



# Sha'arei Shalom

## Monthly Newsletter

### October 2013

#### Contact Us

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#### Upcoming Events

- SHABBAT LIVE! October 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.
- SHABBAT CIRCLE October 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.

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

- Book Group—September 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.
- Teen Scene – October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.
- Apple Picking Outing – Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 p.m.
- Papa Gino's Night—Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.
- Evergreen – October 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.

**It's not too late to enroll in our Hebrew School!**  
**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).**

## Rabbi's Letter

by Margie Klein

Dear friends,

In this week's Torah portion, *Parashat Breishit*, we read that God creates humanity in God's image, *b'tzelem Elohim*.

In a famous debate in the Talmud, the rabbis ask, "What is the most basic principle of the Torah?" What is the core teaching from the Torah on which the rest of Judaism is founded?

Rabbi Akiva's famous answer – similar to Jesus' teaching in the Gospels is – "Love your neighbor as yourself" (from Leviticus 19:18) – that is the most basic principle." But Ben Azzai disagrees, and offers core principles from this week's Torah portion. Ben Azzai says, "I have a greater principle than yours. 'On the day that God made human beings, they were made in the image of God; male and female God created them.' (Genesis 1:27)"

Ben Azzai tells us that everyone is created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God, which means that everyone is holy. Everyone has value. And so we must care for everyone. Akiva tells us to love our neighbors. Ben Azzai demands, through *b'tzelem Elohim*, we must care for everyone, not just our neighbors – not just the people who look or talk or believe like we do. He teaches that our kindness must not depend on our own self-love, but on our understanding that humans are holy, because they are in the image of God. Ben Azzai recognizes that we have a responsibility to all people, because they still have inherent value as beings in the image of God.

This text has real implications in our world today, particularly as the recent recession has forced so many people into low-wage jobs. *B'tzelem elohim* demands that we treat every person, and every worker, with dignity. If a person is willing to work hard for 40 or even 80 hours a week, our tradition demands that that person deserves to paid wages that allow her to pay for her basic needs, like food, rent, and heating. That is simply not possible on \$8/hour. Further, when big companies pay minimum wage, we, the taxpayers, wind up paying the difference in healthcare and other services - to the tune of \$9 billion/year.

To confront this problem, I am working with [Raise Up Massachusetts](#), a coalition of over 100 congregations and 50 community organizations, to put the question of raising the minimum wage on the ballot in 2014. This requires the Herculean task of collecting 100,000 signatures from MA registered voters.

I know there are good people who do not support raising the minimum wage. There are many ways to confront poverty and people approach this issue from many different perspectives. If you feel this way, please know that I respect you and your opinion, and would be glad to talk with you further. Yet, I believe this is an issue where Jewish tradition is clear in its support of a living wage, as a way of honoring the image of God in each of us.

Wherever you stand on the issue of minimum wage, as we read of the creation of humanity in the divine image this week, please think how you can treat those you encounter as *'tzelmei Elohim*, reflections of God. And, if you share my view that *tzelem Elohim* demands that we raise the minimum wage and want to help put this measure on the ballot, please email me at [rabbi@shaareishalom.org](mailto:rabbi@shaareishalom.org), and I will help you get involved in this fun and exciting campaign. Teens welcome!

Blessings,  
Rabbi Margie

## **President's Corner**

by Jane Greenstein

This year marks 18 years since Sha'arei Shalom was founded. It all started when Martin Shapiro put out the call to Jews in Ashland to meet together to discuss the possibility of founding a congregation. The tireless work of many founders resulted in the creation of a religious school and a schedule of services and eventually the hiring of a rabbi. Over the years and with the work of many volunteers, Sha'arei Shalom has grown to be a stable, vibrant congregation, a place where warmth and meaningful connection to tradition, each other, and the greater world are fostered and cherished.

In Jewish tradition, 18 is a special number. In Hebrew the word for Life--Chai (spelled Chet and Yud)--has the numerical equivalent of 18. Life is a of course a key value in Judaism; we are taught to value life, to cherish living. When we make a toast we shout "L'chaim!" "To life!" So the numerical equivalent of chai—18—is considered to be auspicious. 18 (or multiples of 18) are used to wish good luck, specifically luck for a long life. So Sha'arei Shalom's turning 18 is a special, meaningful anniversary. It is an important time to stop and take a moment to celebrate the life that was birthed by our founders and nurtured into maturity by the volunteers and spiritual leaders that have followed.

To past and current members who have given of themselves, thank you for all that you have done to bring Sha'arei Shalom to this point in its development!

Here's looking forward to our next 18 years!

## **Upcoming Services**

**Mark your calendars for our next Shabbat Live! service on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Join us for a family-friendly Shabbat Circle Potluck Dinner on Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** at the Ashland Community Center. Relax with old friends and meet some new ones over Shabbat dinner. Attendees are asked to bring a potluck vegetarian/dairy dish to share.

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! The first oneg coming up that are in need of hosting is December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Jamie Sack at [sack.jamie@yahoo.com](mailto:sack.jamie@yahoo.com) or 508-627-0387 for more information. Thank you!

## **Welcome to New Members**

We extend a warm welcome to two three new member families.

Cliff and Becky Arpino live in Framingham with their two children Evan, a third grader and Gabby, a second grader. Evan loves to play sports and Gabby enjoys soccer and art! They have a dog named Luke and two chickens! Becky is a pre-k teacher and Cliff is a firefighter and owns his own landscaping business. They joined Sha'arei Shalom to connect with the Jewish community in our area.

Jerry and Lori Franzella have lived in Ashland for the past 9 years. They have two children, Jacob, a second grader and Cora, a first grader, who have just started Hebrew School. Jerry is the chief information officer at a toxicology lab in Woburn and Lori is a speech and language pathologist in the Newton Public Schools. The Franzellas are excited to have found the Sha'arei Shalom Community!

Kyle and Jen Parson have lived in Milford, MA for the past 16 years. They have two children, Eva and Ben, both of whom are enrolled in the Sha'arei Shalom Hebrew School. Ben is enjoying his first religious school experience as a second grader, and Eva (now a fifth grader) previously attended religious school at Temple Beth Torah in Holliston. Kyle is a chef for Whitson's Culinary Group, supporting food service in numerous Massachusetts school districts. Jen is an elementary school principal in Northborough, MA. The Parsons are looking forward to becoming part of the Temple Sha'arei Shalom community.

Please say hello to all our new members when you see them!

## **Jack Freedman Bar Mitzvah**

Jack Freedman will be called to Torah as a bar mitzvah on Saturday morning, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. His parents, Lisa and Jeff Freedman, have this to say about him and this upcoming event:

The day is almost here and Jack has grown so. While learning at Sha'arei Shalom about Jewish traditions, reading Hebrew and much more, he will be up on that bimah and make us proud. Besides the wonderful teachers at Hebrew school he has accomplished great strides with his tutor Rhonda Magier-Cohen. Jack takes his responsibilities seriously as well as his activities. He works hard in school, always striving for high honors, and participates in, math club, jazz club and now has earned the title of tech crew manager for the theater department of Walsh middle school. This year he will apply to be part of a leadership program at school as well. Jack's great love is for baseball. Along with loving to pitch he has also trained and umpired for many games over the past few seasons. Although he just sprained his thumb he still wants to go to his games, cheer on his teammates and umpire. Jack is very motivated to achieve great things and set a good example for others as a kind and thoughtful man.

**Sha'arei Shalom sends a big Mazel Tov to Jack and his parents on this simcha!**

## **Siddur Donations**

Thank you to the following who have donated a siddur to the congregation:

- Rhonda, Stu, Julia & Lauren Lander—In memory of loving parents & grandparents Arthur & Anne Matzkin
- Susan Johnston—In memory of her mother, Ann Orenstein Cutler (2 siddurs)
- Jane and Gary Greenstein—In honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Zachary Matthew—October 6, 2012

**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.**

## **Healing Prayers**

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

We send prayers for strength to Jake and Renee Giller and Martin and Judy Shapiro.

We also send healing prayers to former member and board member, Elissa Naiman, who is continuing to undergo treatment for lung cancer.

## **Religious School Update**

by Lisa Clay

We are off to a great start at Hebrew School this Fall. We had a great Sukkot celebration with all classes teaching us about the ushpizin (the guests). We have quite a few new families with lots of new 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders, and even a 5th grader. We are happy to welcome the following families: Fialky, Foss, Franzella, Ginsberg, Herman/Yampolsky, Parson, and Schachter. We now have a total of 45 students in grades K-7.

Please join us for Papa Gino's night on Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring attached flyer and dine at Papa Gino's and 20% will come back to the Hebrew School. This is a great opportunity to socialize and dine together. For those at school on Tuesdays, it is great fun to go right from Hebrew School at 6 pm and have pizza and hang out. For those not there on Tuesdays, join the group at 6 pm or come any time between 4:00 and 9:00 pm. Bring the attached flyer. Feel free to do take out for dinner or lunch the next day. Bring your friends.

[Click here for Papa Gino's Flyer](#)

Looking ahead to October:

Oct 4: 3rd grade and new student consecration (during Shabbat Live service)

Oct.13: No Hebrew School - Columbus Day weekend

Oct.15: Papa Ginos Fundraiser - let's have dinner together at Papa Gino's.

One final note: If you lost a Starbucks travel mug at Sukkot, contact Lisa Clay at [lcc1129@yahoo.com](mailto:lcc1129@yahoo.com).

***Many thanks to Arcadian Farms  
for donating corn stalks for our sukkah this year.  
Please consider giving them your business.  
200 Norfolk Street, Holliston, MA***

## **Apple Picking Outing**

Join us after Hebrew School (around 12:30pm) on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> for an informal apple picking outing at [Highland Farm Orchard](#) in Holliston. Bring your lunch and enjoy it at the farm with Sha'rei Shalom friends. Last year apple prices were \$5 for a small bag and \$28 for a big bag. Questions, contact Jen Gordon at [jen@ethangordon.com](mailto:jen@ethangordon.com)

## **Teen Scene Movie Club**

**By Zak Weinstein and Alyssa Dver**

Our social group for post-b'nei mitzvah teens is starting up again with a **movie night and barbecue on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 -10 p.m.** at the Weinstein's house (30 Chestnut Street, Westborough). The

group is for all Sha'arei Shalom members ages 13-16. We'll start with hamburgers and hotdogs and connecting with each other, then watch a movie together and discuss it afterward. **Please bring \$5** to cover the cost of food.

We hope to see the return of last year's members as well as welcome new participants from last year's bar/bat mitzvah class. 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)).

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

**by Cindi Muller**

Welcome back to the return of our Book Club, meeting monthly to build friendships and connections between the women in our congregation as we discuss our monthly books & share our lives. We will be meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Our book this month is Ann Patchett's "State of Wonder". After a nice long break for the summer, I know we are all looking forward to discussing this book. Please RSVP to Cindi Muller at [cindimuller@hotmail.com](mailto:cindimuller@hotmail.com)

## **Evergreen**

**by Sheila Watnick**

At the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of Evergreen at the home of Barbara Kleinberg, Barbara was surprised with a birthday cake for her special August day. Members gave updates on their lives and families. There is always so much to review.

The next meeting will be on **October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Linda Hecker. Temple female members 60 and over are welcome. Contact [evergreen@shaareishalom.org](mailto:evergreen@shaareishalom.org)

## **Comfort and Caring Shawls**

**by Margot Podtburg**

The Helping Hands Committee has introduced 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.

Many thanks to Cindi Muller for creating a beautiful shawl for our collection!

If you knit or crochet, you, too, 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 do 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).

## **Sha'arei Shalom is co-sponsor of this Jewish Community Event on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there!**

*JCRC of Greater Boston, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Temple Emunah, Temple Isaiah, Temple Shir Tikva of Wayland, Congregation Beth El of Sudbury River Valley, The Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, Temple Beth El of Belmont, Temple Israel of Natick, Sha'arei Shalom Ashland, Temple Beth Israel of Waltham invite you to a*

# **Candidates Forum for the 5th Congressional District**

An opportunity for members of the Jewish community to engage in an open dialogue on issues of foreign and domestic policy with candidates for the congressional seat that was held by former Congressman Edward Markey

*Featuring: State Senator William Brownsberger / State Senator Katherine Clark Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian / Martin Long / Paul John Maisano State Representative Carl Sciortino / Senator Karen Spilka*

**Sunday, September 29th, 2013 6:00-7:30 pm at Temple Emunah 9 Piper Road Lexington, MA 02421**

For more information, contact Kate Saville at 617-423-1177 or [ksaville@charlesgroupconsulting.com](mailto:ksaville@charlesgroupconsulting.com)

*The 5th Congressional district includes the cities and towns of: Arlington, Ashland, Belmont, Cambridge, Framingham, Holliston, Lexington, Lincoln, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Natick, Sherborn, Stoneham, Sudbury, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Weston, Winchester, Woburn, Revere, and Winthrop, and Southborough.*

*As a 501(c) (3) tax- exempt charitable organizations, all event cosponsors are non-partisan and do not endorse or oppose parties or candidates for political office.*

### **Bracelets for a Cause**

This summer Sha'arei Shalom 4<sup>th</sup> grader Abby Gordon (daughter of Ethan and Jen) set a goal of raising \$1,000 for sea turtle rescue. With help from her dad, she launched the website [www.braceletsbyabby.com](http://www.braceletsbyabby.com) and has been hard at work fulfilling orders. If you want to help her meet her goal, please visit her site to order bracelets or make a donation. Half the price of each bracelet (and 100% of donations) will go to the New England Aquarium Marine Animal Rescue team.

### **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)

## Babysitting!

My name is Lexi Maher. I live on Pennock road and I love children. I am 14 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

### 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, [mlevenson@verizon.net](mailto:mlevenson@verizon.net))



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!

### 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.

## **First Annual Mini Golf Event!**



**TEE OFF TO END HOMELESSNESS  
November 2-3, 2013**

**Save the date!**

**Tee Off to End Homelessness is a two-day event to raise awareness of family homelessness in our communities as well as funds for the Family Promise Metrowest Shelter and Transitional Housing Program.**

**Saturday evening, from 7 to 10 p.m., will be adults-only, featuring mini golf, appetizers and beverages from area restaurants, a silent auction and swing analysis by a Golfer's Warehouse golf pro.**

**Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., is open to all ages and will feature fun family activities like face painting, crafts, raffles, mini golf, and big screen demonstrations of new Microsoft gaming toys. Join the fun while raising money for a great cause!**

**To purchase tickets visit our website at [www.familypromisemetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org).**

# MetroWest Jewish Day School

## MAZEL TOTS

Engaging children ages 2 - 4



Crafts, stories, music & snacks!... Free Admission!

Tuesday, September 24 - Celebrate Sukkot

10:00 am

Wednesday, October 16 - Shabbat

Tuesday, November 19 - Chanukah

Please R.S.V.P. To

Wednesday, December 18 - Havdalah Happens

[ceceley.chambers@mwjds.org](mailto:ceceley.chambers@mwjds.org)

Tuesday, January 14 - Tu B'Shvat

Wednesday, February 12 - I Love Being Jewish

Tuesday, March 11 - Purim

300 Pleasant Street

Wednesday, April 9 - Preparing for Passover

Framingham, MA 01701

Tuesday, May 13 - Israel

(508) 620-5554

Tuesday, June 3 - Shavuot

[www.mwjds.org](http://www.mwjds.org)

Get up to \$18,000 toward  
K-8 tuition! See if you qualify [»](#)

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MetroWest Jewish Day School  
300 Pleasant Street  
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701  
508-620-5554



Prozdor of Hebrew College has a long and storied history. Dating back to the late 1920s, Prozdor's rich tradition of excellence in Judaic and Hebrew studies continues well into the 21st century. While the four-day-a-week model of after-school Jewish education is a thing of the past, Prozdor remains the central address for teen learning and engagement in the Jewish community of Boston and southern New England. Prozdor's vision of excellence in teaching, a rigorous text-based curriculum, a wide menu of informal education experiences, and committed and energized students who own their Jewish education remain central to our mission. As Prozdor enters its ninth decade, we continue to refine and update our programs, curriculum and technology-based teaching methods to serve our students and the Jewish community in the most meaningful and compelling way. Whether you are a student, parent, educator, donor or graduate, welcome to Prozdor!

Dan Brosgol, MJEd'04

Director

<http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/prozdor-forms-and-important-information>

- 2013-14 Prozdor calendar
- Flyer for the Grades 8/9 Shabbaton in October
- Registration form for the Grades 8/9 Shabbaton
- Counselor application for the Grades 8/9 Shabbaton (for 11th and 12th graders)
- Flyer for AIPAC teen leadership summit,
- Form for December 9th grade Israel trip
- Form for 10th grade hosting of Israelis from Reali
- Flyer for August new student orientation
- Branch dinner registration form (Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Havayah Fellowship Information

## Dror Leadership High School

This is a semester study abroad program for 10th and 11th graders which will take place in the lovely northern town of Karmiel. The American students will have their own English speaking classes within an Israeli high school in order to encourage them to create bonds with Israeli peers and understand life in Israel. Along with their academic studies students will learn Hebrew, Jewish History, Israeli Society, and take part in a weekly field trip as well as regular volunteering projects. Our aim is to have students connect to Israel and develop as Jewish leaders during their time here which they can then bring to their home communities.

If you would like more information, visit our website at [www.drorleadership.org](http://www.drorleadership.org).



The Boston Jewish Film Festival

November 6th- November 18th, 2013

September 23, 2013

Stay up to date with  
The Boston Jewish Film Festival  
at [www.bjff.org](http://www.bjff.org)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

View life through a  
different lens

добрo 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.