

# CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 5 | Issue 10 | June 2020 | Sivan/Tammuz 5780

## Congregation Sons of Zion

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## About the Month of Sivan

In the month of Sivan, we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot, when the Torah was given by G-d to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot, we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift, and G-d "re-gives" the Torah.

The holiday of Shavuot is a two-day holiday, beginning at sundown of the fifth of Sivan and lasting until nightfall of the seventh of Sivan. (In Israel it is a one-day holiday, ending at nightfall of the sixth of Sivan.)



## From the Rabbi

This past Shabbat (May 30) coincided with the second day of Shavuot, the holiday that traditionally marks the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Our services for this Shabbat of Shavuot include three special features: the recitation of Hallel (a collection of especially uplifting psalms of praise), the reading of the biblical Scroll of Ruth, and a specially selected Torah reading that does not follow the usual weekly order.

In our Torah discussion, we examined a common theme that appears in all three of these quite different elements of the service.

Psalm 113, the opening psalm of Hallel, reminds us of those in need with these words: "God lifts the poor out of the dust, raising the needy from the rubbish heap." Since we are called upon to be God's partner by following in God's ways, this is also a call to action on our part and not just a description of divine attributes.

The Scroll of Ruth also picks up the theme of financial difficulty. Because of a famine, Elimelech and his wife Naomi and their two sons leave their home Beit Lechem to live in the land of Moab. Elimelech dies there, as do his two sons who both had married Moabite women, leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, in even more difficult circumstances. Naomi decides to return to Beit Lechem and urges her daughters-in-law to return to their families of origin in their homeland of Moab. Ruth, however, refuses to leave her widowed mother-in-law Naomi, and instead pledges loyalty to Naomi, to Naomi's God, and to Naomi's people.

Back in Beit Lechem, Boaz, a wealthy relative of Naomi's deceased husband, treats Naomi and her Moabite daughter-in-law Ruth with kindness and compassion (best described in Hebrew as *chesed*). Long story short, Boaz marries Ruth, they have a child Obed, who was the grandfather of King David. Ruth's loyalty to her struggling mother-in-law Naomi and Boaz's *chesed* for Naomi and Ruth eventually result in a great King of Israel who Jewish tradition ascribes to be the ancestor of the messiah.

The Torah reading for Shabbat Shavuot addresses how to help people facing financial difficulties. The Etz Hayim Torah and Commentary that we use at SOZ explains that this Torah portion is "concerned with the type of debt incurred by the poor and insolvent: a farmer in dire need of funds because of crop failure and a city dweller destitute as a result of unemployment. Loans to such individuals were regarded as acts of philanthropy rather than commercial ventures and the forgiving of such loans was an extension of the generosity." (Page 1077) Every seventh year, those debts are to be cancelled. We are called upon to open our hearts and our hands to those in need even to grant a loan near the end of the seven year cycle when all loans are forgiven.

These teachings about generosity towards those in difficult financial circumstances seem especially relevant and important today. We are living at a time when unemployment is rising to levels not seen in this country since the Great Depression. How can we, as individuals and as a congregation, act in keeping our Jewish values of *chesed* and generosity?

## From the Rabbi (continued)

If we find ourselves in financial difficulties because of the Covid-19 pandemic or any other reason, we may be hesitant to ask for help. What we learn from these readings is that our tradition acknowledges that hard financial times are part of life that can happen to any of us. If we are in need, it is ok to ask for help in the form of a loan or some other source of support. In fact by doing so, we are also enabling someone else to fulfill their obligation to be open-hearted and giving.

And if we have the means, especially now, we should look for opportunities to help others. Some of us may have received unexpected financial support from the government even though our finances are stable. What better time to share our good fortune with those who really are in need?

There is a Rabbi's Discretionary Fund at SOZ that is available to help out people in need. When I hear of a congregant in need, I am able to write them a check from the contributions that SOZ members have made to this fund over the years. These transactions are kept confidential; they can provide both financial and emotional support to enable us to make it through tough circumstances.

If you are in need, please let me know. Or if you know someone who is in need, please either encourage them to contact me or ask me to contact them. This is one very important way our congregation can be a kehillah kedosha, a holy, caring community in keeping with these Shavuot values, especially at this challenging time.

The limited funds in my discretionary account are used to benefit congregation members and the local Jewish community. We are also part of the larger Holyoke community. Do we as a religious institution or as individuals have an obligation to that community as well? Especially given the considerable toll that Covid-19 has taken among the vulnerable population of Holyoke, is there some meaningful way we as a synagogue could be helpful?

One possible suggestion to begin the discussion: if we received a check from the government that we don't need for basic needs, might we consider using some or all of it for people or organizations in need locally? We could do this as individuals, or maybe the synagogue could collect these donations and disburse them in the name of our local Jewish community.

Whether we are in need of help or in need of being helpful, may these Shabbat Shavuot teachings encourage us to make a meaningful difference for ourselves and for others.

*Rabbi Saul Perlmutter*



# SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5780

# June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8 Sivan	1 9 Sivan Minyan Cancelled	2 10 Sivan	3 11 Sivan Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	4 12 Sivan Evening of Israeli Comedy, 3pm (Zoom)	5 13 Sivan	6 14 Sivan Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am
7 15 Sivan	8 16 Sivan Minyan Cancelled	9 17 Sivan	10 18 Sivan Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom) SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)	11 19 Sivan	12 20 Sivan	13 21 Sivan Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am
14 22 Sivan	15 23 Sivan Minyan Cancelled	16 24 Sivan	17 25 Sivan Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	18 26 Sivan	19 27 Sivan	20 28 Sivan Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am
21 29 Sivan Father's Day	22 30 Sivan Minyan Cancelled	23 1 Tammuz Rosh Hodesh Tammuz	24 2 Tammuz Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom) 116th Annual Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)	25 3 Tammuz	26 4 Tammuz	27 5 Tammuz Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am
28 6 Tammuz SOZ Book Club Meeting, 10am (Zoom) 1984: George Orwell	29 7 Tammuz Minyan Cancelled	30 8 Tammuz	1 9 Tammuz Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)	2 10 Tammuz	3 11 Tammuz	4 12 Tammuz Shabbat Service (Zoom), 10am 4th of July

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

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

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

Thursday, June 4, 2020

Evening of Israeli Comedy, 3pm (Zoom)\*

Saturday, June 6, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Monday, June 8, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

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

SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)\*

Saturday, June 13, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Monday, June 15, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, June 11, 2020

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

Saturday, June 20, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Father's Day

Monday, June 22, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

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

116th Annual Meeting, 6:30pm to 8pm (Zoom)\*

Saturday, June 27, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Sunday, June 28, 2020

SOZ Book Club Meeting, 10am (Zoom)\* - 1984 by George Orwell

Monday, June 29, 2020

Minyan cancelled

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



## The Israel Committee of Congregation B'nai Israel

**Leadership that can Make You Laugh**  
Comedy and Conversation with Noam Shuster Eliassi



Thursday, June 4th, 2020  
3:00 p.m. Eastern

Email [Mordechai.Kamel26@gmail.com](mailto:Mordechai.Kamel26@gmail.com) with your full name and email address to sign up.  
(Zoom link to be shared on registration)

Join us for this rescheduled event, now taking place online! A comedy set to be followed by an interactive conversation with Israeli activist-turned-comedian Noam Shuster Eliassi. Noam uses humor to break down barriers and raise challenging issues – something that is becoming increasingly rare in Israel's shrinking democratic space. Her heartfelt comedy will leave you laughing and thinking long after we say goodbye. You don't want to miss this! Noam will perform for us live from Israel and will share her experience of recovering from COVID-19 in one of Israel's "Corona hotels" with other Israelis, both Jewish and Palestinian.

Supported by major grants from:



Co-Sponsored by: Beit Ahavah, Northampton; Congregation, B'Nai Israel, Northampton; Congregation Sons of Zion, Holyoke, Jewish Community of Amherst; Sinai Temple, Springfield; Temple Beth El, Springfield; Temple Israel, Greenfield.

# Congregation Sons of Zion

## 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting



**Wednesday, June 24, 2020**  
**6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Meeting will most likely be held via Zoom or Phone\***

**Everyone is welcome!!!!**

**Members in good standing may vote!!!!\*\***

### **AGENDA:**

**Budget**

**Committee Reports via Email**

**Election of 2020-2021 Board of Directors**

**Board of Directors Elects Officers**

\*If Covid-19 rules are relaxed, we will consider an in-person component.

\* \*You are a voting member if you have paid or you are paying your dues pledge since 2019. Please contact Joanne (js24saltman@gmail.com) or the office ([office@sonsofzionholyoake.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoake.org) or 413-534-3369) if you need a payment plan or if you have any questions.

## 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 10:00am. Shabbat Shalom!*

## Sponsor a SHABBAT KIDDUSH

CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY, HONOR A LOVED ONE, MARK A SPECIAL  
EVENT OR ACHIEVEMENT, AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR  
SONS OF ZION FAMILY!

### Two Sponsorship Levels:

#### **Sosvin Basic:**

Our usual Kiddush, which includes lettuce, vegetables, tuna salad, herring, gefilte fish, coffee, juice, and small desserts - \$50



#### **Kishuti "Fancy":**

Everything in the Sosvin Kiddush, plus lox, kugel, and fancier dessert if desired - \$75

## **A Special Thank you to Our Sustaining Members**

Andrew Barowsky

Ned and Cindy Barowsky

Richard and Ellen Freyman

Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki

Norman and Marion Halpern

Alfred and Lee Hutt

Steve 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)

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@sonsofzionholioke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholioke.org) or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.



# Donations: Thank you!

## Cemetery Fund

- ✦ Irene Bernstein: In memory of her mother, Mary Garber
- ✦ Barry Hirsch: In memory of Barry's dad, Harry Hirsch
- ✦ Toby and Ellie Wilson: In memory of Toby's father, Sidney Wilson

## General Fund

- ✦ Irene Bernstein: In memory of her mother, Mary Garber
- ✦ Gary Bernstein: In memory of his mother, Shorrie Bernstein
- ✦ Marjorie Bloom: 2020 Shortfall Appeal - in memory of her parents, Bernard and Sylvia Bloom
- ✦ Andrea Fox: In memory of her dad, Harold Fox
- ✦ Andrea Fox: In celebration of Zachary's graduation from high school
- ✦ Andrea Fox: In honor and celebration of LBGTO Pride Month
- ✦ Andrea Fox: In outrage and action towards racial injustice and equality
- ✦ Jacob and Lucy Greenburg: #GivingTuesdayNow
- ✦ Bonnie Gruszecki: In memory of her mother, Gladys Gruszecki
- ✦ Michael Karukin: In memory of his mother, Frances Karukin
- ✦ Judy and Robert Katz: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Paul Lambert: #GivingTuesdayNow
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: In memory of Barbara (Bobbie) Levin
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: Double Mazel Tov to Zachary Fox on his graduation from Smith Vocational High School and entering Worcester Poly Tech!!!
- ✦ Rick Tessler: #GivingTuesdayNow
- ✦ Shoshana Zonderman: 2020 Shortfall Appeal



"Toda" Thank You

## June Yahrzeits

### **May 31 – June 6: Joan Rosner**

June 1 Leo Halpern  
June 2 \*Sophie Mekler  
June 4 \*Etta Goldberg

### **June 7 – 13: Michael Rosner**

June 7 \*Mary Garber  
Harry Pincus  
June 8 Arthur Levine  
June 10 \*Isadore Schepps  
Gladys Gruszecki  
June 11 \*Abraham Hirsch  
Israel Seamon  
June 12 Harold David Fox  
June 13 \*James Samuel Hirshon  
Sadie Rothchild  
\*Stanley G. Weiss

### **June 14 – 20: Joanne Saltman**

June 15 \*Milton Bernstein  
June 16 Louis Weiner  
\*Sidney Radner  
June 17 \*Solomon Harmetz  
\*Fannie Weiss  
June 19 Morris Levine  
June 20 \*Sarah Bialer  
David Karukin



### **June 21 – 27: Cindy Vieu**

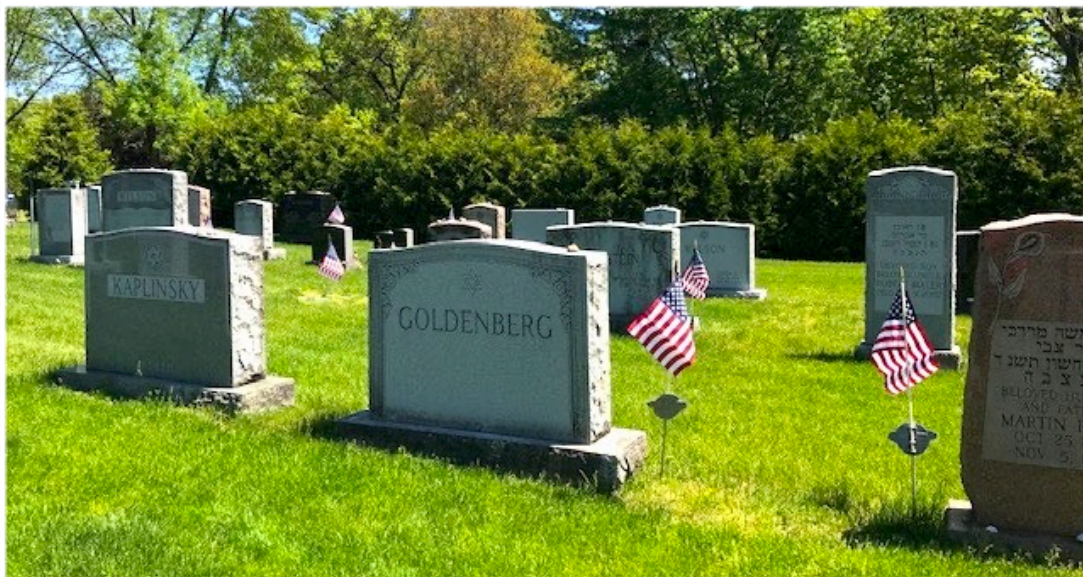
June 21 \*Irving Carmen  
\*Eva Yecheved Falk  
\*Robert Lasher  
\*Dr. David Saltman  
Miriam Waxler  
June 22 David Lieban  
\*Emil S. Schwartzwald  
June 23 Samuel Leitzen  
June 24 \*David Judelson  
Iokel Rosenbloom  
\*Fannie Wolkovsky  
June 25 Max Carlinsky  
June 26 \*Barnett Goldberg  
Louis Horowitz  
\*Seymour Lieberman  
\*Dorothy E. Adelson Robbins  
June 27 Alex Adelson  
\*David Housen  
Jeffrey Os

### **June 28 – July 4: Ken Vieu**

June 28 \*Felix Brawer  
\*Doris Levin  
June 29 Mary Epstein  
\*Samuel Greenspan  
\*Marilyn Jackler  
Nathan Kaplinsky  
June 30 \*Joseph Goldenberg  
Pauline Eskenasy McGilva  
July 1 \*Harold A. Kappel  
Mynn Lipson  
\*Rheba Seaver  
July 2 Isadore Elfman  
\*Sarah Epstein  
Tillie Friedman  
July 3 \*William Hertzmark  
July 4 \*Louis Carlinsky

## Memorial Day Flags at the Cemetery

Provided by Joan Rosner



## Ads from our Sponsors

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 synagogue office at (413) 534-3369 OR  
[office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org)

# There is always room for more!!!