



Sha'arei Shalom

Monthly Newsletter

March 2014

Contact Us

www.shaareishalom.org

508-231-4700

P.O. Box 454

Ashland, MA 01721

email: info@shaareishalom.org



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Upcoming Events

- SHABBAT SERVICE March 14th @ 7:30 p.m.
- PURIM CELEBRATION AND CARNIVAL
March 16th 10:00 am-noon
Ashland Middle School
- SHABBAT SERVICE March 28th @ 7:30 p.m.
Religious School Grade 3,4, and 5 participation service

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

- Teen Scene – March 8th @ 7:00 p.m.
- Book Group – March 23rd @ 10:00 a.m.
- Evergreen – March 26th @ 7:30 p.m.

Membership renewal forms and dues were expected by January 31st. If you have not already sent them in, please do so asap.

[Click here for website link to the membership form](#)

Mail to: P.O. Box 454, Ashland, MA 01721.

Rabbi's Letter

by Margie Klein

In Jewish time, we are headed for Purim, the celebration of the Jews' triumph more than twenty-three hundred years ago over the king of Persia's genocidal decree.

Purim invites us to focus on identity. In the story, we read of Queen Vashti's refusal to dance naked before the King and his friends, asserting her identity not just as a wife and entertainer, but also as a woman of independent will. Then, Queen Esther hides her identity as a Jew, and then uses it to save the Jews only after she has become queen. And, we are invited to wear costumes that bring out sides of ourselves that we rarely show to the world.

This is a time to ask ourselves how the many aspects of our own identities play out in our lives. How do I act in different situations? Are there parts of my identity that I want to bring out more fully? Are there parts of myself that I want to keep more private, or only reveal at certain times, or to certain people? How much do I let the circumstances around me determine who I am, or who I can be?

It is in the context of these questions that I want to share a story I heard yesterday from a woman I know, whom I'll call Eve. Though Eve fantasized since childhood about marriage, she and her husband Jay have had challenges since they got married five years ago. Over time, Eve found that all the things she used to do - daydreaming, dancing, reading gardening magazines, volunteering - were now rare, as she was spending so much time working and being a wife. Eve felt lost.

Then, a year ago, Jay and Eve decided to buy a house as a step toward more fully committing to their marriage and Eve threw her energy into preparations for her first-ever garden. But, six months later, Jay told Eve he felt their relationship wasn't working -- that he no longer felt romantic feelings for her. Eve moved out, to take some time for herself while they figured out what to do next.

Moving into her tiny new apartment, Eve was deeply sad for her marriage. Yet, what surprised her was that, amidst all the loss she now faced, she couldn't stop thinking about how sad she was that she wouldn't be able to plant vegetables and flowers in her new backyard. Amidst the challenges of her marriage, Eve had poured all of her hope into her the possibility of a garden, and now that was gone, too.

After a week of moping, Eve came across a website on apartment gardening, on how to grow herbs and flowers in window sills, and cultivate small trees indoors. Soon Eve was spending hours trimming and watering her plants, and also found energy to take a few dance classes. Slowly, Eve started feeling like herself again.

Seeing her looking much happier, her husband recently asked her if they could take another shot at their relationship. As of yesterday, Eve hadn't decided. But she has decided that wherever she is, whatever role she takes on - wife, mom, health professional - she doesn't want to lose those parts of herself that make her happy.

Hearing this story, I was inspired by the way that a terrible situation helped Eve figure out how to act for herself and figure out what she really needed. Sometimes, in fitting into the roles we believe we're supposed to play, we can lose track of who we really are. Even when it's roles like spouse or parent that we fervently want to play, denying the key pieces of who we are usually ends up leaving everyone less happy. In some ways, I think this happened to Queen Esther, too, in the Purim story. Only in the face of catastrophe could Queen Esther remember who she was and then rise to being her fullest and most courageous self.

Though I hope none of us face anything as trying as Queen Esther or Eve's situations, I pray that we may all find ways to locate and live out all the parts of ourselves that make us feel most alive. May we all remember that we are more than any one role, and will be most joyful when we give space for all parts of ourselves to shine.

Warm regards,
Rabbi Margie

President's Corner

by Jane Greenstein



Last month, Sha'arei Shalom hosted our first ever Sha'arei Café—an “adult night out” of good music, good food and good company. Many thanks to Sharon and Jim Prybyla for opening their home and to our musician members Alyssa Dver, Ethan Gordon, Ari Kaufman, Jim Murray, Jim Prybyla, and Jeff Weinstein for leading our sing-alongs to old favorites from the 60's and on. What a warm evening in the middle of a cold winter! Just another example of what makes Sha'arei Shalom the special community that it is.

Upcoming Services and Holiday Celebrations

On **Friday March 14th**, join us for a **traditional Friday night service with a Purim flair at 7:30 p.m.** at the Ashland Community Center. Come as you are or come in costume! (Please note that the Shabbat Live previously scheduled for this evening unfortunately had to be cancelled.)

Mark your calendar! On **Sunday March 16th**, 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.

On **Friday March 28th**, join us for a **traditional Friday night service at 7:30 p.m.** at the Ashland Community Center. Our grade 3, 4, and 5 Religious School students will be helping to lead the service with Rabbi Margie. As always, we also invite you to join us afterward for an oneg Shabbat.

We are currently in need of oneg sponsors for July 25th, and August 22nd. 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!

Religious School Update

by Lisa Clay

Congratulations to grades 1, 2 and 6 on a wonderful job participating in the Feb.28th Shabbat service! It is great to see how our students get started and how far they come by grade 6. They all did a great job and had fun doing it. Thank you also to our wonderful teachers - Sara, Lucy and Steve. We look forward to the March 28th service in which grades 3, 4 and 5 will participate - families make note!

We are also looking forward to our Purim Celebration at 10:00 am on March 16th in the cafeteria at the Ashland Middle School. We hope all of you will join us in celebrating. More info will be sent out in separate email to families about the plans and need for contributions for the party.

Spring is around the corner! Really it is! So hang in there! Don't forget about daylight savings time next week, March 9th! We have a 10:00 am start for grades 2-6 next week so plenty of time to adjust to the loss of the hour.

Don't forget to order your own personalized Haggadahs. Just visit www.PersonalizedHaggadahs.com and select **MA Ashland Sha'arei Shalom** from the "pull down" menu at checkout. Personalized Haggadahs are just \$11.50 and we receive 20% credit for your Haggadah order (there are no minimums)! Your personalized Haggadahs will be shipped directly to you within weeks (there's guaranteed delivery prior to Passover for those late orders). You can view the Haggadah directly online at www.PersonalizedHaggadahs.com or see Lisa Clay to see a hard copy!

Link to homework for the school: <http://www.shaareishalom.org/hebrew-school/homework-assignments/>

Teen Scene Movie Club

By Zak Weinstein and Alyssa Dver

Our social group for post-b'nei mitzvah teens will meet on **Saturday March 8th from 7:00-10:00** at the Weinstein's house (30 Chestnut Street, Westborough). As usual, we will be watching a movie and discussing it afterward. This time we will enjoy ice cream sundaes as well. Bring a topping to share!

The group is for all Sha'arei Shalom members ages 13-16. We look forward to seeing the return of last year's members as well as welcome new participants from last year's bar/bat mitzvah class. For more information about the group, contact Alyssa via text (7742450181) or email (alyssadver@verizon.net).

Monica Weinstein Women's Book Group

by Cindi Muller

We will be meeting on March 23rd at Bodacious Bagels at 10am to discuss our March book selection "Longbourn" by Jo Baker. This is a historical fiction piece placed in the world of Jane Austen's "Pride & Prejudice". We hope to see all of our old members & welcome some new members there. This is a group of women within our congregation who enjoy sharing their love of books together. Please feel free to join us even if you haven't had time to finish the book. New people are always welcome at our group. Anyone with questions should contact Cindi Muller at cindimuller@hotmail.com

Evergreen

by Sheila Watnick

At the February 25th meeting at the home of Sheila Watnick members celebrated Carole Levison's birthday. One member shared her family's trip to NYC where they celebrated her husband's birthday and were delighted to see her oldest grandchild's apartment on none other than Wall Street! Another talked about her new job as head of admissions at a modern Jewish Orthodox girls day school where she combines a great deal of her past professional experience into a very fulfilling part-time position (which will hopefully double in hours in the next fiscal year).

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Lucy Tannen. Female temple members 60 and over are invited to attend. Contact 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.

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 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

Bracelets for a Cause

This summer Sha'arei Shalom 4th 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 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

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)

MWJDS and JFN
Present






Pj Library

Purim Palooza with Jenny the Juggler

Sunday, March 9 • 10-11:30am

Potter Road School
492 Potter Road, Framingham

\$15/family; Walk-ins: additional \$5

Designed for families with children ages 2-5 years

Come in **costume** and join **Jenny the Juggler** for the happiest of holidays. After the show, make **Purim Mishloach Manot** (holiday baskets), eat **hamantaschen** (Purim pastries) and learn about the Purim tradition of giving.

Register at bostonjcc.org/MetrowestPurim2014

For more information, contact metrowest@jccgb.org
or 508-879-3300.



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Metrowest Jewish Community Center
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The 5th annual Boston Jewish Music Festival begins on Sunday, Feb. 23rd and runs through March 28th—five weeks of great Jewish music and performers. This year’s Festival includes the legendary Theodore Bikel, Israeli star Dudu Tassa, a family concert featuring The Mama Doni Band, and an inspiring new work based on the amazing story of the Sarajevo Haggadah. Tickets are available through the BJMF web site:
www.bostonjewishmusicfestival.org.”

Bestselling Author Jodi Picoult at JCC in Newton

Jodi Picoult, author of numerous New York Times bestsellers, will discuss her latest novel, *The Storyteller*, at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center (333 Nahanton Street) in Newton on **Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30pm**. Picoult is the author of 19 novels, including *Sing You Home*, *House Rules*, *Handle With Care*, *Change of Heart*, *Nineteen Minutes*, and *My Sister's Keeper*. The conversation will be moderated by bestselling author Caroline Leavitt (*Pictures of You*). Cost is \$18. Open to the entire community. Co-sponsored by Hadassah. The program is part of the Ryna Greenbaum JCC Boston Jewish Literary Series. Purchase tickets at www.bostonjcc.org/artsevents or contact boxoffice@jccgb.org or 617-965-5226. Join in a free facilitated discussion about the book prior to the author's visit on February 26 at 7:30pm at the same location. Registration required at 617-558-6480.

Café Achshav at Temple Israel of Natick, March 9

On Sunday, March 9, 7:15 – 9:15 p.m., Temple Israel of Natick presents Café Achshav, featuring songs by Jewish composers from the Great American Songbook. Featured performers will be vocalist Belle Halpern, pianist Ron Roy, bassist Greg Loughman, saxophonist Teddy Casher and pianist David Sparr.

Adult Admission: \$20.00 in advance; \$25 at door. Youth Admission \$10.00. Contact Temple Israel of Natick, 508-650-3521 x100, office@tiofnatick.org, for more information.

Enjoy warmth, friendship and iconic American eats!



NEWTON CULTURAL CENTER
At City Hall

Zamir Chorale

A Community Sing

Handel's
Judas Maccabaeus

Director: Joshua Jacobson

Sunday, March 9, 1:30pm
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton MA 02459

Choral singers of all levels are invited to join members of the Zamir Chorale of Boston and pianist Edwin Swanborn, to sing favorite choruses from Handel's Judas Maccabaeus, including "Hallelujah, Amen" and "See the Conquering Hero." Bring your own score or use one of ours. Contributions welcome.

www.newtoncommunitypride.org



**FRAMINGHAM'S TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM PRESENTS TWO NEW PROGRAMS FROM NEW YORK'S
92ND STREET Y**

The United States, Iran and Israel: What Next?



MICHAEL DORAN
in conversation with Warren Kozak

Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Temple Beth Sholom, 50 Pamela Road, Framingham, MA 01701
Admission \$5, Refreshments Available
Emcee: Jordan Rich of WBZ Radio

The United States embarked on an historically unprecedented engagement with Iran at a moment when the Middle East has never seemed more volatile and unpredictable. What has it achieved? Join us in this pre-recorded program from February 11, 2014 as journalist and author Warren Kozak interviews acclaimed Middle East expert Michael Doran. Dr. Doran has served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense and a senior director at the National Security Council. He writes and lectures widely on the Middle East.

Robert Wagner with Liz Smith: You Must Remember This



Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 3:00 PM
Temple Beth Sholom, 50 Pamela Road, Framingham, MA 01701
Admission \$5, Refreshments Available
Emcee: Jordan Rich of WBZ Radio

The legendary actor and bestselling author takes a nostalgic look back at Hollywood's golden age-the mythic figures, the legendary stars, the houses and haunts of the elite. With a career spanning more than five decades, few actors are more qualified to recount this glamorous Hollywood era than Robert Wagner, the star of such films as *A Kiss Before Dying*, *The Longest Day* and *The Pink Panther*. Liz Smith calls herself "the 2000-year-old gossip columnist." She has worked in celebrity/show biz for 57 years. Join us in this pre-recorded program from March 11, 2014

Now, you can enjoy lectures, interviews, panels and readings featuring newsmakers, political figures, opinion-shapers and authors right here at Temple Beth Sholom, the MetroWest home of Live from NY's 92nd Street Y™. Join some of the world's most fascinating people for compelling and thought-provoking discussions on the issues and events that affect our lives. While some programs we present are pre-recorded, others are broadcast live with opportunities for questions and answers as if you were in the New York audience. Close to 200 people attended our first 92nd Street Live program in December. Join us on March 30th for our third viewing.

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/>

Temple Etz Chaim welcomes the community to join us March 7, 8 and 9 for a weekend of study when we host Rabbi Amy Scheinerman as Scholar in Residence. Rabbi Scheinerman is an energetic and engaging speaker. Her style of teaching is interactive and she specializes in teaching Talmudic texts that respond to universal human concerns with uniquely Jewish insights. The Oral Tradition comes alive and participants experience its vibrancy and wisdom. Programming is as follows:

Friday evening, March 7, 7:30 p.m., First Universalist Society, 262 Chestnut St., Franklin. During Erev Shabbat service, Rabbi Scheinerman will discuss [Ancient Wisdom for Modern Relationships: Building a Better Us](#)

Saturday morning, March 8, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at the temple building, 900 Washington Street, Franklin. Rabbi Scheinerman will address issues of [Human dignity: reality or lip service?](#) Breakfast will be provided.

Saturday evening, March 8, 6:30 p.m. at the temple building, 900 Washington Street, Franklin. We will hold a program for teens which will include, pizza, rugelach baking and study with Rabbi Scheinerman. Her topic this evening will be [Can Leaders and Politicians Play Nicely in the Sandbox?](#)

Sunday morning, March 9, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at Medway High School, 88 Summer Street, Medway. Rabbi Scheinerman will address issues relating to [Siblings: Competitors? Companions? Confidantes?](#) Breakfast will be provided.

There is no fee for any part of this weekend programming. RSVP is requested in order to plan for sufficient food. Contact the temple office to RSVP or for any questions at (508) 528-5337.

To learn more about Rabbi Amy Scheinerman, visit <http://scheinerman.net/judaism>

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.

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.



Prozdor Open House Sunday, March 2, 2014

Prozdor, with its enrollment of 500 students, is the largest community Hebrew high school in the country. Come and see what all the excitement is about!

Please join us for our first open house on Sunday March 2 at Hebrew College's campus in Newton Centre, located at 160 Herrick Road.

9:45-10:15am Tour of Campus and Class Visits
10:20-11:05am Prozdor Student Panel Discussion
11:10-11:35am Mini-Lessons with Prozdor Teachers

Please RSVP to Evan Parks, Recruitment Coordinator, at eparks@hebrewcollege.edu or 617-559-8815

Get more information about Prozdor by visiting our website www.prozdor.org

Prozdor of Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton, MA 02459
617-559-8815



COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Combined Jewish Philanthropies awards grants and interest free loans to students who reside in the Greater Boston CJP service area.

Awards...

Awards generally range between \$1,000 and \$6,000. Applicants are considered on the basis of economic need and are expected to have exhausted all other available resources including college financial aid awards as well as federal, state and other private funds.

Who...

Undergraduate students attending two-year or four-year accredited institutions as well as vocational certificate programs are eligible to apply. Under certain circumstances, some one-year Israel programs are considered. Greater Boston residency requirements apply, and independent students must have spent at least two full years as a resident of the area. Primary consideration is given to Jewish students. International students qualify to apply if they have an I-551C, I-551 or I-94 status. (Student visas are not acceptable.)

When...

The application deadline is **April 30th** for undergraduate students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year. For fall freshmen, the deadline is **May 15th**.

How...

To request an application please go to:

<https://careermoves.wufoo.com/forms/request-for-cjp-scholarship-application-20142015/>
or email scholarship@jvs-boston.org

Administrative Offices:

Jewish Vocational Service

29 Winter Street, 5th floor

Boston, MA 02108

Phone: 617.399.3100 Fax: 617.451.9973

TTY: 617.451.1469

<http://www.jvs-boston.org>

Scholarship@jvs-boston.org



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The Taglit-Birthright Israel program has expanded eligibility for its free 10-day trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18-26. Teenagers who went on an educational trip to Israel during high school were previously not eligible for Birthright trips, but can now participate!

Explore Israel on a Taglit-Birthright Israel: Shorashim-JNF Israel Adventure Trip. Put your name on our JNF Friends and Family list and we'll send you more information as registration begins. Email us at education@jnf.org.

With Shorashim and JNF you experience the awesome adventure of Israel from the inside, through the eyes and hearts of Israeli peers. Travel for 10 days with Israeli friends and staff who share the beauty, excitement and complexities of their country with you.

Shorashim is also the official trip provider for Alexander Muss High School in Israel alum! Make sure you go back to Israel with your AMHSI friends!

Registration for this FREE spring or summer trip opens at 10AM EST on February 19, 2014.

This trip is a gift from Taglit-Birthright Israel. For more information or to sign up, visit israelwithisraelis.com.