

JUNE 2021 | NISAN - IYAR



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION



In this month's issue,
we're covering:

ANNIVERSARIES
BIRTHDAYS
GRADUATIONS
DEAR RABBI
Yahrzeits
DONATIONS
SCHOOL UPDATE
UPCOMING
PROGRAMS





Birthdays

Samantha Silver **6/1**
Diana Cullen **6/1**
Lisa Bernstein **6/2**
Ari Cohen **6/2**
Michelle Fischer **6/3**
Brian Roth **6/5**
Emmett Ackerman **6/6**
Jacob Landa **6/9**
Jessica Pritchett **6/10**
Laurel Wolfson **6/10**
Karen Schlesinger **6/12**
Elyana Goodman **6/15**
Levi Goodman **6/15**
Barbara Liss **6/15**
Jonathan Cullen **6/17**
Shelly Sklar **6/18**
Richard Karp **6/19**
Jane Karlsberg **6/20**
Mary Jane Henry **6/20**
Shari Shokler **6/20**
Elizabeth Asch **6/27**
Dot Levenson **6/27**

Anniversaries

Margaret & Martin Ackerman **6/ 9**
Gayna & Jeff Bassin **6/ 10**
Beverly Shapero & Daniel Glassman **6/ 10**
Henry & Sandi Spitz **6/11**
Mark & Nancy Belfeld **6/12**
Alida & Michael Katz **6/12**
Brain Leshner & Mary Jane Hery **6/14**
Lisa & David Crawford **6/16**
Barbara & Harold Freeman **6/17**
Henry & Diana Fenichel **6/17**
Sterling & Cecelia Euster **6/24**
Steven & Julie Pentelnik **6/ 25**
Stanley & Jane Shulman **6/ 26**
David & Elizabeth Zucker **6/ 27**



Grads

Anna Grossman - The Goddard School

Isaac Goodman - Sycamore High School

Jay Schlesinger - Ohio State University

Jonathan Mason - University of Cincinnati

Micah Marks - Skyward Academy

Rachel Azriel - University of Cincinnati Medical School

Vanessa Leahr - Northern Kentucky University

*Do you have a grad in your family?
Let us know so we can honor
them in next month's bulletin.*

If you have your own questions for Rabbi Ferro -- ritual, personal, or other -- which you'd like to see featured here, write to him at rabbi@nhs-cba.org.

Dear Rabbi,

With everything in Israel and Gaza recently, I'm having a hard time talking to certain friends. I used to think most Americans understood that Israel was one of the Good Guys : the scrappy little Jewish nation in the Middle East that was constantly standing up to bullies and doing something every Jew could take pride in, no matter where they lived.

Now I hear people trying to tell me that Israel is a bully, or that Americans shouldn't feel so much love for a country halfway across the world.

So how should I talk about Israel in times like these? I know what I feel, and I don't want the haters to control this conversation, but it's hard finding the right words.

- Distressed in the Diaspora

Dear Distressed,

There's a famous opening line in a poem by the medieval poet Yehuda Halevi:
"My heart is in the East, and I -- I am at the edge of the West."

The challenge of having a great love for Zion while being distant from it is one many American Jews know well, but today that distance is complicated.

Some of us have spent time in Israel but choose not to live there ourselves. Some of us would love to travel to Israel some day, but have not managed to do so yet. Some of us identify strongly with almost everything about Israel, but we find the language barrier of Hebrew to be alienating or intimidating. And some of us feel separated from Israel because of feelings or opinions we have about Arab-Israeli relations, or about Israel's government.

I will not tell you that there is a right way to relate to Israel. It sounds as though you love Israel in some sense of the word, and so I'd urge you to keep this in mind when you speak to your friends: love isn't always rational.

You could try to win arguments by explaining just how many private Israeli citizens (of all religions and backgrounds, you would add) are victimized when Hamas indiscriminately fires rockets from Gaza. And you could tell your friends about the effectiveness of the Iron Dome at preventing casualties in Israel.

But that wouldn't convey your love. And it probably wouldn't do much to win them over, either.

Your friends who are critical of Israel probably have their own illogical feelings that make that criticism feel right or justified. If you find yourself locked in a dispute with them about Israel's virtues and flaws, ask yourself a question: Is this person really my friend, or just someone I know casually? If it's a relationship you aren't invested in, then you don't really have to do much.

(Though ranting and raving in response probably won't lead anyone to believe that your position is one worth trying to understand.) If it's a closer friendship, you have an opportunity to bring your friends a novel perspective -- not about policies, but about people.

Talk about people you know or have known personally: Jewish Israelis, and maybe non-Jewish Israelis or Palestinians as well. Remind them that Israel is a diverse country and that the dynamics between Israelis and Palestinians are more complicated than many people in America realize.

Make a real effort as well to listen. Show that you are willing to hear things you disagree with, without getting defensive or going on the attack.

Urge them to visit Israel, and to travel to Palestinian communities in the West Bank as well. People should be educated on subjects about which they feel passionate, and direct experience is a powerful teacher.

And in like measure, do what you can to grow your own knowledge and experience as well. Try to find a diversity of sources and perspectives. Read up on the history of Israel, the pre-State period, and early Zionism.

Visit. Or chat with friends in Israel. Or both.

Lastly, be prepared to say: "I want to give you the benefit of the doubt, but what you just said sounds biased to me," or: "...feels hurtful to me," or even: "...sounds antisemitic to me." There can be a lot of reasons for saying such things, but the most obvious is a criticism of Israel that someone refuses to make of other nations -- such as even questioning its basic right to exist.

Getting to this place may mean you and your friend have to put the conversation on pause or change topics. But it can also help your friend to understand that you want to hear them out and that you want to do that from a perspective that treats all parties fairly. If you run out of common ground and shared goals for the conversation, you won't really be able to continue in a fruitful direction.

This kind of a break invites you both to do what you can to reflect and learn before you try to get back to talking about Israel again on more solid ground -- which can only be a good thing for you, for your friend, and for Israel.

- Rabbi Noah S. Ferro

YAHREZEITS

June 1	Ethel Horvitz	21 Sivan
June 1	Louis B. Wollin	21 Sivan
June 2	Pauline "Pepi" Weiner	22 Sivan
June 3	Miriam Karlsberg	23 Sivan
June 3	Nathaniel Robinson	23 Sivan
June 3	Jacob Moshe Shohet	23 Sivan
June 4	Irwin Winston	24 Sivan
June 4	Emil Winkler	24 Sivan
June 5	Arnold Weinstein	25 Sivan
June 5	Bertha Froomkin	25 Sivan
June 6	Morris Hahn	26 Sivan
June 6	Mary Spivak	26 Sivan
June 7	Selena Amster	27 Sivan
June 7	Dorothy Gushin	27 Sivan
June 8	Dov Hazony	28 Sivan
June 9	Morris N. Cohen	29 Sivan
June 9	Julius Schram	29 Sivan
June 9	Leah Winkler	29 Sivan
June 11	Lynn Light	1 Tammuz
June 11	Bea Cohen	1 Tammuz
June 11	Ida Heckman	1 Tammuz
June 12	Florence Fox	2 Tammuz
June 12	Abraham Goodman	2 Tammuz
June 12	Lydia Milrod	2 Tammuz
June 12	Robert Rethy	2 Tammuz
June 13	Samuel Leveten	3 Tammuz
June 14	Harry Gushin	4 Tammuz
June 14	Dora Adelsztain	4 Tammuz
June 14	Curt Alexander	4 Tammuz
June 14	Eric Rau	4 Tammuz
June 15	Anna Apfelbaum	5 Tammuz
June 15	Leonard Singerman	5 Tammuz
June 15	Sarah Weinstein	5 Tammuz
June 15	Helen Weiser	5 Tammuz
June 16	Ida Effros	6 Tammuz
June 17	Dorothy Kaplan	7 Tammuz
June 18	Liv Rose Meisterman	8 Tammuz
June 18	Morris Selss	8 Tammuz

June 19	Sarah Burger	9 Tammuz
June 19	Lena Yosafat	9 Tammuz
June 20	Louis Singerman	10 Tammuz
June 21	Stanley Sturman	11 Tammuz
June 22	William L. Bergstein	12 Tammuz
June 22	Morris Shokler	12 Tammuz
June 23	Rita Novak	13 Tammuz
June 24	Doris Amster	14 Tammuz
June 24	Nat Baier	14 Tammuz
June 25	Murray Apfelbaum	15 Tammuz
June 25	Zelig Kaplan	15 Tammuz
June 25	Carolyn Fine	15 Tammuz
June 26	Bessie Kaplan	16 Tammuz
June 26	Michael Meisel	16 Tammuz
June 26	Jack Danhauser	16 Tammuz
June 27	Norman Hoffman	17 Tammuz
June 28	Marvin Cohen	18 Tammuz
June 28	Michael Taboh	18 Tammuz
June 29	Marion S. Weinstein	19 Tammuz
June 29	Robert Dinerman	19 Tammuz
June 29	Nettie Zakem	19 Tammuz
June 30	Paula Sporn	20 Tammuz

Donations

Richards Social Action Fund

in honor of

- the birth of Barry & Laurel Wolfson's grandson from Edie Neusner

in memory of

- Charles Allbright from Barry & Stephanie Kogan
- Charles Allbright from Judith & Karrol Miller
- Ron Kabakoff from Edie Neusner
- Charles Allbright from Edie Neusner & Howard Gelbart
- Charles Allbright from Ron & Sandy Richards

NHS-CBA Fund

in honor of

- the birth of Barry & Laurel Wolfson's grandson from Vic & Sue Amster

in memory of

- Charles Allbright from Harold & Helene Kirzner
- Ben & Bernice Muler and Jonas Zucker from David & Elizebeth Zucker

Lichtin Library Fund

in memory of

- Charles Allbright from Vic & Sue Amster
- Charles Allbright from Irvin & Beatrice Goodman
- Charles Allbright from Arnie & Bea Horowitz
- Charles Allbright from Steven & Amy Rothchild
- Charles Allbright from Steven Selss

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in memory of

- David Freeman from Stanley Freeman
- Charles Allbright from Jeffrey & Lois Gushin
- Charles Allbright from Frank & Marcia Kearly
- Charles Allbright from Lois Pornoy
- Pauline Weiner, Emil Winkler, and Leah Winkler from Bernice Winkler
- Charles Albright from David & Elizebeth Zucker

in honor of

- Shavuot from Rabbi George & Sarah Barnard



Religious School Update

END OF THE YEAR

NHS SCHOOL CELEBRATION



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Reflections of the 2020-21

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL YEAR

As I relax and take a moment to reflect on the school year, I recognize the numerous accomplishments. Looking back at June 2020, I was the new director and knew I couldn't follow the previous year's program and schedule. Like other Religious schools, we had to build a new program that continued to enrich our students' learning experience, albeit remotely. The maxim "It takes a village to raise a child" couldn't be more applicable to this school year's scenario. I am thankful for our creative and talented teachers who thought outside the box this year to bring an outstanding remote learning experience to our NHS students. Yishar Koach to Sue Amster, Israela Ginsburg and Rabbi Sam Schauvaney.

So, what happened in our religious school this year?

- We adopted the online ShalomLearning program. We used this interactive program to teach Tefilla (prayers), Midot (values), and practice Hebrew reading.
- We taught our students about the Jewish holidays and the Portion of the week.
- Our students became more familiar with the Shabbat service.
- We used a remote learning program to teach our Hebrew native students.
- Our Kef Katan (PreK and Kindergarten) students met remotely every Sunday.
- We increased student enrollment.
- We opened a new track for Native Hebrew speakers.

We also found creative ways to be together virtually to celebrate the holidays:

- We surprised our students with holiday boxes for Sukkot, Hanukkah, Tu-Bishvat and Passover.
- We came together to decorate the NHS sukkah.
- We had an amazing joint program for Hanukkah with the congregation and the school - "Light it Up." The program included musicians and games.
- We planted parsley and ate fruit for the holiday of Tu-Bishvat.
- We decorated Matzah covers and seder plates for Passover.
- We had an in-person celebration of Israel's Independence Day. The program included baking pita bread, art, games and Israeli lunch!
- We finished the year with our "End of the Year" party, which included a magic show, ice cream and cupcakes!

Toda Raba to our teachers and volunteers that made this school year an incredible one! Enrollment for the 2021-22 school year is now open. Please contact Idit Moss for more information: educator@nhs-cba.org.

Idit Moss

NHS Director of Education

Sisterhood

BOOK GROUP DETAILS

The Book Group's summer reading promises to be engrossing.

On Sunday, June 13, at 10:15 A.M. via Zoom, *Becoming*, the much praised best-selling memoir by former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, occupies the spotlight. (Please note that June 13 is a date change from one previously announced.)

On Sunday, August 8 at 10:15 A.M. readers will discuss *Pachinko*, a New York Times Top Ten Book of the Year and National Book Award Finalist, written by Min Jin Lee. It's an absorbing saga of twentieth century Korean experience as four generations of a poor immigrant family fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan. Information about the location for the August meeting will be provided later in Rabbi Schapera's weekly updates if the group is able to meet in person; or with Zoom information. For more information contact Bobbi Handwerger at bhandwerger@gmail.com or Elaine Hordes at enhordes@aol.com

As it has been doing monthly throughout the pandemic, Rummikub continues its 4 P.M. monthly Zoom chat on the second Monday of the month: June 14, at 4 P.M. The group hopes to resume playing in person soon. Please contact Sonia Milrod at smilrod@gmail.com for more information.

Sue Amster would like to begin a "Maj" group. If you are interested in joining, please contact her at susanamsterl@gmail.com

Our GIFT SHOP is able to serve your needs during this period when the store remains closed. If you have questions or requests, please call or text Shop Manager Pam Simowitz-Weber at **513-903-7461**. Pam wishes to express "a very sincere and special todah Rabah to Diana Fenichel for her most excellent assistance with Gift Shop matters."





Programs & Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EXCITING ACTIVITIES!

HEBREW IN DEPTH WITH ADAM GANSON,
MONDAYS AT 8PM

SISTERHOOD BOOK GROUP,
SUNDAY JUNE 6 AT 10:15AM

REDS JEWISH COMMUNITY NIGHT
TUESDAY, JUNE 1 AT 7:10PM

BOB ALPER COMEDY FUNDRAISER,
JUNE 13 AT 7:00 PM

THE TALMUD'S GREATEST HITS WITH RABBI
FERRO, **WEDNESDAYS AT 8:30PM**

TORAH ON TAP WITH RABBI FERRO,
JUNE 24 AT 8:30PM

INTRO TO JUDAISM WITH RABBI FERRO,
JUNE 13 AT 12 PM
JUNE 27 AT 10:15 AM

NHS PHOTO SHOOT,
JUNE 20, ALL DAY

Looking for more ways to be involved? Visit our calendar!
<https://nhs.shulcloud.com/calendar>

AN EVENING OF MUCH NEEDED LAUGHTER

with Bob Alper, Rabbi/Stand-up Comic (Really)

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021 AT 7 PM

\$36 PER PERSON

IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

NORTHERN HILLS SYNAGOGUE

5714 FIELDS ERTTEL ROAD CINCINNATI, OH 45249

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP GO TO:

WWW.NHS-CBA.ORG/BOBALPER

OR CALL (513) 931-6038



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NORTHERN HILLS SYNAGOGUE

Photography Family Session

Father's Day June 20, 2021
Book your 15 minute mini session today!



Price per session is \$75 after May 30, 2021

Book online: <https://nhs.shulcloud.com/form/photo-shoot-registration.html>

Announcements

CONGRATS!

TO OUR NORTHERN HILLS SYNAGOGUE FAMILY
PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE AUFRUF OF
OUR DAUGHTER ELANA
AND HER FIANCÉ MITCHELL FACKLER
SHABBAT MORNING, JUNE 26, 2021
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SERVICES

THE WEDDING WILL BE JULY 4 IN DETROIT

JUDY & KARROLL MILLER

