



Congregation Beth Israel  
חבורת בית ישראל

**CBI NEWSletter** Jan/Feb 2016 - Tevet/Shevet/Adar I 5776

## From the Rabbi



Holy friends,

One of the joys of being Jews in today's world is that each year, we get two opportunities to begin again. In the fall we get Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the Jewish year -- an opportunity to make teshuvah, to re/turn ourselves in the right direction again and to repair our relationships with others, with ourselves, and with our Source. And in midwinter we get the Gregorian New Year, the beginning of the secular year -- an opportunity to...Hmm. I'm not sure. How would you end that sentence? What is the secular new year an opportunity to do, for you?

For me the first day of the secular new year is an opportunity to eat black-eyed peas, symbolic of what in Hebrew we call parnessah (income, money, fiscal abundance). That's an old southern custom I learned from my mother and from her mother -- who though she was Czech gladly adopted some of the traditions of those

around her! Moving deeper into the new year, there's usually an opportunity to enjoy the snow, assuming we get any this year (as I write these words, a few weeks before the newsletter comes out, the ground is still bare... though surely it won't stay that way.)

And the secular new year offers an opportunity, as the days grow the tiniest bit longer, to begin preparing myself for the annual journey toward spring. Of course, whether you're reading this in January or in February, spring's a long way off. And because this year is a leap year, our spring holidays are a long way off, too.

You may already know that the Jewish calendar is "metonic," also known as "lunisolar." It isn't purely lunar (like the Muslim calendar, which is roughly 10 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar, so that if Ramadan begins on October 1 one year, it will begin on September 20 the next year, and September 10 the year after that, and so on.) And it isn't purely solar (like the Gregorian calendar, in which the 4th of July always falls on, well, the fourth day of July.)

We use a lunar calendar with some solar additions, so that our spring holidays are always in the spring and our fall holidays are always in the fall. In the northern hemisphere, that is. The sages who created our calendar did not know about the southern hemisphere.

What this means in practice is that seven years out of every nineteen, we add an extra month to the calendar. Whereas a secular Leap Year has one extra day (February 29), a Jewish leap year has four extra weeks -- we insert an extra month of Adar, called Adar Aleph (Adar 1), before the regular month of Adar which becomes Adar Bet (Adar 2.) That's why Purim this year doesn't happen until the end of March, and Passover doesn't happen until the end of April.

From the Rabbi continued:

This year we get an extra-long journey into Jewish springtime. What might you want to add to your life during this year's extended Jewish winter, so that when we make our way to Purim and Pesach you are truly ready for spring? Consider taking an online class (I'll be teaching one on writing psalms -- see the ALEPH website), taking on a new spiritual practice (perhaps the bedtime shema, or the morning gratitude prayer? ask me if you want a copy of either one), or experimenting with a new mitzvah (Shabbat candles? Visiting the sick? Blessing your food?) I'm happy to help you brainstorm and help you come up with whatever you need in order to try a new mitzvah on this winter.

Don't let the long winter doldrums get you down. Who knows what blessings you might unlock in your life during this winter's extra month of Jewish time?

Wishing you sweetness as winter unfolds,

Rabbi Rachel



Simcha Orli \*\*\*\*\*Joy and Light

## Rabbi Jill Hammer Reads from The Hebrew Priestess on February 27<sup>th</sup>



On Saturday, February 27 Temple Anshe Amunim, and CBI co-sponsor Rabbi Jill Hammer reading from, and speak about, her groundbreaking new book, *The Hebrew Priestess: Ancient and New Visions of Jewish Women's Spiritual Leadership*. This ground-breaking book delineates 13 models of spiritual leadership (among them prophetess, weaver, shrinekeeper, midwife, mother, maiden, witch, and fool) and shows how each model of women's leadership manifested in ancient times and throughout Jewish history, and how women in our day are following that path. *The Hebrew Priestess* weaves a careful examination of historical priestesses with the personal experiences of women who embarked on this new path of Jewish priestesshood as part of the Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute, which Jill Hammer and Taya Shere founded in 2005. During our evening, Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD, will speak about the book, and about priestesses of the Bible and beyond. We'll consider the gifts this model of spiritual leadership can bring us in the present. Book signing to follow.

## **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY EVENTS at CBI/SAVE THE DATES**

### **Wednesday, January 20 at 7pm** **Local Author visit**

Author Jim Shepard at CBI to discuss his novel,  
"The Book of Aron" Saturday, January 23.

### **Saturday, January 22, after services** **Holiday Seder**

Lunchtime Potluck Seder for Tu BiShvat  
The New Year of the Trees  
Join us for Shabbat morning services (9:30am)  
infused with environmental and nature-related  
wisdom, followed by a Tu BiShvat Seder (11am).  
We'll journey through the Four Worlds,  
experience mystical teachings about trees and  
their fruits, bless and taste the fruits of different  
trees, and celebrate nature in the deep  
midwinter. Please RSVP to the office so we  
know who's coming.

### **Saturday, January 24, 4:30 to 7pm** **Honoring One of Our Own**

MICAH Dinner with CBI Honoree Ed Oshinsky  
Join us - call the CBI Office for tickets!  
See article in this issue.

### **Monday, January 25, 7pm** **Book Discussion Group**

"Not in God's Name, Confronting Religious  
Violence", by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

FYI the next book, "All Who Go Do Not Return,  
Author in Search of a New Theology", is a  
memoir by Shulem Deen will be discussed  
Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tuesday, February 2**

#### **New Event for CBI**

#### **Mah Jongg Mania sponsored by Berkshire Hills Hadassah.**

1-4:00pm, coffee, tea and desserts. Open to  
non-members, members, men and women. \$5

### **Friday, February 6 at 6pm**

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat**

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Rachel leading.  
Pot luck Oneg Shabbat to follow.

### **Saturday, February 20, 5:30pm**

#### **Game Night**

All are welcome to our 3rd Annual Game Night!  
We provide Pizza and Soda. You bring salad or  
desert to share and your favorite games. There  
will be games donated for the evening from  
"Where'd You Get That!?"

### **Saturday, February 27 (time TBA)**

#### **Special Event co-sponsored by CBI at Anshe Amunim**

Rabbi Jill Hammer will read from, and speak  
about, her groundbreaking new book *The  
Hebrew Priestess*. An event co-presented by  
Rimon, Temple Anshe Amunim, and CBI at  
Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield  
See article in this issue.

### **Sunday, February 28 (time TBA)**

#### **Sing me a little Jewish Love-song...**

#### **Bei Mir Bist Du Shane - Write your own Jewish love song!**

Plan to attend this unique songwriting  
workshop for all ages, co-sponsored by the  
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires with  
Professor and Singer/ Songwriter, Bernice  
Lewis. 10 pp, Buffet lunch included. More  
details to come.

## Service times

**First Fridays** (check website).

**Every Saturday**

**9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service**

**11ish a.m. Kiddush/Torah Study**

**Meditation minyan**

Friday mornings, **9a.m.**

## Jan/Feb Shabbat candle and Havdalah times



*If you want to light Shabbat candles and make havdalah at the halakhically-accepted times, here they are:*

Jan 5 4:11 lighting; Jan 6 5:20 havdalah

Jan 8 4:18 lighting; Jan 9 5:27 havdalah

Jan 15 4:26 lighting; Jan 16 5:35 havdalah

Jan 22 4:34 lighting; Jan 23 5:43 havdalah

Jan 29 4:43 lighting; Jan 30 5:53 havdalah

Feb 5 4:53 lighting; Feb 6 6:02 havdalah

Feb 12 5:02 lighting; Feb 13 6:11 havdalah

Feb 19 5:11 lighting; Feb 20 6:20 havdalah

Feb 26 5:20 lighting; Feb 27 6:29 havdalah

If it is your practice to light candles at a different hour of the day (perhaps not quite so early as halakha indicates during the winter, and not quite so late as halakha indicates during the summer), that's also a legitimate Reform Jewish choice. What's most important is that you're finding a way to incorporate Shabbat into your life.

## From Ezra the Scribe:

### Philologus

My favorite item from all the items that we received from Rev. Peter Pierson, is a binder of articles by "Philologus" from the English edition of the Forward.

As the Greek and Latin mavens know, philologus means 'lover of words'. In the Forward, Philologus was a pen name for a writer on language.

I was a fan of Philologus for years and then he (she?) disappeared, retired. So when I saw the binder it was like meeting a long lost friend.

If you want to meet Philologus it will be soon, before Moshiach arrives, on the shelves of the CBI Library.

Thank you, Rev.

### Judaism and Justice

On Monday, 7-13-15 at 7 pm we had a discussion of Rabbi Sidney Schwarz's book, "Judaism and Justice".

Although we were a small group we covered many topics related to the book, such as

- Universalism vs. Particularism
- Social justice projects for B'nai Mitzvah
- Jews fighting for racial equality in the south
- and other topics



## Ride Share

Are you are in need of a ride to and from CBI to attend services or events?

Are you in need of a ride for local errands or appointments?

The CBI community can try to help. Please let Jack know what your needs are.

If you are able and willing to share rides or give rides, please send your information on your availability to Jack.

## Ruthie's Lunch Bunch

We are a great group of people who get together once a month for a delicious lunch and a lot of conversation. If you are eligible for social security you are eligible to join us. We ask for RSVP's by the Monday before the luncheon.

The first quarter of 2016 dates are as follows:

January 7 February 4 March 17 April 14

All dates are on a Thursday, we start promptly at noon. When you call the CBI office to RSVP, if there is a location change you will be notified, otherwise we will see you at CBI.

## MICAH Award for Ed Oshinsky and a celebration of Community Action

Ed Oshinsky, will be receiving a MICAH (Members in Community Action Honoree) Award on January 24th. The award and dinner is sponsored by the Berkshire Interfaith Organization of which CBI is a Founding Member.

"The MICAH honors BIO members who reflect the Biblical passage that says... "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Join us at the CBI tables at The Award Dinner on Sunday, January 24, 2016. 4:30 - 7 pm at St. Mark School, 400 Columbus Avenue, Suite 1 in Pittsfield

— Snow Date: January 25.

Reserve a seat and get your tickets by contacting Jack in the CBI office.

Tickets are \$30.pp. Discounted tickets are available, please ask.



CBI President, Pattie Lipman said, "Eddie's caring, constancy, and hard work for Take and Eat, coordinating the drivers, taking on the role of main cheerleader and chief fundraiser for Take and Eat as well as volunteering for tasks within our congregation and also in the local community made him the Board of Director's choice as CBI's Honoree for this noble award.



## Todah Rabah!

**Chaim Bronstein** for sponsoring kiddush in honor of the birth of his grandchild, Mair Shimon, aka Maxwell Simon.

**Maribeth and David Pomerantz** for hosting and sponsoring Shabbat and kiddush.

**Madeline and Elizabeth Cohen** for hosting and sponsoring kiddush, "To wish the Congregation a Shanah Tova."

**Rose and Steven Green** for hosting Kabbalat Shabbat.

**Tim Herrmann and Heather Levy** for latke frying and hosting the Chanukah Party on December 11th.

**Jen Burt** for her Chanukah decorations.

**Beth Callahan** for volunteering during Hebrew School.

**Heather Levy** for volunteering during Hebrew School.

**Rose Ellis** for volunteering during Hebrew School and helping with Education.

**The volunteers** who put up and took down the Sukkah.

**The Membership Committee** for the Prospective and New Member Brunch.

**Stop & Shop** for their donation of pies for Nov and Dec Take and Eat

**And All Ya'll** – you know who you are!



CBI's Membership Committee: Robin Brickman, Liz Miller and Alice Cande.



Tim, Latke King, with Spud.

Celebrating Old, New and Potential Members!



## Simchas!!



Mazel Tov to Robin Brickman and Jeff Strait on the marriage of Caleb Strait and Jessica Rose Bennett! Jessica and Caleb were married by Rabbi Rachel.



Mazel Tov to Andy and Lauren Sullivan! Noah was born Dec 3rd in Fairfax, VA. Noah's Hebrew name is Yehuda, after his great grandfather Eugene Wein, of blessed memory. Roberta and John Sullivan are the grandparents. Sherry Wein and Paulette Wein are the proud great Aunts.

### Welcome Sonia!

Mazel Tov to Vivienne and Marc Jaffe on the birth of their Granddaughter, Sonia. Vivienne says, "As for Sonia, born on 5/15/15, she is the 6 1/2-month-old daughter of our daughter Eva and husband Peter Fagan. They live in Watertown, MA where she frequents the library for nursery rhyme time. She was proud to be at her Grandpa's Bar Mitzvah and commented throughout."



Michelle and Katherine Olivia Carroll

Mazel Tov to Darlene and Len Radin on the birth of their grand daughter, Katherine, born on August 27th in Anchorage, Alaska. She is the daughter of Michelle and Jon Carroll. A naming ceremony took place at the home of her grandparents, Len and Darlene Radin on December 28th, officiated by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat. Len and Darlene are thrilled with their new status as Bubbie and Zadie!





## Chanukkah 5776

## More Simchas!!

Mazel Tov to Chaim Bronstein on the birth of a new grandson: Maxwell Simon, born on July 23rd - the seventh of Av 5775.

Mazel Tov to Marcus Jaffe on his Bar Mitzvah!



## New and Prospective Member Brunch

The Membership Committee orchestrated their annual New and Prospective Member brunch following services on Saturday, November 21.

It was a festive environment as current, new, and prospective members gathered to meet each other, eat, socialize, and learn more about what CBI offers. Twenty-four people attended, including 1 new member family and 3 prospective members. Each new member received a gift bag welcoming them and prospective members received a small token of welcome along with information about the synagogue.

Thank you to all who attended and to those who helped make this event possible: the Membership Committee (Alice Cande, Elizabeth Miller, Robin Brickman); those who provided desserts (Amy Filson, Alice Rudin, Helene Armet, Wendy Penner, Fern Sann); and those who helped with set-up, clean-up, and/or administration: CherylSacks; Barbara Bashevkin; Pattie Lipman; and Jack Hockridge.

### Friends:

Your donations are appreciated! If you have books or other items to donate to CBI call Chaim Bronstein at 917/609-6732. Please do not just drop them off.



## The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting took place on November 10<sup>th</sup> with about 24 people in attendance. Prior to the meeting there was a dinner of Pizza and pot luck offerings. This year we had child care available. Copies of the full minutes and copies of the by-laws are available by contacting Jack Hockridge. The following is a brief rundown.

After a welcome from Pattie Lipman, the Minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved as was the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Hogan reported that we did well in Fiscal Year 2015 – had a roughly \$15,000 surplus. However, we are anticipating a deficit for 2016. Key revenue items are the appeal, dues, and education funds.

The Building and Grounds Report was given by Chair David Pomerantz. He went over completed work this past year and projects likely for 2016. He also asked for anyone interested in volunteering to contact him. David also noted that many projects are done by volunteers. If interested in volunteering, please contact David.

The Membership Report was given by Vice President, Liz Miller. Besides recommending a dues increase the Board re-examined membership categories.

A Motion to adjust the wording of the Associate Membership category such that the five years of membership required need not be immediately preceding the application for associate membership was passed unanimously.

The Membership Committee created new sponsorship membership categories to facilitate giving, effective immediately.

Ed Oshinsky reported for Take and Eat, gratefully noting the \$2500 grant from the Jewish Woman's Foundation of Berkshire County. Ed said Take and Eat will still need additional money/donations to keep the program running for 2017.

Jane Shiyah reported on Chesed, our Caring Committee that btw needs additional members. Jane also made a suggestion that it would be nice to have volunteer work be a requirement of synagogue membership; maybe a requirement of 4 hours per year. There was some discussion of this. Rabbi and Jane will work on a proposal to bring to the Board. Jane also made an

announcement about the co-housing project she is working on.

Liz Miller gave the report for Education and Chaim Bronstein spoke about Adult Learning.

Pattie Lipman gave the President's Report, and thanked various people for their volunteerism over the year, including Erin Marshall who stepped down from the Board. She also congratulated Reb Rachel for her election as co-Chair of Aleph, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal. Pattie emphasized that the Board wants to hear the Congregation's suggestions and comments about where to direct attention in the coming year.

Complete information on the dues increase that will go into effect on July 1, 2016 and the new voluntary membership categories to facilitate giving will be sent early in 2016.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 2016

President: Pattie Lipman Vice President: Liz Miller Treasurer: Susan Hogan

Corresponding Secretary: Darlene Radin

At Large Member: Steven Green

### Board Members (term ending 12/16):

Chaim Bronstein

Susan Hogan

Bill Levy

David Pomerantz

Pattie Lipman

### Board Members (term ending 12/17):

Alice Cande

Lisa Howard

Steven Green

Darlene Radin

### Board Members (term ending 12/18):

Chris Kelly

Liz Miller

Paulette Wein

Laura Thompson

Ron Turbin



Congregation Beth Israel  
 חבורת בית ישראל



Join us on Friday, February  
 5th at 6pm for *Kabbalat  
 Shabbat*  
 ("Welcoming the Sabbath  
 Bride")



led by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

*Expect spirit and heart  
 song and praise  
 music, and joy!*

*Join us in wearing white  
 to welcome the Sabbath bride.*

*Potluck Oneg Shabbat following services.*

*Volunteers needed to set up and close the shul after the Oneg.*

## **The Library Corner by Alice Cande**

We are presently organizing, creating a directory and updating our library.

Below is a list of categories presently available.

If there are topics you feel are missing or there is something that would interest you please contact  
 Chaim Bronstein at 917-609-6732.

Tanach	Ethics	Halacha
American Jewish History	Torah	Prayer
Parsha of Week	Shoah/Holocaust	Philosophy/Theology
The Jewish Calendar	Jewish Women/Feminism	Biographies
Talmud/Midrash	Jewish History	The Jews of North Adams

Conversion	Reform Judaism	Adult Jewish Education
Fiction	References	Pirke Avot-Chapters of Fathers
Dictionary	Festivals	Shabbat
Music	Jewish Cooking	Life Cycle
Tikkun Olam-Repairing the World	Hebrew Calligraphy	Humor
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	Interfaith Family	Hebrew
Short Stories	Poetry	Rethinking - Renewing the Congregation
Death and Bereavement	Hassidim	Art-Coffee Table Books
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender	Israel/ Zionism	Spirituality

## Donations With Deep Thanks for your Generosity:

### **High Holiday Appeal Donations:**

Ronald Alpert  
 Marsha Altschuler  
 Joseph & Anne Apkin  
 Stuart & Helene Armet  
 Marvin & Liana Barenblat  
 Bob & Barbara Bashevkin  
 Linda Becker  
 Ellen Bernstein  
 Robin Brickman & Jefferson Strait  
 Mitchell Burgin  
 Robert & Carol Braun  
 Becky & Daniel Cellana  
 Lawrence Cherkis & Joan Benjamin  
 Elizabeth & Madeline Cohen  
 Tracy Daniels  
 Karen & David DeForest  
 George & Dena Drasin  
 Laura & Bruce Dumouchel  
 Richard & Anna Jo Dubow  
 Belle Fabel  
 Amy & Adam Filson  
 Shepard & Leona Forman  
 Lillian Glickman  
 Barbara Goldstein  
 Elizabeth Gordon  
 Joan & Stanley Graff  
 Martin Greenstein & Natalie Jacobson  
 Steven Green & Rose Ellis



Howard & Diane Hochman  
Lisa & Orion Howard  
Jerrold & Carol Jacobs  
Marc & Vivienne Jaffe  
Charles & Ellen Joffe-Halpern  
Barbara & Michael Kaplan  
Chris Kelly & Maude Rich  
Robert Kraus  
Allen & Debbie Kushnet  
David Lane  
Ira & Frances Beth Lapidus  
Sylvia Lenhoff  
Howard & Dale Levitz  
Bill Levy & Karen Kelly  
Pattie Lipman  
Sharon Lipman  
Ronald & Elaine Mensh  
Elizabeth & Steven Miller  
Bob & Jane Miller  
Judith Mintz  
Sylvia Mishkin  
John Mueller & Sheila Roman  
Carol & Ed Oshinsky  
Wendy Penner & Steve Fein  
Peter & Shelia Pick  
David & Maribeth Pomerantz  
Len & Darlene Radin  
David & Joanne Ranzer  
Charlene Rosen  
Ben & Alice Rudin  
Elma & Donald Sanders  
Phyllis Sands  
Ellen Schiff  
Lori Shaller  
Jane Shiyah  
Selma Shapiro Silberman & James  
Silberman  
Cheryl Small  
Michael & Pamela Smith  
Warner & Amely Smith  
Alan & Sara Stricker  
Roberta & John Sullivan  
Ronald & Melissa Sunog

Audrey Thier & Peter Murphy  
Laura & Roger Thompson  
Ron & Judy Turbin  
Rabi Pam Wax & Chaim Bronstein  
Dustin & Beth Wees  
Paulette Wein  
Sherry Wein  
Susan & Charles Welsch  
Robert Werbel  
Ellen Wineberg  
Howard & Debbie Wineberg  
Shira Wohlberg  
Tela Zasloff

### **Take & Eat Donations**

Laura & Bruce Dumouchel  
Steven Green & Rose Ellis  
Carol & Ed Oshinsky

### **Other Designated Donations**

Richard & Patricia Reichler	Donation to Chesed
Bob & Barbara Bashevkin	Donation to Chesed
Stuart & Helene Armet	Generations Campaign
Laura & Bruce Dumouchel	Donation to Berkshire Food Project
Laura & Bruce Dumouchel	Donation to Discretionary in honor of grandchildren
Rabbi Rachel Barenblat	Toward printing of the Machzor
Jane Shiyah	For use of the kitchen

### **In Memory of Eugene Wein**

Marsha Altschuler  
Carol Stoll Baker  
Alan Bashevkin & Nancy Pearlman  
Sonya Bernfeld  
Ellen Bernstein  
Mitchell Burgin  
Maryrose Calnan  
Ruth Cohen & Family  
Norma Delisle  
Drury Girls Basketball Booster  
Shirley & Manuel Finkelstein  
Lisa & Dennis Flynn  
Brenda Gabel

Lillian Glickman  
Susan Gold  
Jonathan Goldblatt  
Susan Goldblatt  
Patrick & Claire Grogan  
Janet Kaplan  
Lawrence & Carolyn Kaplan  
Ellen Kennedy & Mark Gold  
Donald & Maxine King  
Dick Klein  
Robert & Paula Kove  
Barry & Sandra Kronick  
Roger & Joan Larocca  
Barbara & Richard Lerner  
Bob & Jane Miller  
John Morris  
Cindy & Charles O'Carroll  
John O'Connell  
Len & Darlene Radin  
Franklin Risatti  
Robert Sands & Paula Johnson  
Howard & Roberta Saunders  
Arlene & Gary Schiff  
Michael & Pamela Smith  
Gertrude Silverstein  
Phyllis Stolz  
Edith Taskin  
Richard Taskin  
Melvin & Marilyn Tierman  
Ralph Underwood  
Rabbi Pam Wax & Chaim Bronstein  
Dustin & Beth Wees  
Howard & Debbie Wineberg  
Barbara & Bruce Winer  
Arlene Wolk

### **Additional Memorial Donations**

Alan Bashevkin & Nancy Pearlman  
Howard & Debbie Wineberg  
Fred Hobart  
The Yulman Foundation  
Rabbi Pam Wax & Chaim Bronstein  
Robert Freedman

In memory of Edith Bashevkin  
In memory of Irving Bashevkin  
In memory of Irving Bashevkin  
In memory of Irving Bashevkin and Ruth Kelman  
In memory of Mort Freedman  
In memory of Morton Freedman



Michael & Pamela Smith	In memory of Helen Goldman
Sylvia Lenhoff	In memory of Dora Grossman
Sylvia Lenhoff	In memory of Hyman Grossman
Sandra Hirsh Golding & Dr. Michael Hirsh	In memory of Samuel Hirsh
Neal Jacobs	In memory of Ruth Kelman
Dick Klein	In memory of Marilyn Klein & Lewis Kronick
Howard & Roberta Saunders	In memory of Lewis Kronick
Lillian Glickman	In memory of Lewis Kronick
Gertrude Silverstein	In memory of Lewis Kronick
Susan Goldblat	In memory of Lewis Kronick
Allen & Debbie Kushnet	In memory of Graham Kushnet
Charles, Cindy & Ryan O'Carroll	In memory of Rose W & George Less
Richard & Anna Jo Dubow	In memory of Beatrice Renfield
Ellen Schiff	In memory of Morton Schiff
Jane Shiyah	In memory of Eugene Weinstein
Frances Licht	In memory of Ann & Irving Wolkin
Tela Zasloff	In memory of Joe Zasloff

**Other Special Donations**

Rachel Bashevkin	In honor of Barbara & Bob Bashevkin
Gerald & Judith Kaufman	In honor of Bob & Barbara Bashevkin's 60th Anniversary
Len & Darlene Radin	In celebration of the birth of Katherine Olivia Carroll
Robert Oshinsky	In honor of Edward Oshinky receipt of the MICAH Award

**Additional General Donations:**

David & Joanne Ranzer  
 Kenneth & Fern Sann  
 Howrd & Robrta Saunders  
 Michael & Pamela Smith  
 Warner & Amely Smith  
 Ron & Judy Turbin  
 Susan & Charles Welsch

## My Father, by Paulette Wein

I hope you don't think I'm bragging when I say that I won the lottery when I got Eugene Wein for a father. For those of you who have only known my dad for a few years ... he was a well-respected businessman ... a leader in the local Jewish community ... a doting husband (my mother's friends wished their husbands would be a little more like Gene Wein) ... an amazing father who let us get away with murder ... and a passionate fan of Drury High School sports. He started going to Drury basketball and football games with his Uncle Charlie in the 1920's and '30s, and never stopped. Even in February 1991 when he was preparing for quadruple bypass surgery, he begged Dr. Sullivan to let him go to the Drury basketball game with his IV pole. Dr. Sullivan said no.

My father loved being with his children. We spent a lot of time in his shoe store on Eagle Street, using it as our own personal playground. It was before cell phones, of course, and I would tie up my father's phone in the store for hours at a time talking to my friends. My father never minded ... he was just happy to see me. He took us kids to an endless number of Drury basketball and football games. He often told the story of taking me to my first football game, and I burst out crying when I realized that we'd actually have to sit outside in the cold all evening. He taught us right from wrong not with words but by how he lived his life and how he treated others. Yes, he was known to swear at a basketball referee or two, and he certainly preferred winning to losing ... but we watched my dad take pride in every student athlete, whether he or she was the star of the team or a hard-working substitute who sat on the bench. Seeing a basketball player's name on the Drury High School honor roll was as important to my dad as watching a player throw the winning basket. Well ... almost as important.

When asked to name his favorite Drury basketball players of all time, he'd become visibly uncomfortable, not wanting to leave out anyone. I knew who his favorite basketball players were but, as my friend Lisa said to me yesterday, "I think everyone who played for Drury believed that he or she was your father's favorite." And that's how Sherry, Roberta, Larry, and I felt. We were each his favorite. We all felt special. I never wanted to live far from my parents ... even when I lived just two miles from them in North Adams, I was homesick.

One of our favorite traditions, up until a few years ago when my dad could no longer travel, was going to the March Madness western Massachusetts and state basketball tournaments. Six games in a row, 12 straight hours of basketball. We traveled to the Springfield CivicCenter, the Cage at UMass, and the Boston Garden to watch high school basketball. My father's eyes were glued to every second of every game ... except when I skipped out for a break and was gone too long, and he'd come looking for me to be sure I was safe. No one will ever worry about me the way my parents did.

During every phase of my life, my friends adored my father. As kids, he'd pile us all into the car and take us to Friendly's or Howard Johnson's for ice cream. He even took our friends'

younger brothers and sisters when they didn't want to be left behind. After Larry and I learned to drive, not only did my parents always let us use the family car to go out with our friends ... but my father even filled the gas tank before we went out!

For those of you who only knew my dad during his prime, before he had Parkinson's, I'd like to tell you about the special people who came into our lives when his health began to fail. Our dear friend, Stephen Michalenko, filled my father's last few years with laughter, and he became like a son to my father, in addition to being a care-giver. As his body weakened, my father found strength through Stephen.

The extraordinary nurses and especially the nursing assistants at Williamstown Commons loved my father as if he was their grandfather. They have the most difficult and stressful jobs I have ever witnessed, yet our nursing home friends took the time to shower my dad with compassion – and hugs and kisses – until he took his last breath. I swear that they were the reason he lived so long. I will never, ever forget them.

As talking, eating, and even moving grew more difficult, my father had every reason to be unhappy, but instead he accepted his illness with grace and dignity. Our whole lives he showed us how to live, and in his last hours on Sunday he showed us how to finish life.

I hope and pray that my parents are together. During an early morning text the other day when I had trouble sleeping, I told my friend Lisa that I imagined my mother greeting my father with "Boobsie, I've been waiting for you! I missed you!" And Lisa responded, "And your father said, 'I missed you too, Boobsie ... now let's go get some ice cream!'"



## More from the Rabbi: Want To Meet With Me?

One of the great joys of this line of work is meeting when y'all want to talk. Whether you want to talk about synagogue business or about the intimate happenings of your spiritual life or your heart, I am honored to be able to listen to you.

In an emergency, I am always available. If the situation is not an emergency, I want to encourage you to reach out and make an appointment to see me (rather than just dropping in.)

I usually spend Mondays and Fridays doing synagogue work, but sometimes that work takes me out of the building -- e.g. if someone makes a pastoral care appointment with me and wants to meet at their place instead of at the shul -- so even on the days when I'm fully focused on synagogue work, I'm not always sitting behind the desk in the synagogue office.

If you know you're going to want to meet with me, it's helpful for me if you can drop me an email or give me a call and set up a meeting time. That way I can block out thirty minutes or an hour on my calendar, and I'll know that I will be dedicating that time to you (so I won't, for instance, be counting on that as time I need in order to prepare for Shabbat or whatever is next on my docket.)

I look forward to seeing you at CBI!

*Rabbi Rachel*

### Next Newsletter

Due date for submissions is Feb. 10. Send to [plipman@fairpoint.net](mailto:plipman@fairpoint.net) with "Mar/Apr Newsletter" in the subject line.

## Upcoming Occasions

*We wish happy birthdays and anniversaries to our members who have simchas during the coming months.*

### January Birthdays

Chaya Radin  
Michelle Radin  
Roberta Sullivan  
Ethan Zuckerman  
Ruth Ginsburg  
Jennifer Burt  
Anna Kronick  
Molly Howard  
Richard Taskin  
Faia Sarah Kronick  
Alice Cande  
Amy Filson  
Jesse Cohen  
Steven Miller  
Peter Murphy  
Matt Levy

### February Birthdays

Howard Wineberg  
Rabbi Pamela Wax  
Emily Levy  
Patricia Reichler  
Gabriel Gerry  
Lyra Marshall  
Ellen Deibert  
David Their  
Scott Burt  
Allen Kushnet  
Katie Lynn Sann  
Judith Weber  
Karol White  
Jonah Kelly-Whitney  
Jesse Thompson  
Heather Levy  
David LaChance  
Rose Rudin  
Warner Smith  
Kenneth Wolman  
Lillian S. Glickman  
Cheryl Sacks  
**Anniversaries**  
Jane and Robert Miller  
Marc and Vivienne Jaffe



## In Memoriam

### **EUGENE WEIN**

1922 - 2015 Eugene Wein, longtime Northern Berkshire civic and business Leader and devoted Drury High School sports fan, formerly of Phelps Avenue, died on Sunday, August 2, 2015, at Williamstown Commons, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in North Adams on February 7, 1922, a son of the late Harry and Anna (Kronick) Wein. He attended schools in North Adams, graduating from Drury High School in 1939. He then attended Massachusetts State College (now the University of Massachusetts) where he was the manager of the football team. After graduating in 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. [Army](#) Air Corps and served during [WWII](#) as a corporal. Mr. Wein was the long-time owner and operator of Wein's Shoe Store on Eagle Street in North Adams. He was an active member and former president of Congregation Beth Israel where he coached basketball in the North Adams church league. His love of basketball extended to Drury High School, where he was acknowledged as Drury's #1 sports fan. He served as master of ceremonies at many end-of-year sports banquets, and in 2002 Drury High School re-named its annual Christmas tournament the "Gene Wein Holiday Tournament." Mr. Wein married Jacqueline Diana Winer on October 12, 1947, in Springfield, MA. She died on May 2, 2006. Survivors include a son, Lawrence Wein of Palo Alto, CA, and three daughters, Sherry Wein and Roberta Sullivan of North Adams and Paulette Wein of Adams; sons-in-law, John Sullivan and Robert Wray and daughter-in-law, Anne Wein; and six grandchildren; Andrew Sullivan, Aaron Wray, Emily Sullivan Pace, and Alexander, Nicole, and Natasha Wein. He also leaves his sisters, Selma Weitz of Brookfield, CT, and Gertrude Silverstein of Needham, MA. He was predeceased by a brother, Dr. Stanley Wein of Valley Stream, NY. The family would like to thank the Williamstown Commons staff for its extraordinary care and compassion, and to

express their deepest gratitude to friend and caregiver Stephen Michalenko.

### **RUTH BASHEVKIN KELMAN**

Ruth Bashevkin Kelman, 103, the daughter of Annie (Feder) and David Bashevkin, a native and long-time resident of North Adams, died after a brief illness on Friday, September 4. She was the wife for 51 years of Joseph Kelman, proprietor of National Furniture Co., formerly located on Main Street, North Adams.

A graduate of Drury High School, Mrs. Kelman worked as bookkeeper in her family's business, Butler Coal & Grain, Co. and later with National Furniture Co.

She was a member of Congregation Beth Israel, the Sisterhood of Beth Israel, and Hadassah while in North Adams. In 1973, she and her husband retired to North Miami Beach, FL. In 1997, she relocated to NJ and most recently resided at Lions Gate Health Center in Voorhees, NJ.

Mrs. Kelman is survived by her children, Sander Kelman (Marybeth) of Manasquan, NJ and Myra Kelman Hirschhorn (Stuart) of Willingboro, NJ; three grandchildren, Caryn Hirschhorn, David Hirschhorn (Moire) and Seth Hirschhorn (Tara); sister, Helen Yulman of Palm Beach, FL and brother, Robert Bashevkin (Barbara) of Williamstown. She was predeceased by three sisters: Sadye Levine, Esther Lipton and Hilda Betten and three brothers: Albert, William, and Irving.

### **MORTON FREEDMAN**

Morton Freedman passed away September 2, 2015 in White Plains, NY. He was a long time resident of North Adams, MA who moved to White Plains, to be with his son and family in 2006. Mort was born July 2, 1924 in North Adams. He was married to his beloved wife, Norma, for 55 wonderful years before she passed in 2006. Mort and Norma also spent many happy years in Florida, most recently at Hunter's Run in Boynton Beach. He was an adoring and loving father to his son, Robert, daughter-in-law Frances Pantaleo, and his grandchildren, Jessica and Matthew. He was a warm, funny and friendly person to the end of his days. He was loved by all who knew him. He attended Drury High School, Syracuse University and received his law degree from Boston University. He served

in the Army during World War II stationed in North Africa. He practiced law in North Adams for over 50 years, most recently with the law firm of Freedman DeRosa and Rondeau. He was also the Clerk of the Northern Berkshire District Court. Mort was very involved in North Adams politics and served as Councilman and President of the City Council for many years as well as Chair of numerous Commissions. He was active in Congregation Beth Israel, including serving as Treasurer and on the Board of Directors. Mort loved to play tennis and golf and was a member of North Adams Country Club and Taconic Golf Course. Funeral Services were held at the Ballard Durand Funeral Home in White Plains. Interment followed at Sharon Gardens in Valhalla, NY.

### **LEWIS KRONICK**

1930 - 2015 CEDARHURST, NY Lewis M. Kronick, 85, died Friday, November 13, 2015 at Rockville Pavilion Nursing Home in Rockville Center, NY. He was born in North Adams, MA on June 17, 1930, son of Charles E. and Sadie (Epstein) Kronick. He was raised by his father and stepmother, Flora Kronick. Lewis graduated from Drury High School and Bryant College. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the US Army. He was employed in the restaurant and hotel industry in South Florida until his retirement. He was a member of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams. Survivors include his two sons, Stephen Kronick and his wife, Nancy of Cedarhurst, NY and Lawrence Kronick and his wife, Joann of Pittsfield, MA. He also leaves his grandson, Joshua Kronick and his wife, Michal of Baltimore, MD and two great-grandsons, Yehuda and Ari.

### **MARION (SHAPIRO) PATASHNICK**

1919-2015 LONGMEADOW Marion (Shapiro) Patashnick, 96, of Longmeadow, MA, died Sunday, December 20, 2015 at the Jewish Nursing Home. She was a former longtime resident of North Adams, MA. Marion was born on August 12, 1919, daughter of Joseph and Minnie Esther (Rubenstein) Shapiro. She graduated from Drury High School and North Adams State Teacher's College. Passionate about education, Marion was an elementary school

teacher at the former Mark Hopkins School. She was a member of Congregation Beth Israel and its Hadassah. Marion was the widow of Sidney Patashnick, who died on May 25, 1983. They were married on July 14, 1946. Marion loved spending time with her family and friends. She took pride in the happiness and accomplishments of her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed playing bridge, taking walks, going to Red Sox games with her family, listening to music, and eating a piece of dark chocolate each day. Every evening you could find her watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy! Survivors include her two sons Michael Patashnick and his wife Ellen of Springfield, MA and Alan Patashnick of Woodland Hills, CA; her three grandchildren Matthew Patashnick and his partner, Sam Chandan; Sara Patashnick; and Andrew Patashnick and his fiancée, Brooke Madden; and nieces and nephews. Marion was predeceased by her sister, Rose Bauver, her brother, Michael, and her twin brother, Irving. Marion's family wishes to thank the staff at Ruth's House and Jewish Life Care for their years of compassionate, respectful, and quality care. FUNERAL NOTICE: A Graveside service for Marion Patashnick was held on Wednesday December 23, 2015 at the Beth Israel Cemetery in Clarksburg, MA. Memorial contributions may be made to Jewish Geriatric Services in care of FLYNN & DAGNOLI-MONTAGNA HOME FOR FUNERALS CENTRAL CHAPEL, 74 Marshall St. North Adams, MA 01247. To send a card or a message, please visit [www.flynnagnolifuneralhomes.com](http://www.flynnagnolifuneralhomes.com)

**GEORGE KRAUS**—Father of Robert Kraus. On December 22, 2015. Loving father of Eric and Bob; dear father-in-law of Marjory Fisher and Kathy Morris; cherished grandfather of Sam, Max, Emily, Nick and Nate; beloved brother of Lili. Predeceased by his wife and soulmate of 63 years, Hedi; sister Gerda; and parents Otto and Frieda. Dad transcended the tragedies of the Holocaust and inculcated a deep, spiritual appreciation of nature and learning in all he touched. He was an old-world gentleman in the truest sense of the word. The funeral service was held on December 24, 2015 at the Community Synagogue, Port Washington, NY. Memorial contributions to [The Michael J. Fox Foundation](http://TheMichaelJ.FoxFoundation.org) [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org) gratefully accepted.

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Mondays 9am-3:30pm  
Fridays 9am-4pm  
(meditation minyan 9am)

*Please make an appointment to see the  
Rabbi.*

Phone (413) 822-5267  
E-mail [rabbibarenblat@gmail.com](mailto:rabbibarenblat@gmail.com)

March April Newsletter deadline is Feb 10!

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