

CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

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Congregation Sons of Zion

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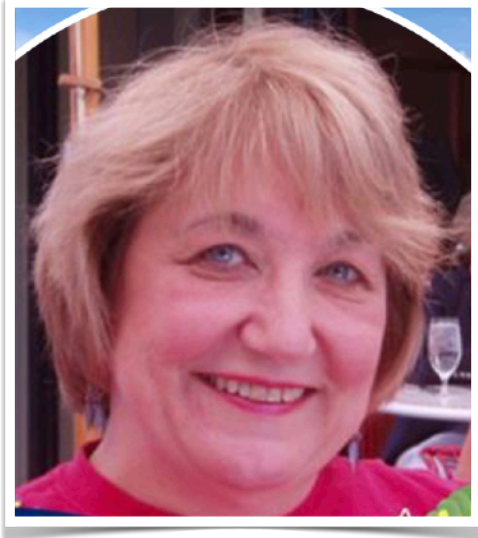
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Iyar

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.



President's Message

As we enter the final month of our fiscal year, I am writing the next to last letter of my final year as your President. I took on this role with the goal of selling our beloved but overwhelmingly expensive 19,000 square foot synagogue and former Jewish Community Center. It had simply become too much for a single congregation to afford and maintain. After three and a half years, we were finally able to accomplish that goal. While the sale price was less than we had hoped, it was fair in comparison to similar properties.

I had promised my ailing husband that I would step down, and I remain very much needed in helping to manage the cemetery. Now that the responsibilities of the presidency are lighter, I am hopeful that another member will step forward to take on this role. If our synagogue is to continue to thrive, we need more members willing to contribute their time and energy. We are fortunate to see strong participation during the holidays, but we also need support with the day to day responsibilities of running a synagogue.

Our Religious Committee, chaired by Richard Freyman and Joan Rosner, has been faithfully serving our community for over 25 years. Our new treasurer, recently retired Lois Levin, is doing a terrific job keeping us on track. One of our newer members, secretary Jayne Pearl, has been a wonderful source of ideas and support. We are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated core group, but as an aging congregation, we must look ahead and encourage greater involvement to ensure the future of our warm and welcoming shul.

With the significantly reduced expenses of our rental space at 380 Dwight Street, our plan is to allocate most of the proceeds from the building sale to endow the Cemetery Fund.

Our current project is the restoration of the cemetery chapel, originally donated by Max Epstein in 1930 in memory of his late wife, Rose Orlen Epstein. As part of this effort, we will be holding a fundraiser that will include the burial of hundreds of old religious books that were removed from 378 Maple Street and are no longer in use. More details about this event will be shared soon.

The 122nd Annual Meeting of the synagogue will be held on June 28, 2026, at 11:00 AM at 380 Dwight Street. I hope to see you there as we come together to support our future.

Warm regards,

Joanne Saltman

Iyar/Sivan
5786

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9 Iyar 24th Day of Omer	27 10 Iyar 25th Day of Omer	28 11 Iyar 26th Day of Omer	29 12 Iyar 27th Day of Omer	30 13 Iyar 28th Day of Omer	1 14 Iyar Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:22 pm, Light Candles: 7:32 pm 29th Day of Omer	2 15 Iyar Shabbat Service: 10 am (Zoom), Service Leader: Dr. Max Chorowski 30th Day of Omer Emor
3 16 Iyar 31st Day of Omer	4 17 Iyar 32nd Day of Omer	5 18 Iyar LAG B'OMER 33rd Day of Omer	6 19 Iyar Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom) 34th Day of Omer	7 20 Iyar 35th Day of Omer	8 21 Iyar Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:29 pm, Light Candles: 7:39 pm 36th Day of Omer	9 22 Iyar Shabbat Service: 10 am (Hybrid), Service Leader: Emily Anfang, Kiddush follows service 37th Day of Omer Behar-Bechukotai
10 23 Iyar Mother's Day 38th Day of Omer	11 24 Iyar 39th Day of Omer	12 25 Iyar 40th Day of Omer	13 26 Iyar Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom) SOZ Board Meeting: 7 pm (Zoom) 41st Day of Omer	14 27 Iyar 42nd Day of Omer	15 28 Iyar Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:37 pm, Light Candles: 7:47 pm 43rd Day of Omer	16 29 Iyar Shabbat Service: 10 am (Details TBD) 44th Day of Omer Bamidbar
17 1 Sivan ROSH HODESH SIVAN Merrily We Roll Along (Enfield Annex): 2 pm 45th Day of Omer	18 2 Sivan 46th Day of Omer	19 3 Sivan 47th Day of Omer	20 4 Sivan Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom) 48th Day of Omer	21 5 Sivan EREV SHAVUOT Erev Shavuot Celebration (Hybrid): 7 pm 49th Day of Omer	22 6 Sivan FIRST DAY SHAVUOT Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:44 pm, Light Candles: 7:54 pm	23 7 Sivan SECOND DAY SHAVUOT Second Day Shavuot Shabbat Service: 10 am (Hybrid), Includes Yizkor, Service Leader: Rabbi Marc Rudolph, Festive Kiddush follows service
24 8 Sivan	25 9 Sivan Memorial Day Help us place flags at the SOZ Cemetery, 11 am	26 10 Sivan	27 11 Sivan Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	28 12 Sivan	29 13 Sivan Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:50 pm, Light Candles: 8:00 pm	30 14 Sivan Shabbat Service: 10 am (Details TBD), Service Leaders: SOZ Members and Friends Naso
31 15 Sivan SOZ Book Club: 10 am (Hybrid)						

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, May 1, 2026

Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 7:22 pm, Light Candles at 7:32 pm

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom),
Service Leader: Dr. Max Chorowski

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
LAG B'OMER

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Friday, May 8, 2026

Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 7:29 pm, Light Candles at 7:39 pm

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Hybrid),
Service Leader: Emily Anfang,
Kiddush follows service

Sunday, May 10, 2026
Mother's Day

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service
SOZ Board Meeting, 7 pm (Zoom)

Friday, May 15, 2026

Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 7:37 pm, Light Candles at 7:47 pm

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Details TBD)

Sunday, May 17, 2026
ROSH HODESH SIVAN

Merrily We Roll Along (Enfield Annex), 2 pm

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Thursday, May 21, 2026
EREV SHAVUOT

Erev Shavuot Celebration (Hybrid): 7 pm

Friday, May 22, 2026
FIRST DAY SHAVUOT

Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 7:44 pm, Light Candles at 7:54 pm

Saturday, May 23, 2026
SECOND DAY SHAVUOT

Second Day Shabbat Service, 10 am (Hybrid),
Service includes Yizkor,
Service Leader: Rabbi Marc Rudolph,
Festive Kiddush follows service

Monday, May 25, 2026
Memorial Day

Help us place flags at the SOZ Cemetery, 11 am
(SOZ Cemetery: 72 Ludlow Road, Chicopee)

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Friday, May 29, 2026

Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 7:50 pm, Light Candles at 8:00 pm

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Details TBD),
Service Leaders: SOZ Members and Friends

Sunday, May 31, 2026
SOZ Book Club: 10 am (Hybrid)

Decisions about a Hybrid Service will be made Thursday night before the service. The result will appear in the Friday emails announcing the service.



Join us for another wonderful performance of the Opera House Players

May 17th at 2pm at the Enfield Annex, 124 North Maple St., Enfield, CT.
Get your tickets at OperaHousePlayers.org
We usually sit on the left side in row 9 or 11.

Spanning two decades, Merrily We Roll Along charts the turbulent relationship between composer Frank Shepard, lyricist/playwright Charley Kringas, and theatre critic Mary Flynn. Originally produced on Broadway in 1981, the show has become a bonafide classic that's celebrated for its gorgeous score and timeless themes of friendship and hope — and how money and fame can derail them.

If you're interested in carpooling message me at js24saltman@gmail.com or 413-575-0526

Joanne

TICKETS

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Celebrate Receiving the Torah
by studying with us on Erev Shavuot

Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7 pm
380 Dwight Street or Zoom



- Choose a section of Tanach (the Bible). Since we study Torah every week, please choose from Nevim (Prophets) or Ketuvim (Writings). You may also choose from any other sacred text or write an original Jewish themed work. Tell us how the section relates to you.
- Choose several sentences to a whole book.
- Copies of the Tanach are available to borrow at 380 Dwight Street. Contact Joan at (413) 535-8679 for information.
- We will help if you want to explore other texts. Expand your world!!
- To reserve your passage, contact the office at joanrosner@comcast.net or (413) 535-8679 or office@sonsofzionholyoke.org or (413) 534-3369.



Or.....simply enjoy the discussion!!
Everyone is welcome!!
Followed by Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae!!



**CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION
380D DWIGHT STREET
HOLYOKE, MA 01040**

HELP US PLACE FLAGS AT THE SOZ CEMETERY

On Monday, May 25th at 11 am, we will be replacing the flags on the graves of veterans at our cemetery. All are welcome to join us.

Joanne Saltman



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.

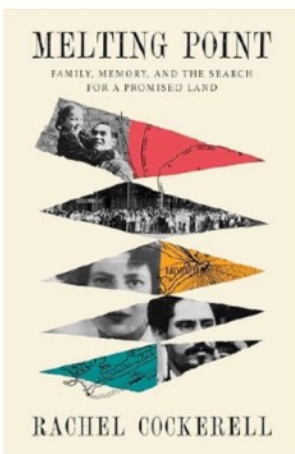
A particular plot may be reserved for \$100. There are several plots in the new section that were previously reserved and are now unused. Please call for more details.

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

SOZ BOOK CLUB MEETING

Sunday, May 31st at 10 am (Hybrid)

Join us for lox and bagels, lively discussion, and good company. Please see this month's book selection below. We look forward to seeing you either in-person at 380D Dwight Street, Holyoke or via Zoom.



Melting Point by Rachel Cockerell

On June 7, 1907, a ship packed with Russian Jews sets sail not to Jerusalem or New York, as many on board have dreamed, but to Texas. The man who persuades the passengers to go is David Jochelmann, Rachel Cockerell's great-grandfather. The journey marks the beginning of the Galveston Movement, a forgotten moment in history when ten thousand Jews fled to Texas in the leadup to World War I.

The charismatic leader of the movement is Jochelmann's closest friend, Israel Zangwill, whose novels have made him famous across Europe and America. As Eastern Europe becomes infected by antisemitic violence, Zangwill embarks on a desperate search for a temporary homeland—from Australia to Canada, Angola to Antarctica—before reluctantly settling on Galveston. He fears the Jewish people will be absorbed into the great American melting pot, but there is no other hope.

In a highly inventive style, Cockerell captures history as it unfolds, weaving together letters, diaries, memoirs, newspaper articles, and interviews into a vivid account. Melting Point follows Zangwill and the Jochelmann family through two world wars, to London, New York, and Jerusalem—as their lives intertwine with some of the most memorable figures of the twentieth century, and each chooses whether to cling to their history or melt into their new surroundings. It is a story that asks what it means to belong, and what can be salvaged from the past.

PJ Library/PJ Our Way Information

Use the links below to sign up for PJ Library and PJ Our Way.



<https://pjlibrary.org/>



<https://pjourway.org/>

Who Is It For?

Because there are so many ways to be Jewish, people may think their family isn't the right "kind" or "amount" of Jewish to enjoy PJ Library. What subscribers quickly discover is that our program is designed to be welcoming, inclusive, and meaningful to families regardless of Jewish experience or level of observance.

We're proud to be part of a diverse global Jewish community, and we love connecting families who live and celebrate in so many different ways.

No matter what Jewishness looks like in your family, strengthening your children's connection to Jewish values, traditions, and celebrations can be as easy as adding PJ Library storybooks to your reading time. If this even sounds like it might be for you, there's never any cost or obligation, so we invite you to give PJ Library a try. You could even give another family a wonderful gift by signing up their kids to receive great Jewish storybooks in the mail each month.

Adult Learning Opportunities

Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

Rabbi Walkk has been involved with the Melton School since 1996. The Melton School is a worldwide community of adult learners who are eager to explore Jewish texts, traditions and rituals. The Melton School offers world-class opportunities for learning, growth, and travel. Over 50,000 Melton learners say that learning with Melton has changed their lives by enriching conversations, influencing decisions, and strengthening community.

The Melton curriculum covers:

- The whys of Jewish living
- Jewish ethics to inform decision making
- Contemporary and ancient insights into the Bible
- Critical moments in Jewish history
- Modern Israeli and Jewish culture
- And much more...

To find out what Rabbi Walkk is teaching and to learn more about the Melton School in general, email [Rabbi Walkk](mailto:Rabbi.Walkk@melton.org).

Go to:

<https://tbespringfield.org/adult-education/> for more information.



A Special Thank You to Our 2025-26 Sustaining Members

Joseph Arshawsky

Andrew Barowsky

Ned and Cindy Barowsky

Steve and Linnea Constant

Rich and Ellen Freyman

Norman and Marion Halpern

Stephen and Lois Levin

Steve and Joan Levine

Buddy and Margie Resnic

Michael and Joan Rosner

William 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) | 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 | <i>*Deceased</i> |

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@sonsofzionholyoke.com or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.





April Donations: Thank you!

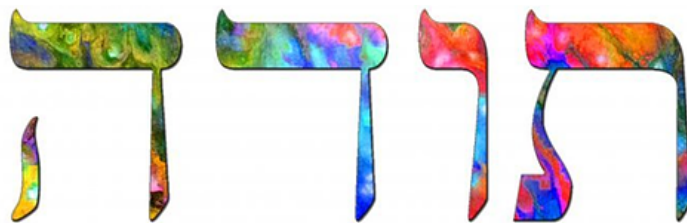


Cemetery Fund

- ◆ Gary, Dennis and Amy Bernstein: In memory of their parents, Milton and Shorrie Bernstein
- ◆ Gary, Dennis and Amy Bernstein: In memory of their grandfather, Sam Hirshon
- ◆ Diane Eskenasy: In memory of her mother, Edith Eskenasy
- ◆ Joanne Saltman: In honor of Joan Rosner's 85th birthday
- ◆ Joanne Saltman: Congratulations to Eitan & Ilana Kenefick on the birth of their daughter, Aviva Shoshana
- ◆ Richard Wilson: In memory of his parents, Benjamin J. Wilson and Teresa S. Wilson

General Fund

- ◆ Andrew Barowsky: In memory of his grandfather, Saul Magidson
- ◆ Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's grandfather, Saul Magidson
- ◆ Richard and Ellen Freyman: In memory of Kathy Black's beloved brother, David Fernandes
- ◆ Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of Kathy Black's brother, David Fernandes



"Toda" Thank You

sdavis

May 2026 Yahrzeits

April 26-May 2: Michael Rosner

April 26 *Robert Seaver
 April 27 *Shorrie Bernstein
 April 28 Edith Eskenasy
 April 29 Selma Lesnow
 April 30 Harvey Carmen
 May 2 Peter Harry Berinstein

May 3-9: Joanne Saltman

May 3 *Joseph Gerstein
 May 4 *Benjamin Wilson
 May 5 *Saul Magidson
 May 6 *Gilbert Saex
 May 7 *Frances Karukin
 May 8 William Shirley
 May 9 Andrea Palmer Craig
 *Sheila Halpern
 Anna Goodman Samel

May 10-16: Cindy Vieu

May 10 *Rachel Saltman
 May 11 *Lloyd Everett Stein
 May 12 *Harold Haley
 May 14 Russell Bernstein
 Morton Laby

May 17-23: Richard Freyman

May 17 Jacob Orlen
 May 18 *Annie Welson
 May 23 Theodore Freyman
 *Harry Hirsch
 Nathan Kahan
 *Louis Marks

May 24-30: Ira Laby

May 25 Leo Halpern
 May 26 *Sophie Mekler
 May 28 *Etta Goldberg

May 31-June 6: Lois Levin

May 31 *Mary Garber
 Harry Pincus
 June 1 Arthur Levine
 June 3 Gladys Gruszecki
 *Isadore Schepps
 June 4 Isadore Barowsky
 *Abraham Hirsch
 Israel Seamon
 June 5 Harold David Fox
 June 6 *James Samuel Hirshon
 Sadie Rothchild
 *Stanley G. Weiss



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There is always room for more!!!

