



# Sha'arei Shalom

## Monthly Newsletter

June 2015

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### Upcoming Events

June 6<sup>th</sup> SHABBAT SERVICE @ 7:30 p.m.

July 17<sup>th</sup> SHABBAT SERVICE @ 7:30 p.m.

August 28<sup>th</sup> SHABBAT SERVICE @ 7:30 p.m.

**All Congregation Services take place at the Ashland Community Center, 162 West Union Street (unless otherwise noted).**

- Book Group – June 7<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.
- Evergreen – June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.
- Family Promise food donations—June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00 p.m.

**We are now enrolling for the 2015-16 Religious School year.**

**[Click here for 2015-2016 Religious School Registration Form](#)**

**Please contact Lisa Clay at [lcc1129@yahoo.com](mailto:lcc1129@yahoo.com) for more information**

## Rabbi's Letter

by Margie Klein

Dear Friends,

Last weekend, Jews around the world celebrated Shavuot, the festival that commemorates the giving of the Torah. I want to share with you some of what I taught last Friday night about the Book of Ruth, the main text we read on Shavuot. The Book of Ruth is one of the great love stories in the Torah, which I believe can teach us about what it means to love and care for our fellow humans.

Here's the story:

### Tragedy Befalls Naomi

A Jewish woman Naomi and her husband Elimelech face famine in Israel and immigrate to the land of Moab with their two sons. Once she gets there, her husband dies, and she is left with her two sons. After Naomi's sons marry two Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah, Naomi's sons die tragically, too. Naomi is left feeling utterly alone, and decides to return to her people in Israel.

### Ruth Follows Naomi

Before Naomi leaves for Israel, she tells her daughters-in-law Ruth and Orpah they should go home to their families. At first, Ruth and Orpah hesitate. Naomi insists, "Go home to your mothers! I'm too old to find another husband and have more sons for you to marry. Go home!"

Naomi is hopeless, and can't imagine anyone helping her. So Orpah decides to go home. But Ruth refuses. In a speech that has become famous for its kindness and commitment, Ruth says: "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

### Ruth's Teaching: Our Bonds Run Deeper than Blood or Self-Interest

Ruth insists on coming, and Naomi accepts, shocked. Naomi has assumed that Ruth would care for her only if they were officially related. But Ruth understands that the bonds of love and obligation run deeper than only immediate self-interest.

So many of us make Naomi's assumptions: *Your people are your people. My people are my people. If we leave each other alone, there won't be any problems.*

And yet, Ruth's knows that God doesn't see the world like that. And if God doesn't see the world like that, Ruth knows she can't either. Ruth knows that if she loves someone, she cannot let her suffer alone. Ruth knows that if we want a better life, we all need to care for each other.

### Ruth Becomes the Mother of the Messianic Line

When Ruth goes with Naomi to Israel, there she meets Boaz, who extends *his* kindness to Moabite Ruth, even though she is not an Israelite. He takes her in and eventually marries her. The end of the Book of Ruth reports that Ruth and Boaz's great grandchild is David, the great King of Israel and the ancestor of the Messiah.

What do we learn from the fact that Ruth, a non-Jew, becomes the mother of the messianic line? I believe the story teaches that redemption comes when we recognize that we belong to each other and to God. We are redeemed when we realize that that the bond that unites us is deeper than where we come from, what we've been through, or what we want in this moment.

### Invitation: Get to Know People Very Different From You

So, as we move into the summer, I encourage you to consider how you might create opportunities for you and your family to get to know people who come from very different backgrounds from your own, hear their stories, and let yourself share yours.

After all, Shavuot is about recommitting ourselves to receiving Torah, sacred teaching, and I believe one of the most sacred teachings is that our *own* stories are part of God's holy and unfolding story.

### **Blessing**

May we all have the courage to encounter people from very different backgrounds. May we have the openness to listen deeply to their experiences and their challenges. And may we find within us a taste of the love and responsibility Ruth felt, to care for the other to write a new story where we can say to those very different from us: *Where you go, I will go. Your people are my people.*

Warm Regards,  
Rabbi Margie

### **President's Corner** **by Jane Greenstein**

Another Religious School has come to an end. Just two weeks ago, we marked the end of Hebrew School for the year and watched our 7<sup>th</sup> graders graduate. It was a wonderful celebration of Jewish learning, identity and community! As our students from kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade took turns coming to the front of the room to share some of what they learned this year, it was like time-lapse photography of children's growth and development. I was so moved to see how much our students learn over the course of their years with us. And how poised and confident they grow to be! Bottomless thanks to our dedicated teachers and school committee members for all that they do to create our engaging program. Thank you also to the kids for their passion, creativity, and commitment to their own learning. And thank you to our parents for making Judaism a priority in the life of your family and for choosing Sha'arei Shalom as your religious home.

### **Upcoming Services**

**On June 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. join us for a regular **Friday night Shabbat service**, also at the Ashland Community Center. As always, we also invite you to join us afterward for an oneg Shabbat. We will be celebrating the bat mitzvah of Jordan Lovitz which will take place the following day.

We slow down in the summer, but will have a **Friday night service on July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>**, both at 7:30 pm at the Ashland Community Center.

**We are currently in need of oneg sponsors. Please consider volunteering to host an oneg this year...it's easy, fun and rewarding to provide refreshments for congregants, friends and family after the Friday evening service so we can enjoy the warmth and joy of the Sabbath together. Hosting an oneg is a mitzvah, and your gift of time and effort is greatly appreciated! Please contact Jamie Sack at [sack.jamie@yahoo.com](mailto:sack.jamie@yahoo.com) or 508-627-0387 for more information. Thank you!**

### **Jordan Lovitz Bat Mitzvah**

Jordan Lovitz will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Her parents, Alan and Rachel, have this to say about their daughter:

It seems like it was just yesterday that we held Jordan's baby naming, and now her Bat Mitzvah is only weeks away! We are very proud of Jordan and how hard she has worked to prepare for this important milestone. It has been quite a challenge with Jordan's crazy schedule - playing on 2 softball teams, running track, horseback riding, Hebrew school, regular school and of course, homework. Not to mention a 10-day school trip to Greece right in the middle of her Bat Mitzvah preparation. Through it all, Jordan has remained poised and focused, and is well-prepared for the big day. We are very proud of her.

In the three short years since our family joined Sha'arei Shalom, we have come to truly understand what being part of a community really means – building friendships, worshipping together, celebrating joyous occasions and feeling the community's support in times of loss. Sha'arei Shalom has become an important part of our family life and a wonderful example for Jordan as to the importance of community.

We are very, very excited to be sharing this milestone with the Sha'arei Shalom community. We'd like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Jordan's teachers, who made Hebrew school fun and interesting; to the school committee that works so diligently to make sure the students and staff have what they need to succeed; to Ari Kaufman our extremely helpful Bat Mitzvah liaison; and to Rabbi Margie who has been a warm, supportive presence for our family and a terrific guide as we prepare for Jordan's big day. Also, I'd like to offer a big "thank you" to all of the members of the board, current and former, for their advice and friendship.

**Sha'arei Shalom sends a big Mazel Tov to the Lovitz family on their simcha.**

## **Religious School Update**

**by Lisa Clay**

We had a fabulous end to the school year. We are proud of all of our students as they have worked so hard all year and learned so much. We are especially proud of our graduates (Samuel Freedman, Aaron Greenstein, Leah Handelman, Becca Handelman, Rachel Lovitz, and Eli Prybyla) and the young adults they are becoming. We heard a bit about each of their Dvars at graduation as well as the things they are leaving behind to our next class. See photo below.



We are planning for next year. Our calendar will soon be finalized and distributed. Don't forget to send in your registration form and deposit for next year ASAP. If you would like to discuss financial arrangements, please contact Jane Greenstein. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lisa Clay at [lcc1129@yahoo.com](mailto:lcc1129@yahoo.com).

**[Click here for 2015-2016 Religious School Registration Form](#)**

Have a wonderful summer! See you soon.

## **Dinner Volunteers Needed for Family Promise MetroWest**

**by Lisa Brown**

The Federated Church of Ashland is hosting Family Promise families the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>. Sha'arei Shalom is a support congregation that helps make it possible for The Federated Church to host homeless families in the Family Promise program four times each year. Volunteers from our congregation always provide the Sunday meal.

Please click on the signup genius link if you would like to help us provide that meal on Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup>. It is an important part of our congregation's Tikkun Olam, and means a lot to the families we help:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0449A5A92AAB9-family4](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0449A5A92AAB9-family4)

Please contact Lisa Brown if you would like more information about Family Promise, including how to be trained as a volunteer who can stay and help with the meal, [lisciacca@hotmail.com](mailto:lisciacca@hotmail.com).

## **Monica Weinstein Women's Book Group**

**by Leslie Jaffe**

Due to everyone's busy schedule, we did not have a regular meeting in April or May. Our next meeting will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, when we will discuss "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver. As always, we will be meeting at Bodacious Bagels.

New members are always welcome, and are invited to contact Leslie Jaffe at [jlajfamily@verizon.net](mailto:jlajfamily@verizon.net) with questions.

Happy reading!

## **Elissa Naiman Evergreen Group**

**by Sheila Watnick**

At the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Elissa Naiman Evergreen Group at the home of Ronee Krashes, members celebrated Bobbi Marder's and Ronee's May birthdays. Most of the meeting focused on family graduations, an upcoming trip to Nebraska to visit family, the birth of an out-of state grandniece, etc. All good things!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Sheila Watnick. Female temple members 60 and under are welcome. Contact [evergreen@shaareishalom.org](mailto:evergreen@shaareishalom.org).

## **Joining the Shabbat Live Band**

**by Jeff Weinstein**

Are You Interested in Playing with the Shabbat Live Band?

If you are a skilled musician of High School age or older and you would like to consider playing with the Shabbat Live Band, contact Jeff Weinstein at [jeffweinstein18@verizon.net](mailto:jeffweinstein18@verizon.net). You don't need to join for the band for every song...you can sit in on one or two! Prospective members must be able to attend all group rehearsals.

## **Babysitting!**

Josie Kaufman is available for babysitting. She is 11 years old and has taken the Red Cross babysitting course. She can babysit on weekends. Contact Josie with any questions at 508-881-6930

## WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

PJ LIBRARY IS A JEWISH FAMILY ENGAGEMENT program implemented on a local level throughout North America. We mail free, high-quality [Jewish children's literature and music](#) to families across the continent on a monthly basis.

PJ Library is a program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](#), made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. Today, families in hundreds of communities across the United States and Canada are able to explore the timeless core values of Judaism through books and music.

All families raising Jewish children from age six months of age through five, six, seven or eight years (depending on the community) are [welcome to enroll](#).

<http://pjlibrary.org/>

## DO YOU LOVE TO SING? CHECK OUT SHIR JOY!

Whether you sing professionally or have only sung in your shower, this is your chance to join with other adults who love to sing Jewish music. Shir Joy is a Jewish choir that started up in the fall of 2011. We practice on Sunday evenings from 7-9 pm right at Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westborough. In our first year we had over 35 members from 14 central MA towns & cities. Rehearsals this coming year will begin on October 14 following the High Holidays. Choir participants are not required to be Jewish nor do members need to be affiliated with a Jewish organization to join. We hold several concerts over the year in the Central MA area.

Shir Joy will be directed again this coming year by Jonathan Rappaport, an experience choral conductor with over forty years of experience. Dues of \$75 per year. love of Jewish music, and ability to keep in tune with your neighboring singers are required. Although we do make beautiful music together, we also build strong community bonds. We welcome new members. If you are interested in participating or want additional information, check out our website [www.shirjoychorus.com](http://www.shirjoychorus.com), or email [ShirJoyMA@gmail.com](mailto:ShirJoyMA@gmail.com). Shir Joy is partially funded from a generous grant from Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts.

## добро пожаловать!

### Engaging Metrowest Russian Jewish Families in Jewish Community Life

A grant from the Genesis Fund is enabling us to reach out to Russian Jewish families throughout Metrowest. By developing collaborative relationships, we are identifying and connecting with members of this large and vibrant community through engaging programming and activities.

As part of this program, JFN is also doing special "**Privet Malish**" visits -- **Welcome Baby!** visits with gift baskets and resources tailored for Russian Jewish families.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs or "Privet Malish," or if you know someone who is, please contact our Russian community connector, [Luba Olshan](#), for more information.

# JEWISH FAMILY NETWORK

## Metrowest Events & Activities

*A collaboration of the  
Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston  
and Jewish Family Service of Metrowest*



**Thursday, June 4**

**Kulanu Parents' Night Out**

**Vegetarian (Vegan) Cooking Class**

**7:00 PM**

[Register](#)

\$5/Person- Space is limited (Adults only please)

Vegetarian Cooking for Everyone! Are you curious, meatless?

Let's get together at Whole Foods in Bellingham where Healthy Eating Specialist, Dawn Berthelette will demonstrate easy vegan and vegetarian recipes that we can taste and enjoy these good foods together. No need to be a Vegetarian or a Vegan! Jewish values of taking care of our health, showing compassion to animals, protecting the environment, conserving resources, helping hungry people, and seeking and pursuing peace add an additional layer of meaning to this fun and social evening. Space is limited, so register today.

@ [Whole Foods Market](#), 255 Hartford Ave., Bellingham

**Sunday, June 14**

**10:00-11:30 AM**

**PJ Library's Strawberry Field Jam with JFN**

[Register](#)

Cost \$15/Family; Walk-ins: Additional \$5

For Families with Children 2+ years

Strawberries are the first spring fruits to ripen. Join Jewish Family Network in the fields as we pick our own berries and celebrate spring's arrival with live "jammin" music, homemade jam tastings and more!

@ **Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Rd., Concord**

**Playground Meet-Ups Are Back!**

**Keep Thursdays at 10:00 AM Free all Summer**

**For children ages 0-5, siblings & parents!**

June 18: SMILE Tot Lot, Sudbury

June 25: Kidspot, Ashland

July 2: Choate Park, Medway

July 9: Walnut Hill, Natick

July 16: Goodwill Park, Holliston

July 23: Hannah Williams Park, Wayland

July 30: Cushing Park, Framingham

August 6: SMILE Tot Lot Park, Sudbury

August 13: EMC Park, Hopkinton

August 20: Walnut Hill Park, Natick

Friday, August 7: Shabbat in the Park, 5:30 PM

Framingham Village Green, Framingham

Celebrate Shabbat (welcoming the Sabbath) with a summer outdoor picnic in a relaxed setting with family and friends. Families provide picnic dinner. We will provide Challah and Grape juice. Stay for the Framingham Concert on the Green!

It's June and this is the last month for parents to take advantage of the **Parenting Through a Jewish Lens Early Bird Discount** - a **\$20 savings**. We would greatly appreciate you posting this information in any upcoming newsletters/ eblasts to your parent community. Feel free to include the following blurb and the attached flier:

*Parenting Through a Jewish Lens*, an exploration of core values is scheduled to begin late October, 2015. **\$20 early bird discounts are in effect through June 30, 2015**. Register now and reserve your space for the fall.

The PTJL program explores numerous parenting issues including how to incorporate daily Jewish rituals, how to parent during a loss, how to approach *tzedakah* or charity as a family, how to connect to a larger Jewish community and so much more. Taught by knowledgeable, creative, and skilled instructors, PTJL reaches a diverse population of participants and parents from all backgrounds are welcome. The instructors are skilled at getting to know the participants on a personal level and tailoring lessons to meet their needs and concerns. As one parent stated, "Our instructor brings to each session incredible depth of knowledge, broad-minded perspectives, thoughtfulness, and experience as a parent."

*Parenting Through a Jewish Lens* is a joint program of Hebrew College and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Classes are held throughout the Greater Boston area. For a complete listing of sites, times and instructors or to register, visit: [www.hebrewcollege.edu/parenting](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/parenting).

To begin your journey or for more information, please contact Marcy Leiman at [617-559-8734](tel:617-559-8734).



PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS is a program that brings expert facilitators together with caring parents to foster greater understanding of their vital role in their children's lives.



## REGISTER NOW

PARENTING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

CLASSES ARE FORMING FOR 2015-2016 IN THE FOLLOWING MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES:

Beverly  
Brockton  
Brookline  
Burlington  
Cambridge  
Canton  
Dedham

Framingham  
Jamaica Plain  
Needham  
Newton  
Waltham  
Wayland  
West Roxbury

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO REGISTER:  
[hebrewcollege.edu/parenting](http://hebrewcollege.edu/parenting)

160 Herrick Road  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617-559-8734  
[parenting@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:parenting@hebrewcollege.edu)

# **Jewish Heritage Night w/THE LOWELL SPINNERS!**



**Sunday, August 23  
3:05pm**

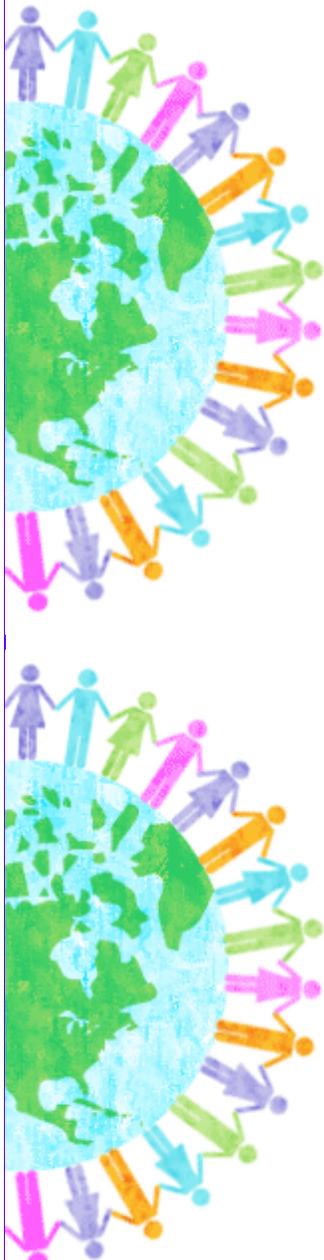
**The Lowell Spinners invite you to attend our first ever Jewish Heritage Night at LeLacheur Park Sunday, August 23. Join us as the Spinners take on the Staten Island Yankees with special promotions throughout the game.**



**Class-A Affiliate of the  
Boston Red Sox**



**Contact Seth Distler at [sdistler@lowellspinners.com](mailto:sdistler@lowellspinners.com) or  
(978) 805-5115 for ticket information**



# Middle East Harmonies

*Join the **Zamir Chorale of Boston** and the **Jerusalem Youth Chorus** of the **Jerusalem International YMCA** in a performance of **Middle East Harmonies** at the*

**Massachusetts State House, Boston**

**Thursday, June 18, 2015**

**12:30-1:00 PM**

Program includes Jewish music from Germany, America and Israel; and a tapestry of musical influences from the many diverse communities of Jerusalem.

Open to the public; free admission

Special thanks to Sen. Cynthia Creem

For additional information, contact the Zamir Chorale of Boston, [manager@zamir.org](mailto:manager@zamir.org), 617-244-6333, [zamir.org](http://zamir.org)

## **About the YMCA Jerusalem Youth Chorus**

The YMCA JYC empowers young singers from East and West Jerusalem to become leaders for peace in their communities by providing a space where they can engage one another in musical and verbal dialogue. Through this combination of high level music-making and interpersonal engagement, the YMCA JYC seeks to create a life-changing experience for its members.

The YMCA JYC's US tour is sponsored by the Yale International Choral Festival and Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation.