CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

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Congregation Sons of Zion

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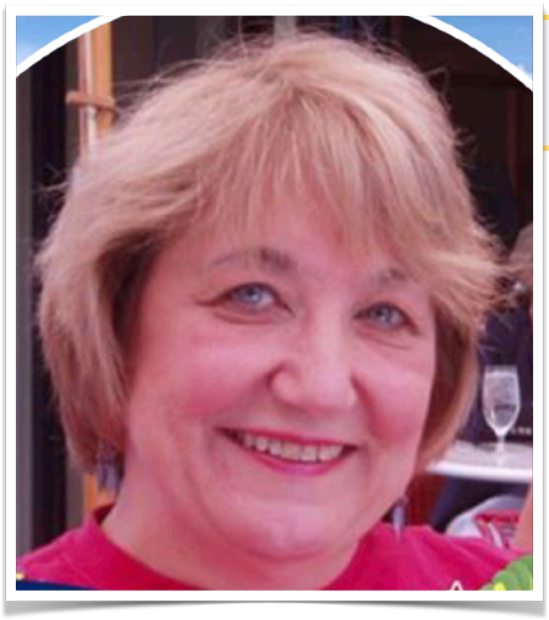
Nisan

Nisan, the first month on the Jewish calendar (according to the Torah), coincides with March-April on the secular calendar. The Torah calls it chodesh ha-aviv—the month of spring, as it marks the beginning of the spring months. It is in this month that we celebrate the eight-day holiday of Passover, from the 15th through the 22nd of Nisan. It commemorates the Jewish people's miraculous redemption from slavery in Egypt, and the birth of the Jewish nation.



President's Message

Happy Passover to all our members and friends. We are looking forward to the arrival of better weather after such a long winter.

With no building to maintain and a more manageable rental space, we can turn our attention to caring for our cemetery. In the coming weeks, we will be organizing cleanup days to trim vines, clear sticks and leaves, and take care of any other needs.

Our activities committee is also planning a variety of engaging programs, including arts and crafts, music events, mahjong, and another play with the wonderful Opera House Players. We always welcome your ideas as well.

Our Book Club is back, and we are excited for more lively discussions. With our new internet service, we should be able to hold good hybrid meetings, both in person and on Zoom. Please see the flyer on page 5 for the latest book selection and meeting details.

We hope to see you at a Shabbat service or at one of our upcoming events soon.

Chag Sameach!

Warm regards,

Joanne Saltman

Nisan/Iyar 5786

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 11 Nisan SOZ Book Club, 10 am (Hybrid)	30 12 Nisan	31 13 Nisan	1 14 Nisan ***EREV PESACH*** ***First Seder***	2 15 Nisan ***FIRST DAY OF PESACH*** ***Second Seder***	3 16 Nisan ***SECOND DAY OF PESACH*** Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 6:50 pm, Light Candles: 7:00 pm	4 17 Nisan ***FIRST DAY CHOL HAMOED PESACH*** Shabbat Service: 10 am (Zoom), Service Leader: Randi Stein
5 18 Nisan ***SECOND DAY CHOL HAMOED PESACH***	6 19 Nisan ***THIRD DAY CHOL HAMOED PESACH***	7 20 Nisan ***FOURTH DAY CHOL HAMOED PESACH***	8 21 Nisan ***SEVENTH DAY OF PESACH*** Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom) SOZ Board Meeting: 7 pm (Zoom)	9 22 Nisan ***EIGHTH DAY OF PESACH*** ***Pesach Ends at Sundown***	10 23 Nisan Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 6:55 pm, Light Candles: 7:08 pm	11 24 Nisan Shabbat Service: 10 am (Zoom), Service Leader: Dr. Max Chorowski Shemini
12 25 Nisan	13 26 Nisan Reading of the Names - Yom HaShoah: 9 am to 5:30 pm, (Springfield Jewish Community Center)	14 27 Nisan ***YOM HAZIKARON HASHOAH*** ***Holocaust Remembrance Day***	15 28 Nisan Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	16 29 Nisan	17 30 Nisan ***ROSH HODESH IYAR*** Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:05 pm, Light Candles: 7:16 pm	18 1 Iyar Shabbat Service: 10 am (Hybrid), Service Leader: Rabbi Marc Rudolph, Kiddush follows service Tazria-Metzora
19 2 Iyar	20 3 Iyar	21 4 Iyar ***YOM HAZIKARON*** ***Israel Remembrance Day***	22 5 Iyar ***Israel Independence Day*** Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	23 6 Iyar	24 7 Iyar Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:10 pm, Light Candles: 7:24 pm	25 8 Iyar Shabbat Service: 10 am (Zoom), Service Leader: Emily Anfang Achare-Kedoshim
26 9 Iyar SOZ Book Club: 10 am (Hybrid)	27 10 Iyar	28 11 Iyar	29 12 Iyar Mincha Minyan: Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	30 13 Iyar	1 14 Iyar Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom): Gather: 7:20 pm, Light Candles: 7:32 pm	2 15 Iyar Shabbat Service: 10 am (Details TBD) Emor

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, April 1, 2026
EREV PESACH
First Seder

Thursday, April 2, 2026
FIRST DAY OF PESACH
Second Seder

Friday, April 3, 2026
SECOND DAY OF PESACH
Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 6:50 pm, Light Candles at 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 4, 2026
FIRST DAY CHOL HAMOED
Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom),
Service Leader: Randi Stein

Sunday, April 5, 2026
SECOND DAY CHOL HAMOED PESACH

Monday, April 6, 2026
THIRD DAY CHOL HAMOED PESACH

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
FOURTH DAY CHOL HAMOED PESACH

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
SEVENTH DAY OF PESACH
Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service
SOZ Board Meeting, 7pm (Zoom)

Thursday, April 9, 2026
EIGHTH DAY OF PESACH
Pesach Ends at Sundown

Friday, April 10, 2026
Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 6:55 pm, Light Candles at 7:08 pm

Saturday, April 11, 2026
Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom),
Service Leader: Dr. Max Chorowski

Monday, April 13, 2026
Reading of the Names - Yom HaShoah:
9 am to 5:30 pm
(Springfield Jewish Community Center)

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
YOM HAZIKARON HASHOAH
Holocaust Remembrance Day

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Friday, April 17, 2026
Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 7:05 pm, Light Candles at 7:16 pm

Saturday, April 18, 2026
ROSH HODESH IYAR
Shabbat Service, 10 am (Hybrid - weather permitting),
Service Leader: Rabbi Marc Rudolph,
Kiddush follows service

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
YOM HAZIKARON
Israel Remembrance Day

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Israel Independence Day
Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Friday, April 24, 2026
Welcome Shabbat Candle Lighting (Zoom):
Gather at 7:10 pm, Light Candles at 7:24 pm

Saturday, April 25, 2026
Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom),
Service Leader: Emily Anfang

Sunday, April 26, 2026
SOZ Book Club: 10 am (Hybrid)

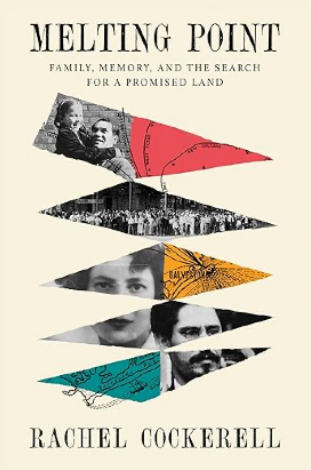
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

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

SOZ Book Club Meeting

Sunday, April 26th 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.

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

Local Events

🕯️ Reading of the Names – Yom HaShoah 🕯️

Join the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts and the greater Western Massachusetts community for a meaningful community act of remembrance as we honor the children lost during the Shoah.

Here is the Registration Link to help. Whenever it works for your schedule, we are grateful: https://jewishwesternmass.regfox.com/yom-hashoa-

Through our **Reading of the Names**, each participant helps ensure that these young lives are remembered. Volunteers are invited to read names during a 15-minute time slot, adding their voice to this day-long observance of memory, reflection, and respect.

This is a powerful mitzvah—an opportunity to bear witness, to remember, and to stand together as a community.

Reading of the names will happen on April 13th from 9am-5:30pm at the Hatikvah Memorial in the lobby of the Springfield Jewish Community Center. Please join us and sign up for a 15-minute slot by visiting https://jewishwesternmass.regfox.com/yom-hashoa-.

We hope you will take part in this sacred act of remembrance.

Questions can be directed to Cassie Hicks, Federation's Operation Officer, at chicks@jewishwesternmass.org or 413-737-4313.

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 Wallk 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 Wallk is teaching and to learn more about the Melton School in general, email Rabbi Wallk.

Go to:
https://tbespringfield.org/adult-education/ for more information.

Adult Learning Opportunities (continued)

Cuppa Joe: Jewish Values and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict

Sundays, 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Upcoming Date: April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3

Location: Zoom - please contact he Temple Beth El office for the Zoom link at (413) 733-4149

Go to:
https://tbespringfield.org/adult-education/ for more information.

"Jewish Values and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict" led by: Rabbi Marc Rudolph

Description

"Jewish Values and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict"
Sundays from
9:30 - 10:30 AM

Zoom: Call the temple office for the link 413-733-4149
Questions: 413-733-4149

In our next "Cuppa Joe" classes we will use a curriculum developed by the Hartman Institute's "i Engage" program. These modules focus on one of the most difficult issues dividing the Jewish people today: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Some wonder how they can understand, relate to, and identify with an Israel whose policies are so different from their own. Others wonder how they can talk with and tolerate Jews who advocate positions which they profoundly disrespect and believe are dangerous to the future of Israel.
This course will provide a framework on how we think and talk about politics and how we understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Look for the Zoom link in the TBE Connection emails. Please feel free to pass this opportunity along to anyone you think might be interested. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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

March Donations: Thank you!

Cemetery Fund

- Elizabeth Bassell Goodman: In memory of her father, Martin Bassell
- Steve Kappel and Elaine Klein: In memory of their father, Charles Kaplinsky
- Judy Katz: In memory of her parents, Charles and Helen Haberman
- Judy Katz: In memory of her father-in-law, Eugene Katz
- Stephen and Lois Levin: In support of the SOZ Cemetery
- Dr. Stephen Levine: In memory of his uncle, Alvin Koufax
- Charles Weinstein: In memory of his father, Samuel Weinstein
- Rhoda Wernick: In memory of her father-in-law, Harry Wernick

General Fund

- Ira Laby: In memory of his father, George Laby
- Andrew Barowsky: In memory of his grandmother, Eva Magidson
- Andrew Barowsky: In memory of his uncle, Alfred Barowsky
- Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's grandmother, Eva Magidson
- Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's uncle, Alfred Barowsky

April 2026 Yahrzeits

March 29-April 4: Stephen Levine

March 29	*Ellen Saltman
March 30	*Edythe Hollup Radner
April 1	Eli Knapp Abrams
	Irene Bernstein
	*Eva R.Magidson
April 2	*Alan Firestone
April 4	Goldie Brodsky
	Jules Hecht

April 5-11: Myra Orlen

April 5	Evelyn Greenberg
April 8	Lillian Margolis Cohen
	Barbara Levine
	*Evelyn Polansky
April 9	Helen Haberman
	Charles Haberman
April 10	Ida D. Paul
April 11	*Robert Suher

April 12-18: Jayne Pearl

April 12	Lillian Thorn
April 13	*Abraham H. Adelson
	Anita Levin-Epstein
April 15	Herman Speiser
April 16	*Saul Firestone
April 17	*Alfred Barowsky
	*Charles Kaplinsky
April 18	*Eva Bernson

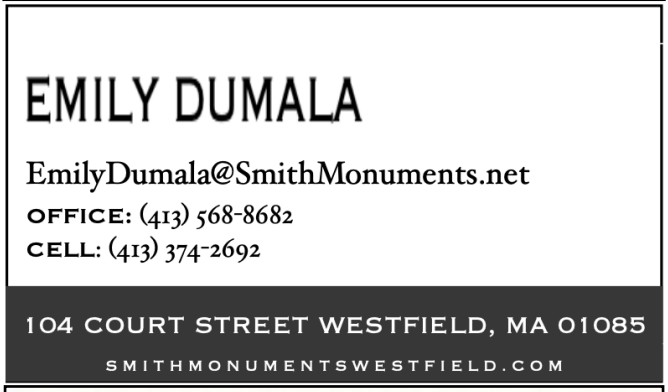
April 19-25: Joan Rosner

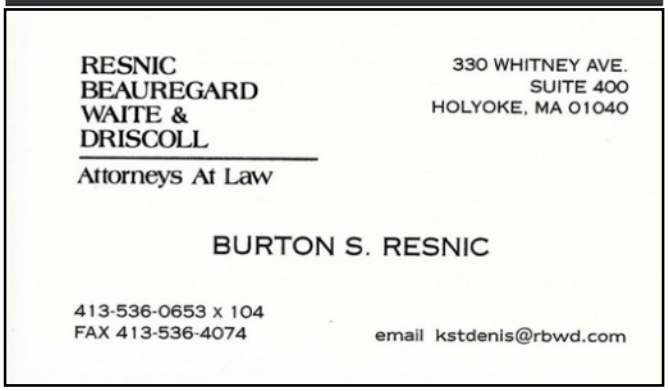
April 20	Susan Marks
April 21	Suzanne Halberstadt-Chorowski
April 25	*Sidney H. Wilson

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

Ads from Our Sponsors





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

There is always room for more!!!

Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts