



THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF  
THE MONADNOCK REGION.

January/February 2024

# The Bulletin

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(603) 460-5410

## From the Rabbi's Desk

*Dear Friends,*

### Changing the World One Candle and One MLK Jr. Day Speaker at Time

To inaugurate this first bulletin edited by Robin Sylvern, a selfless and compassionate volunteer and friend, I would like to share highlights from our inspiring menorah lighting in December and, also, invite you to attend a community gathering on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, that will further inspire all of us to engage in acts of selflessness and compassion.

I am writing this article the day after our community Hanukkah menorah lighting at the Keene Family Y, which was held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 Tevet 5784, the eighth and final night of Hanukkah. Though our event was moved from Keene's Central Square to the Y's gym to minimize the chances that an anti-Israel group would show up to protest, this second annual community celebration of Hanukkah was no less impactful than the first.

*(continued on page 2)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

CAA Book Club .....3  
Keshet Committee Events .....6

*See inside for details.*

## January/February 2024

Jan 3	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Jan 4	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan 6	Torah Study	9:30am
Jan. 7	Religious School	9:30am
Jan 10	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Jan 10	CAA Board Meeting	7:00pm
Jan. 12	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan. 13	Torah Study	9:30am
Jan 14	Religious School	9:30am
Jan 17	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Jan 18	Comm. Kitchen	4:45pm
Jan 19	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan 20	Torah Study	9:30am
Jan 21	Religious School	9:30am
Jan 24	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Jan 25	Tu B'Shevat	
Jan 26	Timely Topics	11:00am
Jan 26	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan 27	Shabbat & Torah Service	9:30am
Jan 28	Religious School	9:30am
Jan 31	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Feb. 2	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Feb 3	Torah Study	9:30am
Feb 4	Religious School	9:30am
Feb 7	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Feb 9	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Feb 10	Shabbat Service	9:30am
Feb 11	Religious School	9:30am
Feb 11	Super Bowl Party	6:00pm
Feb 14	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Feb 15	Comm. Kitchen	4:40pm
Feb 16	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Feb 17	Torah Study	9:30am
Feb 18	No Religious School	
Feb 21	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am
Feb 23	Timely Topics	11:00am
Feb 23	Friday Night	7:00pm
Feb 24	Torah Study	9:30pm
Feb 25	Religious School	9:30pm
Feb 27	Coffee Hour	11:00am
Feb 28	100 Nights Breakfast	6:00am

With over sixty Jews and others in attendance, CAA shared with our neighbors the message of light, hope, and peace that the ancient rabbis saw as Hanukkah's true significance. It was clear to me that the members of CAA are not the only ones seeking light, hope, and peace. As Israel's war with Hamas rages on, as does the war between Russia and Ukraine, as humanity suffers the effects of global warming, and as social and political divisiveness continues to pervade our nation's discourse, all of us are searching for pathways toward a brighter future.



Rabbi Aronson

In my introduction to our candle lighting ceremony, which was based on a ceremony created by the American Jewish World Service, I offered the following reflection:

*Each year, the Chanukah story reminds us that there is light even in the darkest of times. Our*

*Tradition beckons us to act in the face of the challenges before us: To have courage in the face of fear, to have hope in the face of anguish, to believe that good can triumph. Our world has faced innumerable obstacles this year-but just as our ancestors did, together we can seek out the light in our world. Where there is no light, we will create our own sparks.*

Following this introduction, several individuals from CAA and the wider community each shared one of the following reflections as they illuminated one of the eight lightbulbs atop our 6' tall menorah:

**First Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark CHANGE. Let this light inspire us to change our world.*

**Second Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark JOY. In savoring this tradition, let us celebrate courage and survival.*

**Third Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark DIGNITY. Let us work to uphold the inherent worth of every human being.*

**Fourth Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark GENEROSITY. Let us give to others – from our families and friends to people in need around the globe.*

**Fifth Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark COMMUNITY. Let us deepen our relationships and expand our circles to build kinship with people whose lives and views are different from our own.*

**Sixth Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark ACTION. Let us raise our voices together to fight injustice all around us.*

**Seventh Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark JUSTICE. Let us rededicate ourselves to tikkum olam – working to repair what's broken.*

**Eighth Light:** *By kindling this light, I spark HOPE. Let us persevere in our belief that a better world is possible.*

To close the ceremony, I shared my prayers that “each of us, in our own way, create new sparks to shine the light of love and understanding on ourselves and all the peoples of the Earth” and that “our words and deeds bring all humanity closer in kinship and peace”. Though these prayers are my own, they are inspired in part by the teachings of Father Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who founded and directs Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest agency in the world dedicated to gang intervention and rehabilitation.

It was very much Fr. Greg's spirit of love, tenderness, and kinship with the downtrodden that I was channeling as I spoke and prayed at our community menorah lighting.

As the coordinator of this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day event for the City of Keene's Human Rights Committee, I have invited Fr. Greg Boyle to speak at Heberton Hall at the Keene Public Library at 6pm on Monday January 15<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Greg will speak to civic leaders, faith leaders, and students earlier in the day and will be accompanied by two of his homeboys, young men whose lives he helped transformed. I cannot encourage you strongly enough to attend Fr. Greg's Speech.

(continued on page 6)

## A Letter from the President

*Dear Congregation,*

### ISRAEL

I am filled with ambivalent feelings regarding the war in Israel. My feelings include rage, anger, fear, sadness, and profound disappointment.

Yet, I am also gratified to see the Jews of the world united. I want to explain my feelings further in this message.

I am so enraged by Hamas' barbaric atrocities committed on October 7th. These barbarisms included the following: killing over 1400 innocent civilians, kidnapping hundreds of civilians, raping women, and children, burning, decapitating, and even baking babies in ovens. It's too horrifying to comprehend. It reminds me of the atrocities of the Holocaust. Jews were treated as less than animals, not as human beings – then, and now. I feel betrayed by my fellow citizens of America who have consistently advocated for the rights of others and championed the causes of marginalized populations. When Jews were attacked on October 7th, these people became suddenly quiet, claiming that Israel doesn't have a right to defend itself. These good-intentioned folks advocate for a cease fire, not understanding that that would mean that Hamas would continue to be an ongoing threat to Israel. People of this mindset are focusing on the civilian casualties of the Palestinians in Gaza and are not focusing on the unprovoked October 7th brutal attack and therefore Israel's need to defend itself. Why aren't these people advocating for Jews? It is strange that I also advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ community, for women, for Asians, and Blacks; I promote environmental causes. I actively campaign for housing for everyone; I have compassion toward animals, etc. But I part company with many Americans (and citizens of the world) who do not include advocacy for the Jews of the world in their list of noble causes.



*Roye Ginsberg*

Antisemitism on college campuses has been encouraged by an astonishingly large number of professors, administrators, and students. Facts about Israel have been completely distorted. There seems to be a lack of moral clarity when it comes to the right of Jews to survive.

I am outraged by the response of the United Nations. In the UN Security Council's voting for a cease fire, only the United States voted against this motion. Great Britain abstained. All the other countries voted in favor of the cease fire. I interpret this vote to mean that most of the countries of the UN desire Israel not to exist. That's a sobering thought. The UN has had a long history of biased and preposterous decisions directed at Israel. It's disheartening.

I personally feel depressed about the situation for world Jewry. We feel fear caused by the antisemites of the world. Half of the Jews in the world live in Israel. Israel is the Jews' primary defense against these antisemites. If Israel had existed during the 1930s, perhaps the Holocaust would not have occurred. If Israel didn't exist as the Jewish country now, the rest of the Jews of the world would be less safe. We as Jews feel overwhelmed by the casualties of October 7th. Of course, I feel compassion for all innocent victims and their families for their losses. But the threat of Hamas is all too real.

Yet, I wish to end this address on a positive note. I feel a renewed sense of solidarity with Jews (from Reform to Orthodox) who appear to be unified against our common enemy, Hamas. We want to defend Israel, and we recognize that we are one mishpacha.

*Am Yisrael Chai.*

Most sincerely yours,

*Roye Ginsberg*

## Congregation Ahavas Achim



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*Rabbi Daniel Aronson*

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## Religious School Shababat

**Friday January 26, 2024**

Come hear about the Jewish Heroes our 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about. All students will participate in the Friday night service at 7pm. Dinner for all religious school families and teachers will be at 6pm.

RSVP to Daniella: [office@keenesynagogue.org](mailto:office@keenesynagogue.org)

By Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Kesher Events January/February

1/27 & 2/27 at 11:00am: Rabbi's Coffee hour at Brewbakers

1/27: Following services with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their families, we will have a game day in the social hall. Bring favorite board games, puzzles, and spend a cold winter afternoon having fun. Please bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share.

2/11: Come enjoy Super Bowl Sunday, share your team spirit as we cheer on the teams playing while we compete for the prize of the winning chili entry during our first vegetarian chili cookoff.

Watch the weekly emails for details and how to volunteer to help.

Contact Robin Kost at [Rokenda@hotmail.com](mailto:Rokenda@hotmail.com)

## Ahavas Achim Office Hours

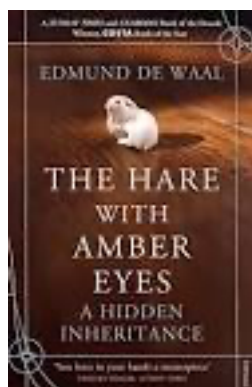
Regular office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and at other times by arrangement.

Please email Daniella if you need assistance at [office@keenesynagogue.org](mailto:office@keenesynagogue.org) or call 603-933-3259.

Find us on [Facebook.com/AhavasNH](https://www.facebook.com/AhavasNH).

Check out our website at  
[www.keenesynagogue.org](http://www.keenesynagogue.org)

## Join the CAA Book Discussion



Come to the next CAA Book Club meeting!

The next meeting of the CAA Book Club will be on Sunday, February 4, 2024, at the synagogue. There will be coffee and bagels at 10:15 a.m. and our discussion will start at 10:30.

The book we'll be discussing is The Hare with the Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance by Edmund De Waal. The book, which was published in 2010, traces the history of one of Europe's notable Jewish families, the Ephrussis. De Waal, who is British, is a recognized artist and ceramicist and a descendant of this family. The common thread of the story is a priceless Japanese Netsuke collection that was passed down through generations and saved by a loyal family employee from confiscation by the Nazis. This book has won many awards.

The book is reasonably priced on Amazon and is available in audio format and on Kindle. It is available at the Keene Public Library, as well as at Toadstool.

Hope to see you on February 4<sup>th</sup>!



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### Are You Getting the Weekly Synagogue Email?

A mass mailing to CAA members and other interested parties provides info on upcoming services and other events. This email is sent out every Tuesday or Wednesday. Additional emails are sent when there's news that can't wait.

If you're not receiving the weekly email, call the CAA office and ask to be added. It's the way to keep up to date in between *Bulletins*.

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*continued from page 2*

In his best-selling books *Tattoos on the Heart* and *Barking to the Choir*, Fr. Greg shares story after story of the power of love and tenderness to heal shattered hearts and build lives of meaning. While Fr. Greg approaches the world as a devout Jesuit and writes through the lens of a particular version of Catholic theology, nothing that he teaches is inaccessible to anyone with an open heart. As a rabbi and as an imperfect human being, I do not yet share his radical, unconditional approach to love, tenderness, kinship, and forgiveness that animates his work. The approach of Judaism that I've internalized through life and learning reflects the wariness of a people whose historical experience in a cruel world leads us to tolerate limits on the values that, for Fr. Greg, know no limits. Yet, I am so blown away by Fr. Greg's integrity and consistency – and his track record of turning lives around – that I am motivated to find glimpses of his absolute open – heartedness within my own tradition. I can't help but think I will be a better person if I succeed, and that the world will be a better place. When you hear Fr. Greg Speak on January 15<sup>th</sup>, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about.

The prophet Zechariah envisions a messianic age that is brought about “not by might, nor by power, but by God's spirit” (4:6). The words of Fr. Greg Boyle, no less than the words of the prophet Zechariah, which we read in the haftarah for Hanukkah, should motivate each of us to live by that spirit. Finding that spirit and making it our own is what is required to create the sparks talked about at our community menorah lighting: sparks of change, joy, dignity, generosity, community, action, justice, and hope.

*Bivrachot/With blessings,*

*Rabbi Dan*

## 40 Years of Action

The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College is celebrating a major milestone: their 40th anniversary. In 1983, the Center began as a collection of books and resources brought together by Dr. Charles Hildebrandt, who coined the mission “to remember...and to teach.” Since that time, the Center has continued to expand their work and has offered transformative programs for the purpose of building a better world.

The Cohen Center has been celebrating with a special slate of events and offerings during the 2023-2024 academic year, designed to lift up its ongoing importance and impact. The final major event is:

The Genocide Awareness Lecture featuring Loung Ung on April 3, 2024.

These events are all free and open to the public, but tickets are limited and must be reserved in advance. For more information, please see the Center's website:

[www.keene.edu/cchgs](http://www.keene.edu/cchgs)

The Cohen Center relies on the support (financial and otherwise) of community members and organizations that believe in their mission. If you are interested in making a financial gift to support their high-impact programs, please consider becoming a sponsor for the 40th anniversary. You can learn more about sponsorship opportunities and benefits by visiting this page:

<https://giving.keene.edu/cchgs-40th/>

## *Deep Dive into Jewish Prayer with Rabbi Dan*

Thursday evenings, 2/1-4/4



In this 10-week course, we will dive into the history, structure, and meaning of Jewish prayer.\* Readings and exercises for the course will come from the classic curriculum *Higher and Higher: Making Jewish Prayer Part of Us* by Rabbi Steve Brown. Participants should purchase *The Complete ArtScroll Siddur (Nusach Ashkenaz)* published by ArtScroll Mesorah Publications, available on Amazon and through many used booksellers.

Some knowledge of Hebrew and Jewish prayer is helpful, but not required.

Sessions will take place in person each Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm from February 1st through April 4th. Zoom is available if you are unable to attend in person.

Because handouts will be prepared in advance, please be sure to register in advance by January 25th at <https://registration.keenesynagogue.org/JewishPrayerCourse>.

\*This is not a course in decoding or translating Hebrew prayer. You should not expect to be able to pronounce all the words of the prayers nor translate every Hebrew prayer word-for-word when you are done.

## Hanukkah Latke Blowout:

The 2023 Latke Blowout was a huge success! A big thank you to our latke prep staff:

Malcom Katz, Jerry Kaufman, Master Latke makers. Their assistants were:

Our very own Mayor Elect Jay Kahn

Mark Thomas

Ken Kost

Jayne Taylor

Alyse Bettinger

The one and only Rabbi Dan

Kro Aronson

## Thank You to our fabulous musicians:

Piano: Lainee Ginsburg

Bass: Mark Thomas

Flute: Rebecca Sayles

Violin: Isaac Sylvern & Cheryl Gallien

Clarinet: Craig Sylvern

Percussion: Jerry Kaufman

Dance leader: Debra Kaufman



## Simchas for January//February

### *Birthdays*

Dick Aronson ..... 1/07  
 Molly Burman ..... 1/08  
 Charles Schadick ..... 1/08  
 Scott Friedman ..... 1/09  
 Abigail Spear ..... 1/18  
 Joel Mark Cohen ..... 1/19  
 Rebecca Fulton ..... 1/25  
 Jack Tenofsky ..... 1/25  
 Ethan Bettinger ..... 1/29  
 Bethany Fulton ..... 1/29  
 Rachel Silberstein ..... 1/30  
 Solomon Silberstein ..... 1/30  
 Jan Cohen ..... 1/31  
 Noah Carmel ..... 2/02

Jessica Spear ..... 2/09  
 Susan Weller ..... 2/09  
 Negev Moon ..... 2/10  
 Thomas Judd ..... 2/17  
 Malcolm Katz ..... 2/17  
 Kira Thomas ..... 2/17  
 Joseph Steinfield ..... 2/19  
 Beth Aronson ..... 2/20  
 Kathi Borden ..... 2/21  
 Maya-Grace Ginsberg ..... 2/28  
 Maya-Grace Ginsberg ..... 2/28

### *Anniversaries*

Robin and Craig Sylvern ..... 1/18

## Volunteer at The Community Kitchen

*Our next dates at TCK are Thursday, January 18th, and Thursday, February 15th., and Thursday February 29<sup>th</sup>.*

The Kitchen has re-opened the facility, so guests can now dine on-site. As a result, as time goes by, we will need more volunteers to serve the meals. Please contact Gary Shapiro or Malcolm Katz if you are interested in volunteering with this great group of CAA congregants.

Also note CAA also works at TCK on Weds morns (Malcom and I), and Thursdays (Selena) packaging up food for the pantry program.

No further volunteers are needed for those gigs at this point. Sandy Kochman also does some pantry work on Wed. Incredible amounts of food are distributed to our fellow citizens who need it. Also, thanks to Elaine Bieber, who is a volunteer chef at TCK.

Thanks to all!

Gary Shapiro, 603-352-0440,  
[gm\\_shapiro@yahoo.com](mailto:gm_shapiro@yahoo.com)



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## Yahrzeits for January/February 2024

<i>Date Yahrzeit Observed</i>	<i>Jewish Date</i>	<i>Friday before Yahrzeit</i>
12/30	Henry Simkin	18 Tevet 12/29
12/31	Joseph Hennigar	19 Tevet 12/29
12/31	Sydney Sharpe	19 Tevet 12/29
1/03	Mollie Post	22 Tevet 12/29
1/04	Joseph Small	23 Tevet 12/29
1/05	Bernard Butler	24 Tevet 1/05
1/05	Edwin Kaufman	24 Tevet 1/05
1/08	Ann-Margaret Taylor	27 Tevet 1/05
1/09	Edith Forman	28 Tevet 1/05
1/09	Etta Kapiloff	28 Tevet 1/05
1/10	Michael Crocker	29 Tevet 1/05
1/10	Michael New	29 Tevet 1/05
1/10	George Smith	29 Tevet 1/05
1/11	Ethel Arth	1 Shevat 1/05
1/12	Sybil Dorner	2 Shevat 1/12
1/13	Max Drobner	3 Shevat 1/12
1/14	Phyllis Rosell	4 Shevat 1/12
1/15	Kenneth Broad	5 Shevat 1/12
1/17	Hyman Butler	7 Shevat 1/12
1/18	Edward Schwartz	8 Shevat 1/12
1/19	Esther Bernstein	9 Shevat 1/19
1/19	Florence Lipsky	9 Shevat 1/19
1/19	Sydney Robins	9 Shevat 1/19
1/20	Leonard Kapiloff	10 Shevat 1/19
1/20	Miriam Peller Rhodes	10 Shevat 1/19
1/20	Tilda Richman Warsh	10 Shevat 1/19
1/21	Sye Visser	11 Shevat 1/19
1/22	Mollie Buckowsky	12 Shevat 1/19
1/22	Olive Louise Prunier	12 Shevat 1/19
1/23	William J. Monnich, Jr	13 Shevat 1/19
1/23	Jules Shapiro	13 Shevat 1/19
1/24	Joseph Steg	14 Shevat 1/19
1/25	Theresa R. Levine	15 Shevat 1/19
1/26	Morris Fox	16 Shevat 1/26
1/28	William Gale	18 Shevat 1/26
1/30	Ruth Cohen	20 Shevat 1/26
1/30	Julia Crocker	20 Shevat 1/26
1/30	Sheila Tenofsky	20 Shevat 1/26
2/01	Jack Kaplan	22 Shevat 1/26
2/03	Meyer Kaplan	24 Shevat 2/02
2/04	Charles Richmond	24 Shevat 2/02
2/05	Eve Reisig	26 Shevat 2/02
2/09	Sylvia Cooper (Rosenberg)	30 Shevat 2/09
2/09	Janet Fulton	30 Shevat 2/09
2/10	Lester Bieber	1 Adar-1 2/09
2/10	Tayla Seligman	1 Adar-1 2/09
2/14	Mollie Hanan	5 Adar-1 2/09
2/14	Eric Komitzsky	5 Adar-1 2/09
2/15	Sonia Berkovitz Weston	6 Adar-1 2/09
2/15	Paul Nebenzahl	6 Adar-1 2/09
2/17	Harry Krugman	8 Adar-1 2/16
2/17	Annette Schadick	8 Adar 2/16
2/18	Pauline Krugman	9 Adar 2/16

## Yahrzeits for January/February 2024

<i>Date Yahrzeit Observed</i>	<i>Jewish Date</i>	<i>Friday before Yahrzeit</i>
2/19	Moritz Lowy	10 Adar 2/16
2/23	Gwendoline Winn	14 Adar-1 2/16
2/27	Nancy Resig	18 Adar-1 2/23
2/27	Chaya Leah Slome	18 Adar-1 2/23

*Yahrzeits are listed according to the Hebrew date, so the English date will vary from year to year. Kaddish may be recited on the Shabbat nearest the date of remembrance. Please notify the synagogue office at 352-6747 if you find an error or would like to have the name of a loved one included in the future.*

## Cycle of Life

### Our condolences to:

Stephen Weitzman z"l  
Father of Sophie Carney- Brenner

Dorothy Koocher Gale z"l  
Mother of Robin Sylvern

Franklin Dale Honorof z"l  
Father of Doug Honorof

### Mazel Tov to:

Laura Broad on her 2<sup>nd</sup> Bat Mitzvah

Ryan Brambilla- Botting Bar Mitzvah

## Donations

### General Fund

Yahrzeit donation by the Weinrieb family - in memory of Jerome Weinrieb

Mitch & Ricki Greenwald - in memory of Lee Kahn, Jay's mother and in honor of the Kahn's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Dru & Barry Fox - in honor of Jay & Cheryl Kahn's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A donation of a mezuzah case by Kathleen Doyle





## Donations

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

The Weinrieb Family - in memory of Edward Kapiloff, brother of Rose Weinrieb, uncle to Pam, & Eric Weinrieb, and Shelley Amster

Norma Cohen - in memory of Lester Cohen

Gerry Eichner

Jay & Cheryl Kahn - in gratitude for the shiva minyan service for Lee Kahn, Jay's mother

Sand Seligman - in memory of her mother, Taya Seligman

Leaf Seligman - in gratitude of all Rabbi Dan does for Sand, her sister, and for the world

### *Congregant Assistance Fund*

Yahrzeit donation Stephen and Patricia Weiner in memory of Stephen's father, Harry Weiner

Gerry Eichner

### *Religious School Scholarship Fund*

Roberta Visser - in memory of her husband Abe Visser, and her parents Eli Hanan & Mollie Hanan

### *Cohen Lecture Series.*

Dru and Barry Fox - in honor of Arthurs 95<sup>th</sup> birthday

### *Yizkor Book*

Dru & Barry Fox

Laura Broad

Jill & Martin Post

Lainee & Roye Ginsberg

Sand Seligman

Yvette Yeager

Mitch & Riki Greenwald

Weinrieb Family

Trish & Noel Spear

Risa & Doug Keene

Jerry & Deborah Kaufman

Cheryl Gallien

Marion Shapiro

Arlene Schwartz

Robert & Sarah

Vogel

Gerry Eichner

John Halper

Jane Taylor

Norma Cohen

Barbara Green

### *High Holiday*

Jon Ostriker

Jane Taylor - towards the RH Lunch

Aaron Lipsky - in gratitude for RH Lunch

Diane Kontoff - for allowing her to zoom on Shabbat & High Holidays.

Ann Kanamine – in gratitude for welcoming her to our synagogue.

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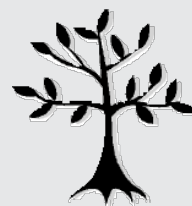
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