



# Sha'arei Shalom

## Monthly Newsletter

May 31, 2013

### Contact Us

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### Upcoming Events

- SHABBAT SERVICE      May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.
- SHABBAT MORNING BAR MITZVAH SERVICE  
June 1<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.
- SHABBAT SERVICE      June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.

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

#### OTHER EVENTS

- Teen Scene Movie Club—June 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.
- Book Group – June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.
- Knitting/Crocheting Circle—June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.
- Evergreen – July 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.

## DUES REMINDER

*For those members who split their annual dues into two payments,  
please remember that the second payment is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*You can contact Mindy at [treasurer@shaareishalom.org](mailto:treasurer@shaareishalom.org) if you are unsure of your balance.*

## Rabbi's Letter by Margie Klein

Dear friends,

I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on my upcoming wedding, invite you to our community celebration, and give you some credit for the joy I am now experiencing.

Twenty-two months ago, I began serving as your rabbi. Shortly thereafter, I met Jeremy Ronkin, my fiancé, whom I am marrying in just a few weeks. Coincidence? I think not!

You see, beginning my work at Sha'arei Shalom was my first real opportunity to use what I had learned in rabbinical school -- to connect with lovable congregants, learn from your good questions, and sing our soulful prayers. By the time my first two services were over, I felt very optimistic that I had made the right choice in coming to work at Sha'arei Shalom and getting to know all of you (and I have only gotten surer over time). After the uncertainty of the job search, I finally felt grounded in a rewarding new path.

In this happy and whole state, I met Jeremy. I'm sure that feeling so good about the rest of my life allowed me to put my best foot forward in this new relationship.

The more I got to know Jeremy and all of you, the more I wanted to introduce you to each other, and connect the two worlds I inhabit. That introduction happened at Lexi Maher's and Leanna Klein's b'not mitzvah on Wachusett Mountain. Our first meeting was an adventure that included a major snow storm in which Jeremy's car was driven into a snow bank, forcing Jeremy to hike up the mountain in his suit, only to find that his car had been towed when he arrived at the b'not mitzvah!

Though this may seem like a rough start, actually, our community wowed us with incredible hospitality and kindness. Robin Maher took time away from her own celebration to make sure the staff helped us locate Jeremy's car, Jane Greenstein took a collection to help us pay to retrieve Jeremy's car from the tow place, and all those present welcomed Jeremy as a member of the Sha'arei Shalom family.

Since then, from b'nai mitzvah invitations to honors when Jeremy comes to synagogue, the community has continued to welcome Jeremy, and to make both of us feel right at home. Feeling such a deep connection with the Sha'arei Shalom community and with Jeremy has made this one of the happiest times of my life, and I thank you for your part in that.

One of the hardest parts of our wedding planning has been the impossibility of inviting all of you to our wedding, since we would so love to share this special occasion in our lives with the whole congregation. Oy! To think of all the beautiful flower girls and boys we're missing out on! Still, we're including you in spirit by actually holding the weekend on Wachusett Mountain, near the site where you all first met Jeremy. Hopefully, this special place will be the scene of an auspicious -- and less snowy -- beginning to our marriage.

And, more important, Jeremy and I both hope that you will join us on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> for the community celebration of our marriage, at 6:30pm at the Community Center (details below). You have welcomed us so warmly into your family, and we want to welcome you into ours.

Warm regards,  
Rabbi Margie

**If you would like to donate a siddur in honor of/in memory of someone or in celebration of an event, please contact Jane Greenstein at [president@shaareishalom.org](mailto:president@shaareishalom.org). The cost is \$36 per Siddur.**

## President's Corner

by Jane Greenstein

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. An additional "shout out" to Bill Ames for putting together the fantastic slide show that chronicled the year. 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.

On this last day of school, the Rabbi charged the students with looking for opportunities over the summer break to live the lessons that they learned this year in school. She spoke of the importance of taking the information and skills one has acquired and putting them into action in the real world. Sha'arei Shalom's activities will slow down a bit over the summer (though we will still have a service in July and another in August). While we are all off doing "summer things," I will try to take on the Rabbi's challenge. I hope you find opportunities to do so as well, hopefully while also having some fun!



7<sup>th</sup> Grade



Kindergarten



1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



4<sup>th</sup> Grade



5<sup>th</sup> Grade



6<sup>th</sup> Grade (with some missing ☹)

**We are currently enrolling for the 2013-14 school year. If you are a current family and have not yet sent in your forms and deposit, please do so now.**

**[2013-2014 School Registration Form](#)**

**If you are a prospective family and would like to learn more about our school, please contact Lisa Clay at [school@shaareishalom.org](mailto:school@shaareishalom.org).**

## Upcoming Services

**On May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m., we will also have a Friday night service** followed by a community oneg. We will be acknowledging the bar mitzvah of Ben Ames, which will take place the following morning.

**On Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m.,** the Ames family invites all members to attend the bar mitzvah service of their son, Ben, at the Ashland Community Center. This is another wonderful opportunity for adults and children alike to experience a **Shabbat morning service in our community.**

**On June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., we will also have a Friday night service** followed by a community oneg. We will be acknowledging the b'not mitzvah of Julia and Lauren Lander, which will take place the following morning.

## Wedding Celebration for Rabbi Margie and Jeremy by Barbara Kleinberg and Sheila Watnick

Sha'arei Shalom invites our members to

### Rabbi Margie and Jeremy's Post-Wedding Picnic

Wednesday, June 26, 2013  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

WHERE:  
Ashland Community Center

[VIEW THIS INVITATION](#)



For seven nights following Rabbi Margie and Jeremy's wedding, there is a special dinner, each culminating with the sheva b'rachot, or seven marriage blessings. We invite our members to share in Sha'arei Shalom's special picnic for young and old alike. Dress in summer favorites, straw hats, bandanas, etc. and come celebrate!

#### PICNIC DECOR

Help in the decorating by providing the following before the picnic begins:

- Picnic blankets
- Picnic baskets, other straw baskets and tin pails
- Glass jars of all sizes, carafes and milk bottles
- Plastic pitchers and thermoses
- Flowers from your garden
- Brightly colored and gingham dish towels

Please deliver all NON-FOOD items to Sheila Watnick's home at 348C Union Street (behind #350) by 3 p.m on June 26<sup>th</sup> or contact Sheila at watnicks@aol.com or Barbara Kleinberg at babsklein1@verizon.net for pick up.

#### FOOD

Home-cooked picnic edibles are the BEST! Share your favorite fish, vegetarian or dairy in an appetizer, main dish, sandwich platter, salad, dessert or beverage (NO NUTS, please!). Plan to serve 10-12 people and indicate your preference when you RSVP.

**RSVP** by Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> using the Evite link above.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Sheila or Barbara at the emails above

### **B'nai Mitzot**

We have many b'nei mitzvot this Spring. We are so proud of all of our young people and look forward to welcoming them as adult members of our religious community!

Cody and Jordan Silverman were called to Torah as b'nai mitzvot on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Their father and stepmother, James and Alyssa Silverman, have this to say about them and that day:

We are so very proud of Cody and Jordan and what they have accomplished becoming B'nai Mitzvah. It was a beautiful day and everything went so smoothly. All of your hard work truly paid off. We know that you will embrace your new responsibility in the Jewish community and continue to pass that along to the next generation. It's hard to believe that you are now thirteen. The years seem to have gone by so quickly. Cody, you have turned into a fine young man. You have a way with words and you're always trying to make everyone laugh. Jordan, you are full of details and always sure to never miss anything. You are kind and compassionate and responsible. Both Cody and Jordan enjoy sports activities, playing in the school band and being a role model for their little brother, Adam. Thank you to the Sha'arei Shalom community for all of their guidance and support throughout the years.

Ben Ames will be called to Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday morning, June 1<sup>st</sup>. His parents, Sharon and Bill Ames, have this to say about him and this upcoming event:

Benny has always made us proud whether it is his school work, his team work on the field or being a good friend to others. We are especially proud of his hard work and dedication in becoming a Bar Mitzvah. His brother and sister had each other as they approached their B'nai Mitzvah, in contrast Benny has been very independent in his studies and his responsibility in working on and writing his D'var Torah. At this age, parents get glimpses of the young man their son might become and we could not be more pleased with his easy smile, his warm laughter and his caring soul. It is with deep appreciation that we thank the Rabbi, teachers and volunteers of the Sha'arei Shalom Hebrew School who have taught and supported our son making this day happen.

Julia and Lauren will be called to the Torah on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Their parents, Rhonda and Lander have this to say about them and this upcoming event:

We are very proud of Julia and Lauren to have achieved this milestone in their Jewish Education. They have taken on this challenge with determination and with their usual sense of pride to accomplish this task. Julia gets good grades in school and has become a very talented flute player and enjoys playing in the school band and also in the Wind Ensemble. Lauren also gets good grades in school and enjoys singing, drama, and dancing.

**Sha'arei Shalom sends a big Mazel Tov to Cody, Jordan, Ben, Julia, and Lauren and their parents on their simchas!**

## Healing Prayers

We wish a full and speedy recovery to Judy Ernest, who is healing after an injury.

We send prayers for continuing healing to member Judy Shapiro, who is recovering from a lengthy illness. Cards and good wishes can be sent to her at home: 659 Main Street, Ashland MA 01721.

We also send healing prayers to former member and board member, Elissa Naiman, who is continuing to undergo treatment for lung cancer. Those who would like to reach out to her can mail her at 16 Indian Spring Road, Ashland 01721 or email her at [elissa.naiman@verizon.net](mailto:elissa.naiman@verizon.net).

## Religious School Update

by Lisa Clay

We are now registering students for the 2013-14 School year. We request registration forms and deposits by June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to help us plan for next year.

[Click Here for 2013-14 School Registration Form](#)

## Relay for Life—Team Members Needed

by Rose Spitzer

Sha'arei Shalom is participating in our 9th Relay for Life. Our team, Sha'arei Shalom Fights Cancer, along with 50+ other teams raises money throughout the year to be ready for the event each June. For 22 hours, on June 15-16, 2013 we walk the track of Ashland Middle School, as a community, celebrating the lives of survivors and remembering those we have lost to the cruel disease that is cancer. There are different activities scheduled throughout the day for people of all ages to enjoy.

Do you have comfortable sneakers, some time on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>, someone to remember who has suffered from Cancer that you would like to honor? We are getting the word out to Sha'arei Shalom and the general Ashland Community **to join us at the Relay For Life on Saturday June 15th through Sunday June 16th at the Ashland Middle School fields**, the same school where Hebrew School is held. Come by **anytime from 11 a.m. through the evening**. The event ends on Sunday June 16 at 8 am.

**Stop by our Sha'arei Shalom Community tent**, bring some food to share, (lunch, dinner, snack items) and catch up with old friends! All are welcome! We are planning to have lots of fun and need Volunteers to help shape the event and get the word out to our Community. Rain or Shine!

Items to bring:

Food/Drinks to share in small coolers - Chairs or blanket to relax on - Strong legs to do some laps

**Please RSVP to Stephanie Marks ([smarkshroncall@comcast.net](mailto:smarkshroncall@comcast.net)) to let us know if we will see you sometime Saturday June 15th!**

Also, please click on the link below to donate to our team

**[Donate to our Relay for Life team](#)**

## Monica Weinstein Women's Book Group

by Cindi Muller

Book Lovers, we look forward to seeing you on June 2nd at Bodacious Bagels at 10am. Our current book is "The Weird Sisters" by Eleanor Brown. We encourage all to join us for a morning of books, breakfast and friends. For more information contact Cindi Muller at [cindimuller@hotmail.com](mailto:cindimuller@hotmail.com).

## Evergreen

by Sheila Watnick

At the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of Evergreen at the home of Irene Ostrow, members shared family health updates, job search progress and upcoming trips either with children planning visits home from New Zealand and Madagascar or members planning trips within the United States. For the second month in a row, all current members were in attendance.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday July 9, at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Sheila Watnick. Female temple members 60 and over are welcome. Contact [evergreen@shaareishalom.org](mailto:evergreen@shaareishalom.org).

## Knitting/Crocheting Circle

by Margot Podtburg and Cindi Muller

After a bit of rescheduling, our crafty knitters/crocheters will be meeting on June 9th at 10am at Toni Spitzer's home. All levels of experience are welcome. Learn to make a prayer shawl for the Helping Hands or a scarf to keep you cozy next winter. Please join us no matter what your skill level. We welcome teens through seniors. Any questions, please contact Cindi Muller at [cindimuller@hotmail.com](mailto:cindimuller@hotmail.com)

## Teen Scene Movie Club

By Zak Weinstein and Alyssa Dver

The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 7-10 p.m. at the Weinstein's house (30 Chestnut Street, Westborough). The group is for all Sha'arei Shalom members ages 13-16. Reconnect with your classmates and friends - have fun and maybe even learn some cool things.

For more information about the group, contact Alyssa via text (7742450181) or email ([alyssadver@verizon.net](mailto:alyssadver@verizon.net)).

## Comfort and Caring Shawls

by Margot Podtburg

The Helping Hands Committee would like to introduce a new way that we can help one another during times of serious illness and challenges. A Comfort and Caring Shawl can be a thin scarf, a shrug, a wide shawl or a lap blanket. What makes it a comfort and sharing shawl is the intentions of the creator. Shawls are made with love and care by a volunteer within our Sha'arei Shalom community for someone within our community. They represent prayers for the recipient's health, joy and peace as well as hopes for comfort for the recipient. The shawls would be delivered to recipients either by the Rabbi or by someone with Helping Hands accompanied by a note explaining the shawl.

If you knit or crochet, you can help by making a shawl. If you are unable to make a shawl, you can still help by providing a gift card so that those of us who can so that we may purchase yarn to create a shawl. Our hope is to have several shawls on hand in case of an immediate need, and then to replenish the shawls as they are distributed. We also have a newly created knitting circle (see below) who can help you learn to knit/crochet and can help you make a shawl for someone you know. If you would like help making a shawl or would like to donate a gift card for supplies, please contact Margot Podtburg at [mpodtburg@hotmail.com](mailto:mpodtburg@hotmail.com).

## Mahjong Anyone?

Jenine Pollack is looking to form a mahjong group. If you know how to play, or are interested in learning, please email her at [jeninepollack@hotmail.com](mailto:jeninepollack@hotmail.com)

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## Babysitting!

We have two young ladies in the congregation who wanted our membership to know they are available for babysitting. They are Etana Handelman and Lexi Maher. Here are their introductions:

Hi, my name is Etana Handelman. I am looking for opportunities to babysit. I have a unique background as I am the big sister of four little sisters and a brother. As a result I have experience with children of all ages including babies and toddlers. I also successfully graduated from the Babysitting training at Ashland Recreation Center which included CPR and first aid. I am free to babysit Tuesdays, Fridays, Sundays, and most Saturdays. If you are interested in my babysitting services please call [508-881-7188](tel:508-881-7188). Thank you, Etana

My name is Lexi Maher. I live on Pennock road and I love children. I am 12 years old and have taken the Red Cross babysitting course. I can babysit on weekends and various weekday nights. Contact me with any questions at:

508-231-0883 or 774-279-6647  
[leximaher@hotmail.com](mailto:leximaher@hotmail.com)

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### American Red Cross Babysitter Training Class

*To provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills; learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe and help children behave; and learn about basic child care and basic first aid. The recommended age for this course is 11-15 years old.*

*Please contact Michelle Levenson for more information (617-529-0429, [mllevenson@verizon.net](mailto:mllevenson@verizon.net))*

Jewish Family Network presents

# Bubble Shabbat in the Woods



at Mary Bunker Park

Friday, June 21 • 5:30-7pm

Designed for families with children 0-5 years  
Vesta Road, Natick (off Route 27, across from Building 19)  
Look for the blue JFN flag

Celebrate Shabbat (welcoming the Sabbath)  
and the first day of summer with Jewish Family Network.

- Bring a picnic dinner.
- We will provide challah and juice
- Entertainment by the Bubble Music Man

No charge.

Limited on-site parking. Off-site parking available.

Register at [bostonjcc.org/metrowestbubble](http://bostonjcc.org/metrowestbubble)

For more information, contact [metrowest@jccgb.org](mailto:metrowest@jccgb.org) or 508-879-3300

In case of inclement weather, contact 508-879-3300 ext. 10  
after 4pm the day of the event.



A PROGRAM OF



BOSTON JCC

PJ Library

SUPPORTED BY  
CJP



Are you an alumnus of CYJ in Amherst, NH (03031)?  
Our newly formed Alumni Association is looking for you.  
Please send a quick e-mail to [alumni@campyoungjudaea.com](mailto:alumni@campyoungjudaea.com) with your name and the years  
you were at CYJ.  
We are looking forward to re-connecting!

## 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.

## 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/>

**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.