CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 8 | Issue 3 | November 2022 | Cheshvan/Kislev 5783

Congregation Sons of Zion

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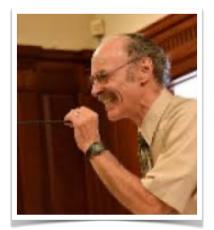
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About the Month of Cheshvan

This month is the anticlimax of the previous month of Tishrei. With so many holidays and spiritual experiences, it was a feast for the soul– a vacation of sorts. Now, as we enter the month of Cheshvan, real life begins, back to the daily "mundane" grind. This is the time to take the inspiration and all that we gained in the month of Tishrei and integrate it into our lives, learning how to balance the spiritual and the physical elements of our life in unison and harmony.

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Rabbi's Message

Reflections on High Holidays at SOZ This Year

After two years of doing High Holiday services on Zoom, how wonderful it was this year:

- To be together in person!
- · Being able to see one another and not through a computer screen
- Connecting with people who do not do Zoom, who we have not been with for a long time
- Singing together with a roomful of voices without having to "mute."

These High Holidays were an example of how we might take things for granted - like being together in person for services - until we are no longer able to do them. And how special it is when we are back together again.

How we were together was also different and special this year. Some examples:

In advance of Rosh Hashanah, five people volunteered to look at the Torah reading and select a portion that was especially meaningful to them. At the service, they each spoke briefly about why they chose that portion of the Torah reading and then they recited the blessing for that section.

Looking at the Torah reading in advance enabled them to find a deeper, personal connection to the words of our tradition. And by sharing their insights with us, they modeled ways that might help each of us find our own personal meaning from the Torah reading. Thanks to Jayne Pearl, Ira Laby, Rana Morrissey, Lois Levin, and Andrea Fox for your willingness to try this new approach to having an aliyah and for your thoughtful - and thought-provoking - insights.

As we have done for the past several years on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we abbreviate the service and add study and discussion about some aspect of the High Holidays. This year we did something similar, but with members of our congregation who became our teachers and role models.

In advance of this service/study session, seven people volunteered to write a letter. The

Rabbi's Message (continued)

letter might be to ask forgiveness for something they regret or to express appreciation to someone for some kindness they had done. This was in keeping with two major aspects of the High Holidays that we were emphasizing this year: seeking forgiveness for what we have done wrong/or would like to change; and appreciating the positive aspects of our lives. Each of their letters was read aloud. Each letter was unique, but they were all thoughtful, insightful, and inspiring. They both deepened the High Holiday experience of those who had written them and were a gift of the heart to everyone who heard them and could reflect on these themes in their own lives. Thank you to Jayne Pearl, Ira Laby, Aaron Falbel, Bonnie Gruszecki, Joanne Saltman, Judy Katz, and Rick Tessler for showing us how the High Holidays can help make a real difference in our lives.

During Elul, the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah, it is traditional to hear the shofar blown every morning except Shabbat and the day before Rosh Hashanah as a way to help us prepare spiritually for this season of reflection and teshuvah (turning). To my knowledge, we had never followed this custom daily as a congregation. This year it took us a while to organize, but we ended up with nearly two weeks of daily shofar blowing on Zoom leading up to Rosh Hashanah.

Thanks to our shofar blowing volunteers, Jordan Marks, Aaron Falbel, Jayne Pearl, Steve Levine, and Jarrett Austin - some doing it for the first time and some veterans -- all helping to enrich our High Holiday experience.

Thank you also to the dozens of people who helped with High Holidays in so many other ways, as service leaders, gabbaim, readers of prayers, greeters, singers, and more. Please forgive me for not mentioning everyone's name out of concern that I might omit someone inadvertently. We are blessed to have a participatory and creative community where we share our spiritual lives with one another.

I deeply appreciate how together we combine active personal participation and sharing with traditional observance to make our holy days moving and relevant to our lives as individuals and as a community. When we share our experiences, our personal understanding of tradition, our vulnerabilities, our appreciation for one another, and both look inward in moments of quiet reflection and raise our voices together in uplifting song as we did these High Holidays, we truly become a kehillah kedoshah, a holy community.

Rabbi Saul Perlmutter



President's Message

It's nice to have lots of good things to talk about in this hopefully post-pandemic time. We had a wonderful turnout for Rosh Hashanah day one and two and Yom Kippur and Sukkot also. It was so nice to see so many members and friends after the long dark days of Covid. And the Simchat Torah at the Freyman's house was the best ever! We danced and sang and really enjoyed the

experience. I am hoping we can restart having Friday night Shabbat potluck dinners at members' homes. Looking for a volunteer for November; the host provides grape juice, Kosher wine and challah, soda, and water, along with paper plates, napkins, flatware, and cups. The attendees, who usually number around 15-20, will bring dairy or parve dishes to eat. We have a short Shabbat welcoming service and enjoy each other's company. The December potluck will be our traditional Menorah Lighting at the Rosner's. More about that below.

In other news, we have a potential buyer for the building who really loves it, and, if it works out will turn it into a wonderful school. This would be a really nice thing for our beautiful but mostly unused building and much better than tearing it down to build a strip mall or hamburger restaurant.

We will be needing lots of help in the future to remove any items we really want to keep from our building. Just giving us an hour or two would be so helpful! Thank you also to all of you who have donated to the High Holiday appeal. In this time of uncertainty your support means a lot and will help us continue to a new and brighter future.

Joanne Saltman



Cheshvan/Kislev 5783						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 ⁵ Cheshvan	31 6 Cheshvan	1 7 Cheshvan	2 8 Cheshvan Mlincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	3 9 Cheshvan	4 10 Cheshvan	5 11 Cheshvan Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)
						Back Before Bed
6 12 Cheshvan Help Us Pack!, 10 am at SOZ	7 13 Cheshvan	8 14 Cheshvan	9 15 Cheshvan Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	10 16 Cheshvan	11 17 Cheshvan	12 18 Cheshvan Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)
Daylight Saving Time Ends		VOTE Election Day	SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30 pm (Zoom)		Happy Veterans Day	Vayera
13 ¹⁹ Cheshvan	14 20 Cheshvan	15 21 Cheshvan	16 22 Cheshvan Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	17 23 Cheshvan Remembering Stephen Sondheim, 7pm at the J	18 24 Cheshvan	19 25 Cheshvan Shabbat Service 10 am (Zoom)
						Chaye Sarah
20 26 Cheshvan SOZ Book Club, 10:30 am (Zoom)	21 27 Cheshvan	22 28 Cheshvan	23 29 Cheshvan Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	24 30 Cheshvan	25 1 Kislev	26 2 Kislev Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)
				Happy Thanksgiving		Toledot
27 ³ Kislev	28 ⁴ Kislev	29 ⁵ Kislev	30 6 Kislev Ma'ariv Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	1 7 Kislev	2 8 Kislev	3 9 Kislev Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 Mincha Minyan (Zoom): 5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Saturday, November 5, 2022 Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Turn clocks back before bed.

Sunday, November 6, 2022 Help Us Pack!, 10 am to ??? at SOZ

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 VOTE Election Day

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom): 5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

Friday, November 11, 2022 Happy Veterans Day

Saturday, November 12, 2022 Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom): 5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Thursday, November 17, 2022 Remembering Stephen Sondheim, 7 pm at the J Shabbat Service,10 am (Zoom)

SOZ Book Club, 10:30 am (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 23, 2022 Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom): 5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Thursday, November 24, 2022 Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 25, 2022 Rosh Hodesh Kislev

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 Ma'ariv Minyan (Zoom): 5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service



Remembering Stephen Sondheim

Thursday, November 17, 2022 7:00 PM | In Person at the J

Celebrate the life and music of Stephen Sondheim, legendary Broadway composer and lyricist, at this special tribute concert which features a cast of notable local singers. Ellen Kaplan, Professor of Theater at Smith College, will share reflections on Sondheim's life and career accomplishments.

This event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Light reception to follow.

To register, visit SpringfieldJCC.org or call the J at (413) 739-4715.

Co-sponsored by Falcetti Pianos and the Jewish Endowment Foundation. This program is partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



FALCETTI 🎽 PIANOS





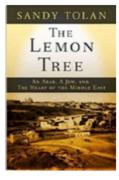
SOZ BOOK CLUB MEETING Sunday, November 20th at 10:30am



The Sweetness of Forgetting by Kristin Harmel

The North Star Bakery has been in Hope's family for generations, the secret recipes passed down from mother to daughter. But at thirty-six and recently divorced, with rebellious daughter Annie and elderly grandmother Rose to care for, Hope is less than enthusiastic about carrying on the family legacy. When the bakery runs into financial trouble and Rose takes a turn for the worse, Hope's delicate balancing act is in danger of crumbling entirely. Then Rose reveals a shocking truth about her past and everything Hope thought she knew about her family and the bakery is turned upside down. At her grandmother's request, Hope travels to Paris, armed only with a

mysterious list of names. What she uncovers there could be the key to saving the bakery and the fulfillment of a star-crossed romance, seventy years in the making.



The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan

The tale of a simple act of faith between two young people - one Israeli, one Palestinian - that symbolizes the hope for peace in the Middle East.

In 1967, not long after the Six-Day War, three young Arab men ventured into the town of Ramle, in what is now Jewish Israel. They were cousins, on a pilgrimage to see their childhood homes; their families had been driven out of Palestine nearly twenty years earlier. One cousin had a door slammed in his face, and another found his old house had been converted into a school. But the third, Bashir Al-Khairi, was met at the door by a young woman called Dalia, who invited them in.

This act of faith in the face of many years of animosity is the starting point for a true story of a remarkable relationship between two families, one Arab, one Jewish, amid the fraught modern history of the regio. In his childhood home, in the lemon tree his father planted in the backyard, Bashir sees dispossession and occupation; Dalia, who arrived as an infant in 1948 with her family from Bulgaria, sees hope for a people devastated by the Holocaust. As both are swept up in the fates of their people, and Bashir is jailed for his alleged part in a supermarket bombing, the friends do not speak for years. They finally reconcile and convert the house in Ramle into a day-care centre for Arab children of Israel, and a center for dialogue between Arabs and Jews. Now the dialogue they started seems more threatened than ever; the lemon tree died in 1998, and Bashir was jailed again, without charge.

The Lemon Tree grew out of a forty-three minute radio documentary that Sandy Tolan produced for Fresh Air. With this book, he pursues the story into the homes and histories of the two families at its center, and up to the present day. Their stories form a personal microcosm of the last seventy years of Israeli-Palestinian history. In a region that seems ever more divided, The Lemon Tree is a reminder of all that is at stake, and of all that is still possible.

2nd Day Rosh Hashana Study Submissions

This year's second day of Rosh Hashana study was based on letters written by our congregants. Many people responded to Jayne's letter as universal and noted that it should be in the Newsletter. Here it is.....

I want to ask forgiveness to just about everyone I know, for failing to listen way too often. This habit often occurs when a word or sentence someone says triggers a memory or a story. I don't always wait for a pause before I jump in and express that memory or story. This sometimes–okay, often–results in my hijacking conversations and making something that is about them become something about me. I guess there's a certain arrogance to this, and at the very least I have to own that.

I have become a very lousy listener, which is odd considering I'm a journalist trained to interview people. I have had to learn how to listen closely while taking furious notes. Perhaps, in my personal life, I overcompensate in my relationships for having to intensely listen and repress myself in my professional life. But this is no excuse and it is selfish and inconsiderate. Initially I thought this problem was all, or at least mostly, between my partner Scott and me. We both have strong opinions and love to talk, and we have very different communication styles. This often causes misunderstandings and increasingly, arguments.

During the approach to the high holidays, I have given deep thought about this character flaw in myself first became apparent several years ago, pre-COVID and pre-zoom, and even pre-Scott. Back in 2014 or so, I was sick and could not attend Yom Kippur services. Instead, I sat on my deck reading and singing from my machzor. I found myself pausing as sounds from my yard and the nearby woods punctuated the liturgy and my thoughts. I started to imagine that I was being judged by things my senses were perceiving. So I put down the machzor to write this poem:

Oh how the wind is judging me: Wind chimes hiss at my bravado and howls at my hypocrisy. Oh how the moon lampoons me: Craters reflect cracks in my character; its dark side senses my sins. Oh how my shadow sneers at me: Its faceless head shakes disapproval; my silhouette away slithers away in shame. Oh how the mirror mocks me: Reflecting a forced, sad smile; dark circles deepen restless regrets. Oh how the trees tease me: Green envy transforms into a blush as I dream of absolution. But oh how the wind is judging me.

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2nd Day Rosh Hashana Study Submissions

I genuinely want to become a more respectful, considerate listener. This will be quite a challenge, but I think three things might help: First, to catch myself before blurting something out. Second, I need to pause and take a breath or two, as I consider if what I want to say is something the person may already know, or something he or she needs to know. The answer is often no. Even if the answer feels like yes, I need to wait for an appropriate moment to share my story instead of interrupting the person who is speaking. And third, I need to resolve to tell fewer stories-monologues-and aim to engage people more in balanced dialogues.

During these Days of Awe, may my efforts to become a better listener succeed enough that the wind and moon, the shadows, mirror and trees will no longer seem to judge and mock me. In the year ahead, may all my loved ones and acquaintances come to feel heard, respected and honored in the way I truly intend, and may I open my ears more often than I open my mouth. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to God, and to all I encounter.

It's Not About Letting Go By Bonnie Gruszecki

As I think about those I have loved who have left this world I have come to find that letting go is not at all what I need to do. Instead, what I really need to work on is letting in; on continuing to hold them deeply in my heart even when I miss them the most. I need to let them in by remembering the essence of who they were (and still are) and the special bond we shared (and always will share) so vividly that each quality of their goodness; their spirit; the very best of them feels completely welcome and at home in my heart; so welcome that this part of them comes to integrate into who I am. That's what honoring memory is really about; letting them in and doing so in the deepest way so that a type of seed is planted in my heart to grow a better me. Those beloved ones no longer in the physical world do not want me burdened by their loss. They want me blossomed by their love.

2nd Day Rosh Hashana Study Submissions

May we introduce 14 year old Brielle, daughter of Cindy and Ken Vieu. After hearing Yoonhee Ko play Kol Nidre on Erev Yom Kippur, Brielle wrote the poem below. Enjoy!

The Cello By Brielle Vieu

She played and played.

And everyone listened.

Eyes closed, hearts opened. Taking in the beauty of the song.

But me, I was watching the woman as she struck the chords with such grace the angels would be jealous.

She had a beauty to her that I couldn't quite put into words.

Yet, she was gentle and careful.

Not showing too much confidence, but seeming sure of herself at the same time.

Her body swaying with the melody while her face contorted and relaxed, exposed her most inner feelings and thoughts.

Thoughts one could not put into human dialect.

Feelings too complicated for the basic mind to take in fully and willingly.

I shook as she stroked the chords on the beautiful oak wood instrument one final time, not ready for the peacefulness of this moment to end.

Not ready to enter the world again.

Not ready to let go.

This spiritual song had once again made me calm and serene.

I was drowning in her and I wasn't sure if I wanted to resurface

~ Thank you, cellist, Yoonhee Ko, for you inspired this poem. And thank you to my beloved mother, Cindy Vieu, for showing interest.

CEMETERY CHAIR COULD USE YOUR HELP!

Since I have taken on the job of president of the synagogue, I would like to request that one or two members become familiar with the cemetery in the event that either of us becomes unavailable for some reason. This is not a time-consuming position, just backup in the event of an unforeseen event. Tara has all the records on her computer and can be of assistance also.

Joanne Saltman

HELP NEEDED!

As most of you know by now, we need to sell our building since it has become more expensive than we can afford and since the pandemic has not been in much use. We are currently looking for a smaller, more affordable option. In the meantime, we have a potential buyer who actually loves our building and would not tear it down but give it a good use. We need to start packing up the items we want to keep in our building. Since there is no heat in the building we want to get as much done as possible while the weather is nice. Should be a perfect day on Sunday November 6, 2022 at 10:00 am-?? (until we are ready to quit for now). If you can find any boxes to bring it would be great.

Joanne Saltman

A Special Thank You to Our Sustaining Members

Andrew Barowsky Ned and Cindy Barowsky Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki Norman and Marion Halpern Laura A. Hilf Alfred and Lee Hutt Stephen 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!

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Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society

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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) Flaine 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

Aaron & Gail Lansky Stephen & Lois Levin Stephen & Joan Levine Sidney* & Elizabeth* Paul Burton & Mariorie 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@sonsofzionholyoke.com or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.



Ira Laby

November 2022

Donations: Thank you!



Cemetery Fund

- Joseph Cohen: Cemetery upkeep
- + Diane Eskenasy: In memory of her father, Isaac Eskenasy
- * Diane Eskenasy: In memory of her grandfather, Jacob L. Barowsky
- + Sanford N. Katz: In memory of his father, Jacob Katz
- + Charles Weinstein: In memory of his mother, Clara Weinstein
- + Rich Wilson: High Holiday donation in honor of his grandparents, Nathan and Gussie Wilson

General Fund

- + Marjorie Bloom: In memory of her beloved mother, Sylvia Bloom
- + Aaron Falbel: High Holiday donation
- * Doron Goldman: High Holiday donation
- * Megan Gross: High Holiday donation
- + Dr. Bonnie Gruszecki: In memory of her paternal grandmother, Fanny Gruszecki
- * Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of Ellen Freyman's mother, Ruth Weiss
- + Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of Steve's mother, Doris Belsky
- * Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of Lois' mother, Jeanette Bloom
- + Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of Steve's brother, David Levin
- * Steve and Lois Levin: In memory of Amy Levin
- * Steve and Lois Levin: Celebrating Rich Freyman's recover from surgery
- * Steve and Lois Levin: High Holiday donation
- Jayne Pearl: High Holiday donation in memory of her parents, Shirley (Trivia bat Miryam v' Aharon) and Mortimer (Mordecai ben Rachel v' Calman)
- * Margie and Buddy Resnic: High Holiday donation
- * Betsy and James Tarr: High Holiday donation
- * Betsy Tarr: In memory of her mother, Muriel Barowsky
- Rick Tessler: High Holiday donation
- * Brielle Vieu: High Holiday donation
- + Barry Wieder: In memory of his parents, Harry and Edith Wieder
- + Aaron W. Wilson: In memory of his grandparents, Nathan and Gussie Wilson



November 2022 Yahrzeits

October 30 – November 5: Mady Schorsch November 20 – 26: Ken Vieu

October 30	*Abraham Greenspan
	Fanny Gruszecki
October 31	*Samuel Orlen
November 1	*Ida E. Bernstein
	Dorothy Bussel
	*Jacob Katz
November 3	Max Speiser

November 6 – 12: Barry Sparkes

November 6	*Hyman R. Bernstein
	*Myer Goldenberg
November 7	*Jacob L. Barowsky
	*Selma Weiss
November 8	*Lillian Halpern
November 9	*Armand Paperno
November 10	Katie Becker
	*Joseph Saltman

November 13 – 19: Cindy Vieu

n

*Fannie Saex
Robert Saex
*Max Stein
Sylvia Bloom
*Constance K. Barowsky
Beatrice Rose
*Isaac Eskenasy
*Beatrice Palmer
Ruth Breslow-Young

November 27 - December 3: Marjorie Bloom

November 27	Jay Posnik
November 28	*Stanley Saex
November 29	Samuel Cohen
December 1	*Rose Alperin
December 2	Philip G. Craig



Thank You!!!

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!

Thank You All!! You made the wonderful Succot Celebration possible.

Extra Special Mention

Ken View repaired the suffering succah after more than 2 years of neglect! Saul Perlmutter whose opening service set the perfect mood.

Special Mention

Thank you to all who set up tables and chairs, decorated, brought branches, flowers, gourds, and other decorations. The result was glorious! Worthy of the happiest holiday of the year!!

Judy Katz Ira Laby Paul Lambert Deb Levine Saul Perlmutter Joan Rosner Michael Rosner Joanne Saltman David Scher Mady Schorsch Gellya Shulman Brielle Vieu Cindy Vieu Ken Vieu



If you helped decorate and we missed your name, please forgive us and let us know. We promise a special thank you in the December Newsletter.

TRULY WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!

Rich and Joan co-chair-people, SOZ Religious Committee

Pictures

Decorating the Succah - Provided by Joan Rosner



Mady, Gellya, Joan and Michael



Bently and Saul's bike



Sukkot Pictures - Provided by Andrea Fox



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Pictures

Sukkot Pictures - Provided by Andrea Fox















Pictures

Sukkot Pictures - Provided by Andrea Fox



Taschlich Ritual by the Canal - Provided by Shoshana Zonderman



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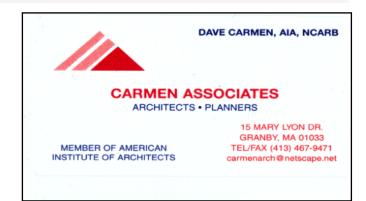
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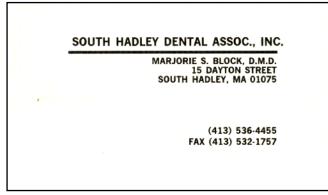
email kstdenis@rbwd.com



EMILY DUMALA

EmilyDumala@SmithMonuments.net OFFICE: (413) 568-8682 CELL: (413) 374-2692

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

There is always room for more!!!



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