SONS OF ZION

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Congregation Sons of Zion

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About the Month of Nissan

Nissan, 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 Nissan. It commemorates the Jewish people's miraculous redemption from slavery in Egypt, and the birth of the Jewish nation.



A Message from the Rabbi

From Purim to Pesach: Overcoming Challenges, Facing New Ones

"Great Performance!" "Well, that was a hoot, wasn't it?" "A fun experience!" "I thought the Purim celebration was great."

These actual reactions typify the wonderful response to this year's SOZ Purim shpiel. "To Tell the Truth," was the brainchild of Rich Freyman's wry creativity and inclusive leadership. Rich

brought together a spirited cast and crew and an appreciative audience, bringing smiles to our faces and lifting our spirits.

We celebrated, once again, Esther's courage and Mordechai's commitment. Once again, we overcame the external challenge of bigotry that threatened to destroy a Jewish community.

A year ago, Purim was pretty much the last time we got together inside our building at 378 Maple Street. For a whole year now, our SOZ community has faced a different kind of pernicious challenge - the COVID pandemic -- that threatened to isolate us and weaken our connections with one another.

Instead, this Purim we demonstrated our resilience as a community. Over the course of this difficult year, we have figured out how to use Zoom to do services that have brought us closer. More people are attending our Shabbat service, including people new to SOZ. Even our weekday service, which pre-COVID had been struggling to get a minyan quorum, now consistently has a minyan every Wednesday afternoon.

Instead of hunkering down, we are creating new nurturing, fun, and supportive ways to be together. We have figured out how to cook together on zoom. We have initiated regular schmooze sessions on Zoom. We now have a prayer study group that meets on Zoom. In addition to these new activities, our Board and committees continue to function, the book group continues to read and discuss, we continue to support efforts to feed the hungry in our community, and the newsletter and website continue to keep us informed about these and other happenings. Calls are being made to keep in touch with congregants who don't Zoom.

This year when the Purim shpiel concluded and we had sung our final triumphant song, no one in the large crowd wanted to leave the screen. The program was over, but people stayed on. Spontaneously we schmoozed, we laughed. New participants started to introduce themselves, soon morphing into everyone joining in and saying hello to one another.

The camaraderie, the caring, the pure pleasure of that moment was precious and palpable. Without having to say it in so many words, I think we were all experiencing that we had not

A Message from the Rabbi (Continued)

only beaten Haman; we also are emerging from COVID as an even stronger and more cohesive community. Instead of diminishing, we are miraculously growing and becoming even closer.

In the course of our post-shpiel schmoozing, one person happened to mention that Purim was the date of her father's yahrzeit (the anniversary of her father's death). A few moments later, we all supported her in staying so that she could recite the kaddish for her father. This person was in Wisconsin. It didn't matter. It was just one more beautiful example of how we have become a community that supports one another.

The camaraderie, the caring, the pure pleasure of that moment was precious and palpable. Without having to say it in so many words, I think we were all experiencing that we had not only beaten Haman; we also are emerging from COVID as an even stronger and more cohesive community. Instead of diminishing, we are miraculously growing and becoming even closer.

This Purim was a wonderful reminder of what a blessing it is to be part of this SOZ community.

We are now looking ahead to Pesach. A committee is already planning a congregational seder for the second night of Passover, Sunday night, March 28.

Our tradition charges us on Passover to "tell your child on that day, 'It is because of what God did for me when I went free from Egypt." Exodus 13:8 From the youngest child who asks the Four Questions to the four children who are described in the Haggadah, a key focus of Passover is to tell the story **to the next generation** of our redemption from slavery to freedom.

For us at SOZ, extending the wonderful, supportive, and warm community that we experienced this Purim to the next generation is our next major challenge - not just for Passover, but for the future of our congregation and the future of Jewish life as a whole in Holyoke. Put differently, we parents and grandparents of Zion need to share our beautiful tradition with the next generation for there to be Children of Zion in the future.

How can we do this? Our President, Joan Rosner, and I recently met with Rabbi Yafa Chase, Director of Western Massachusetts Programs for the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF). We learned that SOZ can apply for a very generous Family Education Grant from HGF. This would enable us to hire an educator to support Jewish experiential education for young families. So the funding is there potentially. All we need now is to find a talented educator/coordinator and families that want a meaningful Jewish connection for their children.

You can help make this happen.

Do you know any families with Jewish children in the Holyoke area -- including South Hadley, Easthampton, Chicopee, Granby? If so, please tell Joan Rosner about them.

A Message from the Rabbi (Continued)

If you are in one of those families, please contact Joan Rosner to let her know that you would like to hear more about this possibility.

Do you know a Jewish educator who is great with children and families who could help organize a program with and for them? If so, please tell Joan about them.

Would you like to help Joan put this initiative together? You know what to do...call Joan.

Joan can be reached by phone at 413 535-8679 or by email at joanrosner@comcast.net.

In keeping with the spirit and message of Passover to engage the next generation, any connections you can help make now could be the start of a long-term game changer for Jewish life in the Holyoke area. Please add this to your personal list of Passover preparations. Thank you.

I'm looking forward to joining you for our second night SOZ Zoom seder.

With thanks and warm wishes for a sweet and liberating Passover for you and for future generations of Jewish life in Holyoke,

Rabbi Saul Perlmutter



Sheval/Adar 5781



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 16 Adar	1 17 Adar Minyan Cancelled Seder Planning Meeting, 7:30pm (Zoom)	2 18 Adar	3 19 Adar Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	4 20 Adar	5 21 Adar	6 22 Adar Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)
7 23 Adar Seder Planning Meeting at 7:30pm (Zoom)	Minyan Cancelled Chesed Schmooze, 7pm (Zoom)	9 25 Adar SOZ Study Group on Prayer, 7:15pm (Zoom)	Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom) SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)	11 27 Adar	12 28 Adar	Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom) Move clocks ahead before sleep Va-Yakhel- Pekudei
1 4 1 Nissan Rosh Hodesh Nissan Daylight Saving Time	15 ^{2 Nissan} Minyan Cancelled	16 3 Nissan	17 4 Nissan Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	Congregation Sons of Zion's 117th Anniversary	19 6 Nissan	20 7 Nissan Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom) Va-Yikra
21 8 Nissan SOZ Book Club Meeting, 10:30am (Zoom)	22 9 Nissan Minyan Cancelled Chesed Schmooze, 7pm (Zoom)	23 10 Nissan	24 11 Nissan Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom) What's Cooking @ SOZ??? Details TBD	25 12 Nissan Fast of First Born Search for Chametz after Nightfall	26 13 Nissan Sell Chametz by Noon	27 14 Nissan Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom) Shabbat Hagadol
28 15 Nissan SOZ Community Second Seder 5pm (Zoom) Passover Day 1	29 16 Nissan Minyan Cancelled Passover Day 2 1 Omer	30 17 Nissan Passover Day 3 2 Omer	31 18 Nissan Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom) Passover Day 4 3 0mer	1 19 Nissan Passover Day 5 4 Omer	2 20 Nissan Passover Day 6 5 Omer	3 21 Nissan Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom) Passover Day 7 6 0mer

*(Zoom) and cancelled Monday minyanim assume that COVID-19 restrictions continue.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, March 1, 2021 Seder Planning Meeting, 7:30pm (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

Saturday, March 6, 2021 Shabbat Service, 10am

Sunday, March 7, 2021 Seder Planning Meeting, 7:30pm (Zoom)

Monday, March 8, 2021 Chesed Schmooze, 7pm (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 SOZ Study Group on Prayer, 7:15pm - 8:30pm (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze,
5:15pm service (Zoom)

SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)

Saturday, March 13, 2021 Shabbat Service, 10am Move clocks ahead before sleep

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Rosh Hodesh Nissan Daylight Saving Time

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)

Thursday, March 18, 2021 Congregation Sons of Zion's 117th Anniversary Saturday, March 20, 2021 Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)

Sunday, March 21, 2021

SOZ Book Club, 10:30am (Zoom)

Monday, March 22, 2021

Chesed Schmooze, 7pm (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)

What's Cooking @ SOZ???, Details TBD

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Fast of First Born

Search for Chametz after Nightfall

Friday, March 26, 2021 Sell Chametz by Noon

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)

Shabbat Hagadol

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Passover Day 1

Community Second Seder, 5pm (Zoom)

Monday, March 29, 2021

Passover Day 2

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Passover Day 3

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Passover Day 4

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



CHESED SCHM00ZE



As the winter days get longer and so many of us are at home and limiting outside interactions, the Chesed Committee would like to invite you to an occasional online Schmooze.

Are you looking to have more social interaction?

Are you feeling exhausted by the length of time that the COVID crisis has lasted?

Are you looking for a chance to hear from others how they are managing in these times?

Or would you just like to get together with others in the SOZ family to connect and spend some time together?

If any of these things is of interest then join us on our inaugural Schmooze. There is no agenda orther than a desire to connect with others.

PLEASE RSVP:

Please go to our website and register if you have **not** attended an SOZ Schmooze before.

The Zoom link will be sent out at 6pm on the night of the event.

CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

378 MAPLE STREET, HOLYOKE, MA 01040

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@SONSOFZIONHOLYOKE.ORG



Join our Study Group on Prayer

Offered via Zoom by

Congregation Sons of Zion

Facilitated by Rabbi Saul Perlmutter

All are welcome!!

Class Date: March 9, 2021 Class Time: 7:15pm to 8:30pm

Suggested Topics: (such as...)

- Why pray
- Who are you praying to
- Do you expect prayers to be answered
- How do you pray if you don't believe in God
- Evolution of prayer
- Evolution of siddur
- Siddur means order, why
- Individual prayer vs communal prayer
- Alternative versions of Jewish prayer
- Each has a different siddur...Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewal...why?

<u>Registration:</u> Please go to our website and register. You will receive a link for each class and materials once you are registered.

www.sonsofzionholyoke.org

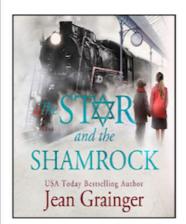
Donations always welcome



Congregation Sons of Zion 378 Maple Street Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 685-5134 office@sonsofzionholyoke.org www.sonsofzionholyoke.org

SOZ BOOK CLUB MEETING

Sunday, March 21st at 10:30am



Ariella Bannon has no choice. She must put her precious children Liesl and Erich on that train or allow them to become prey for the Nazis.

Berlin 1939.

When her husband doesn't come home one day, Ariella realizes that the only way she can ensure her Jewish children's safety is to avail of the Kindertransport, but can she bear to let them go? A thousand miles away, Elizabeth Klein has closed herself off from the world. Losing her husband on the last day of the Great War and her child months later, she cannot, will not, love again. It hurts too much.

But she is all Liesl and Erich Bannon have.

Thrown together in the wild countryside of Northern Ireland, Elizabeth and the Bannon children discover that life in the country is anything but tranquil. Danger and intrigue lurk everywhere, and some people are not what they seem.

From the streets of wartime Berlin, to the bombed out city of Liverpool, and finally resting in the lush valleys of the Ards Penisula, *The Star and the Shamrock* from *USA Today* best-selling author Jean Grainger is a pause resister.

How to Watch SOZ's Past Shabbat Services on YouTube:

(Zoom services are not recorded)

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 them 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 10:00am. Shabbat Shalom!

Tikkun Olam Opportunities

Project Isaiah: Fundraiser Benefitting Margaret's Pantry

Is not this the fast I (God) want?

To free people from all which cruelly oppresses them, to let the oppressed go free, to break every chain, to share your food with the hungry, to take the homeless into your home. Clothe the naked when you see them. Do not ignore a needy relative. Then light will break forth like the dawn, and your wounds will soon be healed.

— Isaiah 58:6-7, From the Haftarah for Yom Kippur morning Adapted from The Mahzor, Rabbinical Assembly, and Tanakh, Jewish Publication Society

Once again, Congregation Sons of Zion will sponsor a collection to benefit Margaret's Pantry, a full-service food pantry that provides food to residents of the greater Holyoke area. The need this year is greater than ever. Due to the Pandemic Crisis, Margaret's Pantry is requesting financial donations which they will use to make purchases of needed items.

If you would like to contribute to this important cause you can make checks out to Margaret's Pantry and send them to:

Margaret's Pantry c/o Brenda Lamagdeleine 56 Cabot Street Holyoke, MA 01040 *Please note: Congregation Sons of Zion on your check.

Thank you for your participation in this important effort.





Tikkun Olam Opportunitees

Thank you to Lois Levin, who has shared some Jewish-learning opportunities offered by the Hebrew Union College that will-

- Probe the pressing concerns of our civic life today, including race and identity, elections, prison reform, and religious voices on social justice issues in Judaism & Civil Society
- Experience the impact of Jewish material culture through the creativity of artists, composers, poets, architects, and writers who illuminate our Jewish heritage in **Judaism & Culture**

Some programs are offered in partnership with the Jewish Book Council, the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, and the Klau Library.

Several free webinars are available from February 10, 2021, through June 22, 2021, under the broad topics of:

- Judaism & Civil Society
- Judaism & Culture
- Judaism & History
- Judaism & (grand) Parenting
- Judaism & Religions
- Judaism & Women's Studies

Further information with a link to program registrations available at https://huc-connect/huc-connect-2021



CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION WILL BUY CHAMETZ

Once again, Dave Carmen has offered to be our agent. Please fill out the form below and be sure to scan it to Dave at carmenarch@aol.com by noon on Friday, March 26, 2021. Dave will be sure your Chametz is properly sold before Pesach and bought back at the conclusion of the holiday. Our sincere thanks to Dave for enhancing our Pesach celebration!!!

Passover 5781

Delegation of Power For Sale of Chametz

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit David Carmen to act in my place and stead, and on my behalf to sell all Chametz possessed by me, knowingly or unknowingly, as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law (i.e. any Chametz, and all kinds of Chametz admixtures); also, any Chametz that tends to harden and adhere to inside surfaces of pans, pots, or cooking utensils, the utensils themselves, and all kinds of live animals and pets that have been eating Chametz or mixtures thereof.

Dave Carmen is also empowered to lease all places wherein the Chametz owned by me may be found, particularly the address(es) listed below, and elsewhere.

Dave Carmen also has full power and right to act as he deems fit and proper, in accordance with all the details of the Bill of Sale used in transaction, to sell all my Chametz, Chametz mixtures, etc., as provided herein.

Signed: ______

Name(s):

This power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinic, and Civil laws.

Address(es):

Please fill out this form and scan it to Dave at carmenarch@aol.com by noon on Friday, March 26, 2021.

A Special Thank You to Our **Sustaining Members Andrew Barowsky** Ned & Cindy Barowsky Richard and Ellen Freyman Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki Norman and Marion Halpern Alfred and Lee Hutt Stephen and Lois Levin 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

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

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



^{*} Deceased



Donations: Thank you!



Cemetery Fund

+ Francis and Marcia Burke: In memory of Marcia's father, David Slotnick

Garden Fund

* Kevin and Elizabeth Ferry: In memory of their aunt, Elizabeth Paul

General Fund

- + Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's father, Mischa Barowksy
- * Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's grandmother, Jennie Daniels Barowsky
- * Kevin and Elizabeth Ferry: In memory of their uncle, Sidney Paul
- * Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki: In memory of Bonnie's father, Harry Gruszecki
- * Michael Karukin: In memory of his parents, Sam and Fran Karukin
- + Joan and Michael Rosner: In loving memory of Joan's mother, Blanche Barshay Gerard
- + Cindy and Ken Vieu: In memory of Cindy's father, Edwin Os
- * Rhoda Wernick: In memory of Rhoda's father, Morris Lipnick



March 2021 Yahrzeits

February 28 - March 6: Cindy Vieu

February 28 *Edward J. Greenspan

*Alvin Koufax

March 1 Ruth Laskin

March 2 *Minnie Goldberg

March 3 Sol May

*Raymond Mekler

March 4 *Henry Levin

Sidney Paul

March 5 Bertha Berman

Harry Bloom Abraham Reiner

Louis Rubin
*Harry Gold
*Edith Harmetz

March 7 - 13: Ken Vieu

March 7 Morris Lipnick

March 8 Ruth Jaffe

Joseph Levin-Epstein

* Jennie Daniels Barowsky

March 9 * Sandra Lipson

* Anna Rachel Marks

* Florence A. Kostin

* Abraham Seaver

March 10 Betty Sparkes

March 11 * Fannie Eisenstock

Bertha Herman Martha Messias Harold Kaiser

Russell Kenefick

March 12 * Maurice (Murray) Lipson

* Ethelle Charlotte Wilson



March 14 – 20: Marjorie Bloom

March 14 *Mordecai Drydack

*Irving Kotok

Abraham Nathanson

March 15 Molly Goldblatt

*Miriam "Minnie" Welson Goodman

Jacob M Jackler *George Laby

March 16 *Joseph Magaziner

March 17 Eugene Katz

*Bertha Levinson

*Teresa Wilson

Basha Mehr Cramer

March 18 *Jean Orlen Lieban

*Samuel Winofker

March 20 Mrs. Udes Alexander

Beatrice Geiges
*Samuel Liberman

Rose Mekler
*Harry Stein
*Harry Wernick

March 21 – 27: Dave Carmen

March 21 Matias Gruszecki

*Max Koss *Max Smith *Alex Suher

*Samuel Weinstein

March 23 Sarah Tanzer
March 24 *Ellen Saltman

March 25 *Edythe Hollup Radner

March 27 *Eva R. Magidson

March 28 – April 3: Andrea Fox

March 28 *Alan Firestone March 30 Goldie Brodsky

Jules Hecht

April 3 Lillian Margolis Cohen

Barbara Levine

*Evelyn Polansky

Pictures

Provided by Joan Rosner, Andrea Fox and Rich Freyman

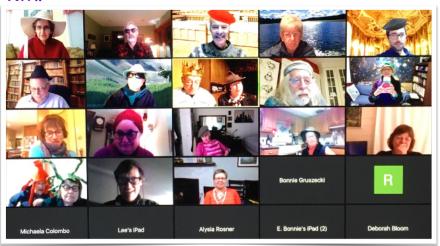


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Making hamantaschen



Purim



Michael baking hamantaschen

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There is always room for more!!