fox



## SOZ Lecture Series III: The Longest Hatred

Photos provided by Andrea Fox



## Ads from our Sponsors

### ASCHER ZIMMERMAN Funeral Home, Inc.

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 WEBSITE: ascherzimmerman.com

44 SUMNER AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, 01108



DAVE CARMEN, AIA, NCARB

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email kstdenis@rbwd.com

### Westover Animal Clinic

☎ 413-437-0202

📍 1361 Memorial Drive  
 Chicopee, MA 01020



**Business Card Ads: \$180/Year - Please contact the  
 synagogue office at (413) 534-3369 OR  
[office@sonsofzionholyokey.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyokey.org)**

There is always room for more!!!

**CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION**

378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040-4895

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STAMP  
HERE