

# CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 8 | Issue 1 | September 2022 | Elul 5782/Tishrei 5783

## Congregation Sons of Zion

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## About the Month of Elul

Elul is the 12th and final month in the Jewish calendar. It is a month that connects the past year with the coming year—a time when we reflect on where we stand and where we should be going. It is called “the month of repentance,” “the month of mercy” and “the month of forgiveness.”



## A Message from the Rabbi

Requesting Forgiveness and Expressing Appreciation -  
Spiritual Preparation for the Days of Awe

I'd like to suggest a very real and concrete practice that can enhance the potential for transformation that the Days of Awe hold out for us.

We know that the Ten Days of Repentance from Rosh Hashana to Yom Kippur is a time to ask for forgiveness, but how many of us actually do it? Maybe we ask good friends and family with words such as: if I have said or done anything to hurt you, please forgive me. That's a start, but how many of us really name and own and deeply feel what we regret when asking for forgiveness, especially if it's from someone we don't know or don't like so well?

This Elul to help prepare us to do the hard - but ultimately liberating - work of asking for forgiveness, I invite you to actually put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and write at least one **letter of forgiveness**. Write down what you are asking to be forgiven for, describe how you are feeling about what you did, ask sincerely for forgiveness, and talk about how you would like to act differently in the future under the same circumstances.

Your letter of forgiveness might be to:

- a friend
- a family member
- someone deceased
- yourself
- God
- our congregation
- the earth
- the next generation
- or whoever or whatever comes to mind

Don't just think about doing it; actually write it. You might or might not end up sending the letter or having an in-person conversation about its contents.

I am hoping that you also might consider reading your letter at **our abbreviated service/study session on the second day of Rosh Hashana, Tuesday morning, September 27**. (Feel free to skip parts that you might not want to share.) **Please email me at saulp@umass.edu by Tuesday, September 20**, with any questions or if you have already drafted a letter and are willing to read it (or have someone else read it if you want to remain anonymous) as part of our second day Rosh Hashana second day service/study session.

In recent years, we have also encouraged one another to use the High Holidays as a time to affirm the good, positive things we appreciate in others or in ourselves, and not only to focus on regrets and sins. Dwelling on our own faults and shortcomings can bring us down and make it harder for us to get in touch with and actually express our thanks for the support and caring of others. Really expressing heart-felt appreciation can be as powerful and positively transformational as asking for forgiveness - both for ourselves and for the people to whom we express our gratitude and affirmation.

## A Message from the Rabbi (continued)

So please also consider drafting a **letter of appreciation** to any of the recipients listed in the bullet points above and reading your letter at the same second day Rosh Hashana event. Please email me at [saulp@umass.edu](mailto:saulp@umass.edu) by September 20, if you would be willing to read your letter at the service/study session on Rosh Hashana second day.

Last year on second day Rosh Hashana people shared prayers that they had composed prior to the holiday. It was a wonderful gift of the heart that we gave to one another. Sharing our letters of forgiveness or appreciation can be transformational as well: both for those who write them and for those who hear them.

Thank you in advance both for inspiring others with sharing your letters and for taking an important step in enriching your own experience of the Days of Awe.

L' Shana Tova - warm wishes for a good, sweet and transformational new year for each of us and for our community,

*Rabbi Saul Perlmutter*

*S'lichot*

A collage of Torah verses and Hebrew poetry to begin the High Holidays!

# Saturday, September 17, 2022

Schmooze: 7:45 pm, Service: 8 pm

In-person service led by Rabbi Saul Perlmutter.

Service followed by celebratory refreshments.



We are working to establish a hybrid broadcast.

We will have  
livestream (YouTube).

Congregation Sons of Zion  
378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

## A beautiful and meaningful service

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[www.sonsofzionholyoake.org](http://www.sonsofzionholyoake.org)



## President's Message

Shana Tova to all our members and friends. I am happy to report that we have voted to have in-person services at the synagogue for Selichot, Rosh Hashanah I and II, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur. It will be our first services in our synagogue building in two and one-half years because of Covid, and we hope to see you there. A Zoom option for those who are unable to come to the synagogue is in the works.

In other news, after long and thoughtful consideration, the Board of Directors is actively working on finding a new home for our congregation. To explain, a brief history of the congregation is needed.

Congregation Sons of Zion was founded in 1904 by a group of mostly Russian, Polish, and Lithuanian immigrants looking for a better life in Holyoke, Massachusetts. They originally met in a building in South Holyoke. In 1927 the congregation had grown enough to purchase a former church and the land around it at our present location of Maple and Cabot Streets. Since then, it has been remodeled with the still-beautiful sanctuary we have today.

After WWII, more than seventy years ago, Congregation Sons of Zion's thriving membership that included families with a lot of children, in coordination with Congregation Rodphey Sholom, built the three-story Jewish Community Center addition on the Congregation Sons of Zion building, which served the greater Holyoke Jewish community for many years.

Most, if not all of you, who read this Newsletter know that the Jewish population within Holyoke has dwindled, particularly over the past thirty to forty years. Many of you have moved away; some of you to be closer to your children who no longer live near Holyoke, Massachusetts. Though, from time-to-time over the past twenty years, individuals, and families with Jewish affiliation from neighboring cities and towns have expressed interest in our synagogue, our Maple and Cabot Streets location has not been convenient for many and frankly, the building is not appealing. In short, our building needs a lot of updating: roof, heating system, pipes, and décor; and our demographics have changed, our needs have evolved, our location is a deterrent to attracting and sustaining interest in membership, and our building is beyond our ability to sustain its upkeep and rehabilitate it.

The Board of Directors has received a "letter of intent" from a large corporation interested in purchasing our property. The question is "where will we go"? Will the money from the sale of our building be enough to purchase a new one? What kind of congregation do we want to be?

These are the topics that are now being discussed. Nothing has been decided yet since these are issues that take a lot of consideration. Your respectful suggestions and feedback are welcome.

*Joanne Saltman*



Elul 5782/  
Tishrei 5783

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 1 Elul <b>Rosh Hodesh Elul</b>	29 2 Elul	30 3 Elul	31 4 Elul Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	1 5 Elul	2 6 Elul	3 7 Elul Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Shofetim
4 8 Elul	5 9 Elul <b>Labor Day</b>	6 10 Elul	7 11 Elul Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom) Last day to submit name change suggestions	8 12 Elul	9 13 Elul	10 14 Elul Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Ki Tetze
11 15 Elul SOZ Book Club, 10:30 am (Zoom)	12 16 Elul	13 17 Elul	14 18 Elul Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom) SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30 pm (Zoom)	15 19 Elul	16 20 Elul	17 21 Elul Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom) S'lichot Service: Schmooze, 7:45 pm Program & Service, 8 pm Refreshments to follow Ki Tavo
18 22 Elul Congregational Meeting, 10 am - 12 pm (Zoom)	19 23 Elul	20 24 Elul	21 25 Elul Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	22 26 Elul	23 27 Elul	24 28 Elul Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Nitzavim
25 29 Elul <b>Erev Rosh Hashana</b>	26 1 Tishrei First Day Rosh Hashana Services: Service begins at 10 am, followed by Tashlich <b>Rosh Hashana First Day 5783</b>	27 2 Tishrei Second Day Rosh Hashana Services: Service begins at 10 am, followed by Tashlich <b>Rosh Hashana Second Day</b>	28 3 Tishrei Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)	29 4 Tishrei	30 5 Tishrei	1 6 Tishrei Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)  Vayelech

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, September 3, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am

Monday, September 5, 2022

Labor Day

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):

5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Last day to submit name change suggestions

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Sunday, September 11, 2022

SOZ Book Club, 10: 30 am

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):

5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

SOZ Board Meeting,

6:30 pm (Zoom)

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

S'lichot Service (In-person):

7:45 pm, Schmooze, 8 pm Service

Refreshments to follow

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Congregational Meeting,

10 am-12 pm (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):

5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Saturday, September 24, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Sunday, September 25, 2022

Erev Rosh Hashana

Monday, September 26, 2022

Rosh Hashana First Day 5783

First Day Rosh Hashana Services:

Service begins at 10 am, followed by Tashlich

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Rosh Hashana Second Day

Second Day Rosh Hashana Services:

Service begins at 10 am, followed by Tashlich

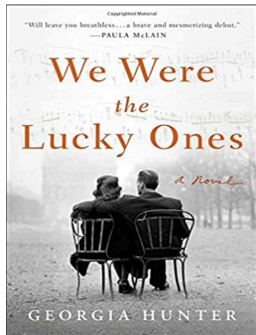
Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom): 5 pm

Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

# SOZ BOOK CLUB MEETING

Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am



## ***We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter**

The Kurc family shouldn't have survived the Holocaust. In the spring of 1939 three generations are living relatively normal lives in Poland, despite the hardships Jews face. When war breaks out and the family is cast to the wind, the five Kurc siblings do everything they can to find their way through a devastated continent to freedom.

Addy, a musician, charms his way into possession of a Brazilian visa and into the first class piano lounge on a ship full of refugees bound for Rio; Jakob marries the love of his life in an abandoned house to a soundtrack of air sirens; Mila hides her daughter in a Catholic convent outside of Warsaw, only to return weeks later to find the convent in ruins; Genek endures a brutal winter in a Siberian gulag before embarking with his wife and newborn son on a year-long exodus through Persia to fight for the Allies; and Halina attempts to flee over the Austrian Alps on foot - while pregnant. All this, across continents and often in ignorance as to the fate of the rest of their family, while the wheels of war turn. *We Were the Lucky Ones* is a profoundly moving and memorable novel based on the author's family experiences.

## 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](https://www.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 10:00 am. Shabbat Shalom!***

# CEMETERY SCHEDULE FOR THE SEASON OF ROSH HASHANA & YOM KIPPUR

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022**  
**MEMORIAL SERVICE AT 11:00 AM**

THE CEMETERY IS NORMALLY OPEN FOR  
VISITATION VIA THE BACK GATE.



CALL (413)575-0526 OR EMAIL [JS24SALTMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JS24SALTMAN@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE INFO.

## 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).
6. Non-Jewish spouses or family members will be buried in a separate plot (no non-Jewish religious symbols are allowed).
7. No concrete vaults are allowed. Simple, unfinished wood caskets only.
8. Taharah-ritual Jewish washing and shroud are required, but a shomer or watch person is optional.
9. 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](mailto:js24saltman@gmail.com)



## Project Isaiah: Food Drive 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 him. 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*

During the High Holy Days, it is customary to help those in need. The Tikkun Olam Committee asks that you participate in this effort by filling a bag with non-perishable food items and bringing it back on or before Yom Kippur. Bags are available as you enter the Synagogue from Cabot Street and at several other locations in the building. When full, bags can be left in the small social hall as you enter the synagogue. Bags can be dropped off at the synagogue when we are open for services. Please contact the office at [office@sonsofzionholyokey.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyokey.org) or (413)534-3369 if you would like to participate but cannot make it during service hours.

You can also contribute to this important cause by sending financial donations, which they will use to make purchases of the needed items. Checks can be made out to Margaret's Pantry and sent 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 mitzvah.

### **Margaret's Pantry is especially in need of the following items:**

- Canned goods
- Meals in a can
- Soup
- Meal makers (e.g., Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, pasta sides)
- Instant potatoes
- Spaghetti sauces
- Canned ravioli, pastas
- Packaged school snack items
- Ramen noodles
- Desserts (cake mixes, brownie mixes, cookies, etc.)



## THE CEMETERY CHAIR COULD USE YOUR HELP!

Since I have taken on the job of president of the synagogue and my primary committee member, Nitza Seaver, is recovering from surgery, 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*

## Invest in Israel Bonds!!!

Call Joan or Michael Rosner for rates and information  
(413)536-5669.

Shana Tova!!!!



May The New Year  
Be A Good One  
FOR ISRAEL AND  
THE JEWISH PEOPLE

*L'Shana Tova*  
2022-5783

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# Help Restore the SOZ Garden

SOZ used to have a thriving garden of flowers and vegetables in the yard. It is time to bring that back!



A small group of dedicated volunteers has started clearing the vines and tangles from along the perimeters of the SOZ yard. The plan is to continue the work and to hire professionals with the right equipment to complete the job.

We need help raising the funds to make this vision a reality.

Please help by contributing whatever you are able to the SOZ Garden Fund.

Contributions can be mailed to SOZ: 378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

You can also donate by clicking the button below or by using PayPal on our website. Please add a note stating that the donation is marked to Restore the SOZ Garden.

**Donate Now**

For the convenience of being able to make donations on our website, PayPal takes 2.9% plus 30¢ of your donation as part of their fee. There is an option to help offset the cost of processing. Please consider using this option so that SOZ will receive all of your thoughtful donation.



Congregation Sons of Zion  
378 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040



## 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!*



## 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	*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@sonsofzionholyoake.com](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoake.com) or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.*





# Donations: Thank you!



## Cemetery Fund

- ✦ Marcia and Francis Burke: In memory of Marcia's mother, Gladys Slotnick
- ✦ Carol Halpern Wernick: In memory of her beloved father, Herbert M. Halpern
- ✦ Laura A. Hilf: In memory of her husband, Dr. Morris M. Half
- ✦ Ellen and Aaron Kischel: In memory of Ellen's grandmother, Rose Palevsky
- ✦ Ellen and Aaron Kischel: In memory of Ellen's aunt, Miriam Waxler Pearl
- ✦ Ellen and Aaron Kischel: In memory of Ellen's aunt, Harriet Polak
- ✦ Ellen and Aaron Kischel: In memory of Ellen's uncle, Irv Polak
- ✦ Gellya Shulman: In memory of her brother-in-law, Nyoma Sorkin
- ✦ Charles Weinstein: In memory of his wife, Sandra Weinstein

## Endowment Fund

- ✦ Buddy and Margie Resnic: In memory of Buddy's brother, Harold Resnic

## General Fund

- ✦ David and Rebecca Abbott (Rosner): High Holiday Donation
- ✦ Leonard Borochin: High Holiday Donation
- ✦ Marcia and Francis Burke: In memory of Marcia's grandfather, Hyman Sladofsky
- ✦ Richard and Betsy Gaberman: In memory of our parents, Kaplinsky, Gaberman, Rickless and Heit Families
- ✦ Herbert & Barbara Goldberg Foundation: In memory of Herbert Goldberg
- ✦ Herbert & Barbara Goldberg Foundation: In memory of Barbara Goldberg
- ✦ Herbert & Barbara Goldberg Foundation: In memory of Israel Goldberg
- ✦ Herbert & Barbara Goldberg Foundation: In memory of Albert Goldberg
- ✦ Carol Wernick: In memory of her parents, Sheila and Herbert Halpern
- ✦ Richard and Susan Halpern: In memory of parents, Sheila and Herbert Halpern
- ✦ Alfred and Lee Hutt: In honor of Buddy Resnic who has recently been honored by the community
- ✦ Jeffrey Kappel and Family: High Holiday Donation
- ✦ Jeffrey Kappel: In memory of his mother, Syrel R. Kappel
- ✦ Judy Katz: In memory of Ellen Freyman's mother, Ruth Weiss
- ✦ Ira Laby: In memory of his mother, Lilyan R. Laby
- ✦ Robyn Newhouse: In memory of Ellen Freyman's mother, Ruth Weiss
- ✦ Buddy and Margie Resnic: In memory of Babe and Samuel Resnic
- ✦ Douglas Rosner and Erin Higgins: High Holiday Donation
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: In memory of Ellen Freyman's mother, Ruth Weiss
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: In loving memory of Reuben A. Barshay, Joan's father
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: In memory of Victor (Vic) Panitch, a true mensch. He will be sorely missed.
- ✦ Bill and Sharon Rothchild: High Holiday Donation
- ✦ Abby E. Zanger: Honoring the memory of Sarah and Maurice Zanger

## August 2022 Yahrzeits

### **August 28 – September 3: Rich Freyman**

August 28 \*Harry Berman  
 \*Jennie Lipshitz  
 Margaret Tallan  
 August 29 \*Herbert Goldberg  
 \*Sarah Merkin Zellan  
 August 30 Morris Goldberg  
 \*Rose Koufax Rose  
 \*Jacob Nathan Solin  
 August 31 \*Martha P. Michaelson  
 Ida Isenberg Stiller  
 Harry Wolkoff  
 September 1 William Fortgang  
 September 3 \*Lillian Leitzen

### **September 4 – 10: Judy Katz**

Sept 5 Samuel Adelson  
 \*Esther "Billie" Posnik  
 Julia (Jewel) Berman Suher  
 Sept 7 Hannah Esther Colodny  
 Raymond Jacobson  
 \*Harry Marks  
 Sept 8 Rivka Leitzen  
 Sept 9 \*Rabbi Leib Forer  
 \*Rose Judelson  
 Simon Marks  
 Hyman Sladofsky  
 Sept 10 \*Annie Radner

### **September 11 – 17: Ira Laby**

Sept 11 \*Mollie Altman  
 Hyman Kramer  
 \*Sara Ziff  
 Sept 12 Mollie Blatt  
 Jeannette Bloom  
 Sol Gold  
 Sept 13 Theodore Adelson  
 \*Abraham Saltzman  
 Lena Suher  
 \*Marian Saunders Wilson  
 Harold I. Resnic  
 Sept 14 Sophie Gelb  
 \*Nathan Gerstein  
 Sept 15 \*Isadore Tim Cohen  
 Margie Jeser  
 Sept 16 \*Dr. Morris Hilf  
 \*Dr. Joseph Pinck  
 Sept 17 Rose Baker  
 MiriamCotzin  
 \*Henry Daniels  
 Albert Goldberg  
 Dr. Max Reinisch  
 \*Sara Soltz

### **September 18 – 24: Lois Levin**

Sept 18 Barbara Goldberg  
 Henry Levine  
 Helen Rabin  
 Dora Rubin  
 Sept 19 Simon Paul  
 Hilda Soltz  
 \*Sam Wasserman  
 Sept 20 George Lesnow  
 Harry Wieder  
 Sept 21 \*Abraham Barowsky  
 \*Alfred Polansky  
 Gladys Slotnick  
 \*Sandra E. Weinstein  
 Sept 22 Edith Wieder Garber  
 Sept 23 \*Manuel Goldblatt  
 Marc Levine  
 Sept 24 Mordechai ben Calman  
 \*Pearl Goldenberg

### **September 25 – October 1: Steve Levin**

Sept 26 Arthur Glasser  
 Sept 27 Nathan Falk  
 Sept 28 \*David Barowsky  
 Sept 29 David B. Kagan  
 Alice Kornetsky  
 Joseph Margolis  
 Sept 30 \*Gussie Wilson  
 Oct 1 Rose Paul





## SOZ Picnic





## SOZ Picnic





## SOZ Picnic



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 office@sonsofzionholyokey.org**

**There is always room for more!!!**

