



Sha'arei Shalom

Monthly Newsletter

March 2015

Contact Us

www.shaareishalom.org

508-231-4700

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Upcoming Events

- PURIM CELEBRATION AND CARNIVAL
March 8th 10:00 am-noon
Ashland Middle School
- SHABBAT SERVICE March 13th @ 7:30 p.m.
- SHABBAT LIVE! March 27th @ 7:30 p.m.

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

- Sha'arei Café – March 7th @ 7:00 p.m.
- Book Group – March 15th @ 10:00 a.m.
- Evergreen – March 17th @ 7:30 p.m.

Sha'arei Shalom's membership year follows the calendar year, so membership is renewable now. Dues payments and forms were to be turned in by 1/31, so if you haven't already done so, please mail them asap.

[2015 Annual Dues and Membership Form](#)

**Please mail to:
P.O. Box 454, Ashland, MA 01721.**

Rabbi's Letter by Margie Klein

Dear Friends,

We are now well into the Jewish month of Adar, and Purim is fast approaching. For many of us, Purim represents a sort of Jewish Halloween, a time to dress up and eat sweets. For many Jews in traditional congregations, Purim looks like a Jewish version of Marti Gras, a time of drunken revelry and rule-bending, where we throw convention out the window.

While dressing up, drinking, and abandoning convention are all part of Purim, another less-publicized aspect of Purim is the mitzvah of *Matanot L'evyonim*, the commandment to give gifts to the poor. The commandment comes from the following verse in Megillat Esther:

And Mordecai inscribed these things and sent letters to all the Jews... to enjoin them to make the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and the fifteenth day thereof, every year... a festive day: to make them days of feasting and joy, and sending portions one to another, and gifts to poor people.¹

Interpreting “gifts to poor people” to mean *at least two people*, on Purim, we are commanded to give charity to at least two poor people, at least about \$5/person.

While Judaism teaches that we must give to the poor all year, Purim is the only holiday that places *tzedakah* to the poor at its center. This year, I began to wonder, what is it about Purim that caring for the poor should be a particular focus? After all, Passover is the holiday about oppression and slavery. Sukkot is the holiday about being fully dependent on God. Why *tzedakah* on Purim?

Interestingly, as I investigated this question, though I found lots of sources detailing *how* to fulfill the mitzvah of giving to the poor on Purim, it was very hard to find any sources on *why* we do so.

One reason we give on Purim is that Purim is a holiday focused on joy, and it is hard to be fully joyful when we know that those less fortunate cannot afford to celebrate, too. That said, this rationale is true for all Jewish holidays, but only Purim includes the focus on this Mitzvah.

Second, Purim is about Jewish unity. Haman accused the Jews of being a “scattered and divided nation.” On Purim, we insist that we are connected to and responsible for other Jews. Normally, I focus my *tzedakah* on helping non-Jews, particularly low-income communities in the Boston area and in the developing world. On Purim, I focus on poor Jewish people, and affirm that I have a special responsibility to make sure that my own people have enough to survive.

Directing my *tzedakah* to poor Jewish people has also forced me to acknowledge the *existence* of poverty in the Jewish community. Jews in America have largely “made it,” and our community is proud of our stories of realizing the American dream. Yet, according to a study done by Boston’s Combined Jewish Philanthropies in 2005, 8% of Jews in MA live below the poverty line, with higher percentages amongst elderly people and Russian immigrants. While I wasn’t able to find more recent statistics for Boston, an article in the Jewish Daily Forward reported that from 2003-2013, the number of American Jewish families living in poverty has doubled. By giving to Jews on Purim, we both help Jews in need and shed light on the struggles of poor Jewish families.

Finally, Purim is about transformation. Just as the fate of the Jews was drastically reversed, from being doomed by Haman to triumphing over Haman and his family, so we recognize the potential for our world to be different and more just. By giving *tzedakah* on Purim, we remind ourselves that it is our responsibility to help everyone in our community to survive *and* thrive. Just as we are supposed to blur the boundaries between good and evil on Purim (we are commanded to get intoxicated to the point that we can’t tell the difference between Mordechai and Haman), so we might imagine a world with softer divisions between the haves and have-nots, where everyone has enough.

If you want to give Tzedakah this Purim, I encourage you to check out [Yad Chesed](#), Greater Boston’s collective

effort to help poor people in the MA Jewish community. Or, if you want to help all people regardless of religion, I encourage you to consider supporting [Family Promise](#), the program Sha'arei Shalom works with that offers temporary housing to homeless families.

Blessings for a joyful and transformative Purim,
Rabbi Margie

President's Corner

by Jane Greenstein

While the weather suggests otherwise, the calendar tells us that Spring isn't that far away. And with Spring comes one of the highlights of the Sha'arei Shalom year—Bar/Bat mitzvah season. Though certainly not a requirement, the majority of our students end up becoming b'nai mitzvah at this beautiful time of year. So as our congregation gears up to support and celebrate so many of our students, I find myself reflecting on all the wonderful ways that our school, our rabbi, and our ritual committee prepare our young people for their special transition to Jewish maturity. Time and time again I hear from guests that come from far and wide how meaningful and accessible our services are. I hear praise for how much our students know and how comfortable they are in standing up as a leader of their own service. I hear deep appreciation for Rabbi Margie's personalized words of encouragement and wisdom for each child. And I hear words of gratitude from parents for how truly special and powerful the day was for their family. The quality of our b'nai mitzvot is one of the things of which our community is most proud.

Please join me in celebrating all our students, but especially these newly adult members of our community.

Upcoming Services and Holiday Celebrations

On Sunday March 8th, Sha'arei Shalom will have **our annual Purim celebration from 10:00 a.m. to noon**. Children and adults alike will enjoy our lively, interactive megillah "reading" and ever-popular carnival. While the event takes place during Religious School, it is open to one and all, though it is geared to children and their families.

Our next **Friday night Shabbat service will be on March 13th at 7:30 p.m.** at the Ashland Community Center. As always, we also invite you to join us afterward for an oneg Shabbat. We will be celebrating the b'not mitzvah of Leah and Rebecca Handelman which will take place the following day.

Mark your calendars for our next Shabbat Live! service on Friday, March 27th at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Live! is a musical and interactive service featuring our own Shabbat Live Band. Come experience our lively twist on a traditional Shabbat service. Filled with festive music and song, this is a service you don't want to miss! As always, an Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

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 or 508-627-0387 for more information. Thank you!

2nd Annual Sha'arei Café

Back by popular demand...

Come join the Sha'arei Shalom community for an Adult only evening of music and fun! Sing or just schmooze as musical members lead us with familiar favorites from the last few decades.

Beer, wine, soft drinks and our Sha'arei Café Songbook will be provided.

*Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
Feel free to bring your instruments if you want to join in.*

At the home of:
Alan and Rachel Lovitz
2 Shady Hollow Path
Ashland

Email lovitza58@gmail.com with any questions

DATE: 3/7/2015 (Sat 7:00PM - 10:00PM)

LOCATION: 2 Shady Hollow Path, Ashland

[Click here to rsvp and to sign up for what you will bring](#)

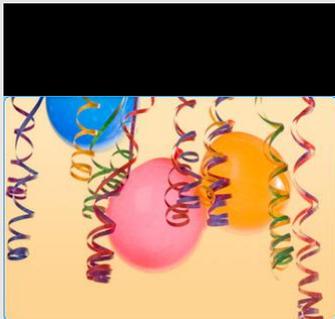
PLEASE RSVP BY WEDNESDAY March 4TH

Religious School Update

by Lisa Clay

March is a busy time at Hebrew School. After some time off in February, we are back to work with a full month of classes - 5 Sundays and 5 Tuesdays. We also have lots going on with holiday celebrations for Purim and Passover and our grades 3-6 participation service.

March 8: Purim Carnival - 10:00 am at Ashland Middle School cafeteria. This is a family celebration and all are welcome. Signup to bring refreshments and prizes: [Purim Carnival 2015](#)



Purim Carnival 2015

Come to our annual Purim Carnival during Hebrew school from 10:00 am - Noon at the Ashland Middle School cafeteria. We will start with the Megillah reading/Sto...

[View on](#)
www.signupgenius.com

Preview by
Yahoo

March 27: Shabbat Live and Grades 3-6 Participation service.

March 29: Model seder 10:00 am (following Learners service)

Looking ahead - important dates:

April 12: 9:00-10:00 am Bar/Bat Mitzvah Information Session for 5th and 6th grade parents

May 12: This Tuesday (previously reserved for makeup due to snow day) will be used for class for grades 3-6, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Our current school committee members have served for quite some time. We are very much in need of new members to help us continue the wonderful education program that we have in place! Please consider volunteering in this important way. A little bit of help goes a long way. You don't need to have an education background to help with logistics.



Our 6th graders leading a Shabbat evening service at Farm Pond Assisted Living as part of the Keshet 13 program

Leah and Rebecca Handelman B'not Mitzvah

Leah and Rebecca Handelman will be called to the Torah as a b'not mitzvah on March 14th. Their parents, Jacob and Jeanne, have this to say about their daughters:

We are so proud and joyful to share that Leah and Rebecca will be called to the Torah on March 14th. We are so proud of their commitment and hard work that went into becoming a Bat Mitzvah. We would like to thank with deep appreciation the Rabbi, the Sha'arei Shalom community and Hebrew school teachers for their warmth and dedication to help the girls reach this milestone. We are so touched that the girls want to further mark this special day by choosing an immersion at a mikveh. We are so proud of how they have embraced Judaism.

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

Member News

Happy 20th Anniversary Toni and Laurence Spitzer, March 12th

Happy 58th Anniversary Linda and Harvey Hecker, March 16th

Monica Weinstein Women's Book Group

by Leslie Jaffe

At our February 1st meeting, we discussed "My Beloved World" by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Our next meeting will take place on March 15th at 10 am, at which time we will discuss "Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern. As always, we will meet at Bodacious Bagels. New members are always welcome, and are invited to contact Leslie Jaffe at jlajfamily@verizon.net with questions.

Happy reading!

Elissa Naiman Evergreen Group

by Sheila Watnick

At the February 24th meeting of the Elissa Naiman Evergreen Group at the home of Sheila Watnick, members celebrated the February birthday of Carole Levison and welcomed Ronni Krashes. With several new members in recent months, we spent time getting to know each other including members' pet peeves.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17th, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Lucy Tannen. Female temple members 60 and over are welcome. Contact 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. 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

We are compiling a list of Bar/Bat Mitzvah information consisting of:

**Venues
Caterers
DJ's**

**Please email Lisa Freedman, LNFkitty2@aol.com with some you've experienced.
It would be nice for Sha'arei Shalom families to have a resource of this kind.**

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, or email ShirJoyMA@gmail.com. Shir Joy is partially funded from a generous grant from Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts.

JCC Grossman Camp Open Houses

Sunday, March 22 (1:30-3:30pm) at [Temple Beth El \(105 Hudson Road\) in Sudbury](#) from 1:30-3:30pm

Sunday, March 29 (12-2pm) at [Temple Israel \(145 Hartford Street\) in Natick](#) from 12-2pm.

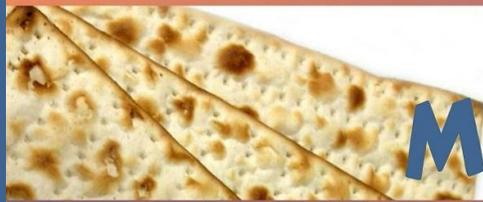
Meet the camp director and staff and learn how JCC Grossman Camp is a place to be active, a place to make friends and a place for building skills and community.

Varied activities give campers ages 4.5 to 15 years old a sense of the world around them—and supportive, experienced staff encourage exploration and growth in this vibrant Jewish camping environment. Located on 75 acres of the Hale Reservation in Westwood.

Bus transportation available from more than 40 communities throughout Greater Boston. Extended day available in Newton (at the Leventhal-Sidman JCC). Financial assistance is available.

No charge for open house. Everyone welcome. A program of the Ryna Greenbaum JCC Center for the Arts.

For more information, visit bostonjcc.org/grossman or call 617-244-5124.



Matzah Matters

REGISTER NOW!

Discover ways of engaging your whole family in the Passover holiday with the **Parenting Through a Jewish Lens** community!

This **free** event includes babysitting and children's holiday-themed activities, while you participate in adult conversation and Passover learning sessions.

Learn how to spice up your seder with leaders in the field!



Rabbi Dan Liben, PTJL instructor and Rabbi at Temple Israel Natick, will lead "The Four Tellings: Making Sense of the Structure of the Haggadah"



Rabbi Jillian Cameron, the director of Interfaith Family Boston, will lead "How to Create an Inclusive Seder for All."

160 Herrick Road - Newton Centre, Mass. 02459 - 617-559.8734

Sunday, March 8, 2015

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

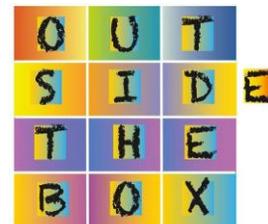
Hebrew College

REGISTER NOW



*Walk-ins will be charged \$10/family

Register by Friday, March 6, for a chance to win an Outside-the-Box art kit!



ART EXPLORATION FOR KIDS

**JFS Healthy Aging
Invites you for Lunch* and Learn:
Wednesday, March 18th**

12:00 to 1:30

Temple Israel

145 Hartford Street in Natick

“Hearing Loss and Aging”

Presented by Leslie McCowan, M.S., CCC-A

**Director of the Audiology Clinic at the Learning Center for the Deaf
in Framingham**

Are you having more difficulty hearing your friends and family? Are your children insisting it's time for hearing aids? Leslie McCowan will discuss hearing loss, communication strategies and what you should know and look for before starting the hearing aid trial process. Ms. McCowan is a licensed and certified Audiologist with almost 30 years of experience and has worked in hospital, ENT, and private practice settings. She will walk you through the process of hearing assessment, hearing aid consultation, and hearing aid purchase, giving you the tools to be an informed consumer.

Kosher lunch is \$3 in advance or \$5 at the door

Register at <https://jfsfmetrowest.wufoo.com/forms/jfs-lunch-and-learn-03182015/>

or call JFS: 508-875-3100 x330

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.

Ryna Greenbaum JCC Center for the Arts

ROCK 'N' SCROLL

The Spirituality of Two Music Icons

A Signature Event of the Jonathan Samen Hot Buttons,
Cool Conversations Discussion Series



Wednesday, March 11 • 7:30pm

An unforgettable evening as two superstars of the music world – E Street Band drummer **Max Weinberg** and Israeli singer/songwriter **David Broza** – perform together! The thrilling evening will also feature an enlightening discussion – moderated by former *Boston Globe* music critic **Steve Morse** – about music, Judaism and the beats that inspire them.

Cost: \$85, \$100, \$118, \$150

(\$150 level includes private reception, autograph session and photos with Max and David)

For more inspirational Jewish music events, visit BostonJewishMusicFestival.org

TICKETS

Purchase tickets at
bostonjcc.org/hotbuttons or
contact boxoffice@jccgb.org
or 617-965-5226.

NOISBOE

JCC

The Jonathan Samen Hot Buttons, Cool Conversations Discussion Series
is underwritten by generous donor support.

SUPPORTER BY
cjp

HADASSAH



Framingham-Natick Hadassah

cordially invites you
to a fun-filled evening to benefit cancer research

HADASSAH



VODKA TASTING & TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, March 28th at 7 p.m.

At the home of Ross and Risa Werblin
16 Dartmouth Drive Framingham, MA

Cost: \$36 per person/\$72 per couple (dinner included)

Please RSVP by March 18th
Send check payable to Framingham-Natick Hadassah to:
Sharon Ginsberg, 2 Hancock Lane, Framingham, MA 01701

Trivia provided by DJ Mike Stacey of Putterboy Productions and Vodka Tasting by Metropolitan Mixology



Have you got your walking shoes ready?

Family Promise Metrowest is excited to announce our

6th Annual *Walk Away Homelessness* Walkathon

SATURDAY, April 11, 2015 on Natick Common, registration opens at 7:45am

Walk begins at 8:30AM

Entertainment, raffle prizes and refreshments to follow post-walk.



Gather a group of colleagues, friends, fellow parishioners, family members, or strangers – ALL AGES WELCOME!

Alternatively, you can sponsor a walker.

TOGETHER WE WILL “WALK AWAY HOMELESSNESS”

This year’s goal is \$80,000 - we need your help!

By participating your proceeds will benefit families who are homeless with housing, job training, healthcare services, transportation and life skills counseling, to name a few.

For details of the day visit our website: www.familypromisemetrowest.org or call 508-318-4820.