

May/June 2024 Nissan-Iyar-Sivan 5784

Rabbi Daniel Aronson RabbiDA@keenesynagogue.org (603) 460-5410

From the Rabbi's Desk

Two Memorial Days: Ours and Israel's

Memorial Day in America and Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) in Israel are, regrettably, a study in contrasts. The former, a party of sorts; the latter, truly a National Day of Mourning. What do our Israeli brothers and sisters know about honoring lives sacrificed in the name of their nation that we in the United States have forgotten? What can we as Americans do differently to remember those who've fallen in defense of our nation and our values?

I consider myself lucky for not having any family members or friends who've lost their lives fighting on behalf of our country. Not so lucky have been the parents, spouses, siblings and other relatives and friends of the over 1.3 million men and women who've died in combat or on active duty for the United States Armed Forces since our nation's founding. For them, Memorial Day provides an opportunity to unite with others who've experienced the loss of loved ones and to know that behind them a nation honors the sacrifice of our sailors, marines, soldiers, and airmen as well as the families and friends they left behind. For the ones who've lost someone beloved, Memorial Day is a meaningful, somber day.

I believe the American people really do stand with the bereaved, but on Memorial Day it's hard to tell.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CAA Book Club7
Kesher Committee Events 4
See inside for details.

May/June 2024

1114 / 10 4110 2021	
May 3 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
May 4 Torah Service	9:30 am
May 5 Religious School	9:30 am
May 6 Yom HaShoah	5:30pm
May 8 CAA Board Meeting	7:00 pm
May 10 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
May 11 Torah Service	9:30 am
May 12 Mother's Day	No school
May 16 Comm. Kitchen	4:30 pm
May 17 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
May 18 Torah Service	9:30 am
May 19 Religious School	9:30 am
May 23 Comm. Kitchen	4:30 pm
May 24 Timely Topics in Jewish Life	11:00 am
May 24 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
May 25 Torah Service	9:30 am
May 25 Mediation & Mindfulness	10:30 am
May 26 Lag BaOmer	No school
May 28 Rabbi Coffee Hour Brewbakers	11:00 am
May 31 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
June 1 Torah Service	9:30 am
June 2 Religiious School	9:30 am
June 2 CAA Teens with Maila Boaz	6:00 pm
June 7 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
June 8 Torah Service	9:30 am
June 9 NH Shaliach "Escape Room"	
June 9 Religious School	9:30 am
June 9 Israeli Lunch	11:45 am
June 9 Adult/Teen Program	12:30 pm
June 9 CAA Annual meeting	1:30 pm
June 12 CAA Board Meeting	7:00 pm
June 13 Comm Kitchen	4:30 pm
June 14 Friday Night Service Special Oneg	7:00 pm
June 15 Shabbat & Torah Service & Celebration	9:30 am
June 15 Luncheon Honoring Rabbi Dan	12:00 pm
June 16 CAA Book Club	10:30am
June 19 Swampbats	6:00 pm
June 21 Timely Topics in Jewish Life	11:00 am
June 21 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
June 22 Torah Service	9:30 am
June 25 Rabbi Coffee Hour Brewbakers	11:00 am
June 28 Friday Night Service	7:00 pm
June 29 Torah Service	9:30 am

Because Memorial Day should be a day of reflection and grieving, it is lamentable that for most Americans Memorial Day is anything but that. In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act to encourage all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. to pay their respects to America's fallen,



Rabbi Aronson

but who among us knows this? Instead, we frolic on beaches and prowl for bargains as we unofficially kick off summer. The cemeteries we pass by, decorated as they are with flags and flowers, prod us to remember why we have this "day off." Still, we keep on driving to the mall, the beach, the mountains. How sad that this is what has become of our National Day of Mourning, which once saw all businesses closed and all flags at half-staff.

In Israel, Memorial Day is quite different. Yom Hazikaron, officially known as "The Day of Remembrance for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism," is observed on the 4th of Iyar, a day before Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. (These observances shift from time to time to ensure that neither falls on Shabbat nor that Yom Hazikaron begins on Saturday night.) Yom Hazikaron begins at 8 p.m. with sirens wailing for a full minute all over Israel. At that time, automobile and pedestrian traffic comes to a halt, people get out of their cars, and everyone stands in silence to remember the fallen and to show their respects. The next morning, at 11 a.m., the nation once again comes to a standstill as sirens sound for two minutes, marking the beginning of memorial ceremonies nationwide. All day long, Israelis visit cemeteries where the fallen are buried, and places of entertainment, such as theaters and cinemas, remain closed. All flags remain at half-staff until 7 or 8 p.m. when they are raised once again, and the country shifts abruptly to its celebration of independence. How very different from what we do here in the United States.

In Israel, a tiny nation only 76 years old, just about everyone has experienced the death of a family member or friend. Sadly, the numbers of people who will be mourning friends and loved ones this year rose dramatically following the deadly terror attack on October 7th and the subsequent war in Gaza. Perhaps it is this pervasive impact of war and terrorism that leads Israelis to take Yom Hazikaron more seriously than we take Memorial Day in the U.S. The sacrifices born by all of Israel hit much closer to home for the majority of her citizens.

Or, perhaps, it is Israel's acute awareness that without sacrifice there would be no Jewish state. In 1947, the great Israeli poet Natan Alterman published his poem "Magash HaKesef – The Silver Platter." In it, he draws a chilling picture of a young man and a young woman emerging from a cloud of fog and dust before the nation's throngs of mourners. The youth announce, "We are the silver platter upon which the Jewish state was given." In penning "The Silver Platter," Alterman was extending an image suggested on December 15, 1947, by Israel's first president, Chaim Weizman, who in response to the United Nations' vote to partition Palestine proclaimed, "The state will not be handed to the Jewish people on a silver platter." Even before Israel's Arab neighbors attacked the new nation on the day of her birth, May 14, 1948, her future citizens were prepared to suffer great loss of life to ensure the nation's survival. No wonder, then, Yom Hazikaron, with Yom Haatzmaut following on its heels, is a most somber moment, appropriately observed in Israel.

What would it take to move Americans to observe our Memorial Day as Israelis observe Yom Hazikaron? Surely, we wouldn't wish for every American home to grieve the loss of a loved one, nor would we be prepared to adjust our national calendar to resemble Israel's. Is it unreasonable, though, for our government, schools, and media to do a better job of placing our own "silver platter" before the American people, to put a face to the million-plus lives that have been lost in service of our own nation-building, self-defense, and defense of our values around the world? Even if we abhor war and object to our leaders' mobilization of forces either in general or in specific cases,

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A Letter from the President

Dear Congregation,

This is my third consecutive president's article about Israel. On May 14th, Jews around the globe will be celebrating Israel



Roye Ginsberg

Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut). Given the importance of Israel to me, I want to explain why Israel is so significant to me personally.

I was brought up in a conservative synagogue (Beth El Temple) in West Hartford, CT. I would go to Hebrew School at least twice per week, learn about Torah stories, and study Hebrew. The Bible stories seemed fictional to me.

My perception changed about the Torah when I went to Israel during the summer of 10th grade through the youth group USY (United Synagogue Youth) in 1974. I was with other students from throughout the United States. Part of the trip was working on archaeological digs and visiting biblical sites. Particularly, I was very spiritually moved at the Wailing Wall. I saw Shlomo Carlebach leading hundreds of people in dancing and in song; our group joined in! These experiences convinced me that G-d and the Torah are real, not fictional.

An eye opening and shocking experience for me at the time was visiting Yad Vashem (the Holocaust Museum) in Jerusalem. I learned that Jews during the Holocaust were not welcome in any country, and that we were tortured and murdered. It makes me think about how today no country is welcoming Jews and no country today is trying to stop antisemitism. What would happen if we didn't have Israel? Perhaps that is the real reason why a portion of the world's population hates Israel so much – because we are defending ourselves!

The emotional connectivity of Israelis influenced my feelings for the people who live in Israel. While I was in Jerusalem (again, this 10th grade trip), a terrorist killed several Israeli civilians. The raw feelings of pain for the victims were prevalent among the citizens. It was as if, to me, the victims were my family members who were taken away from all of us. I felt this experience so much more strongly than when I thought about victims of other tragedies and violent crimes in the United States. In Israel, the Jews are one giant mishpachah (family).

Being with people who spoke primarily Hebrew confirmed my perception that Israel is also my home. Even though my Hebrew skills were weak in 10th grade, and I particularly struggled with reading signs without vowels, the Hebrew language made me feel like I was in a holy environment. Most people in Israel spoke (and continue to speak) English in addition to Hebrew which made it easier to function.

Even for people who might not be particularly interested in the Jewish religion, history, or culture, there are still so many things to do there. The beaches are beautiful. I remember swimming with my uncle in the Mediterranean Sea. He lived in Haifa at the time. I loved eating falafel from the stands outside. Falafel was the most popular fast food in Israel. I loved listening to Israeli music. Swimming in the Dead Sea was interesting because one can't sink. I didn't like the stinging from the sea's minerals to a few open cuts, but it was worth it.

Nothing is more meaningful and educational for Jews regarding Israel than to actually visit the country. I had two additional opportunities in the past twenty years to revisit Israel, and each visit was as meaningful as the one before it. I wish everyone in our congregation would have this opportunity. I fantasize that our congregation could have a group trip to Israel. As we pray annually during Passover, "NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM."

I wish you all a meaningful Pesach.

Am Yisrael Chai. Most sincerely yours, Roye Ginsberg

Congregation Ahavas Achim



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Rabbi Daniel Aronson

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Kesher Events May/June

May 28 11:00 Coffee Hour with the Rabbi at Brewbakers

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

Contact

Cohen Center Events

(Cohen Center cont.)

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@keenesyngogue.org or call 603-933-3259.

Find us on Facebook.com/AhavasNH.

Check out our website at www.keenesynagogue.org don't those who gave their lives deserve to be remembered and memorialized with solemnity?

Moreover, shouldn't we teach our children that the Declaration of Independence, the "star-spangled banner," abolition, and the end of the Nazi genocide were worth fighting for and, in fact, were purchased with the blood of our brave?

I would like to think that Americans are capable of appropriately memorializing their dead. There is more to America than swimming pools and cheap electronics. Indeed, without the sacrifices born by so many Americans on the battlefield, even these might not be assured. It is my hope that we as a nation will one day recover our collective soul and stand silently together in grief and gratitude for our fallen heroes on a future Memorial Day. I pray that that day comes soon.

In sorrow for all the fallen of the U.S. and Israel and with gratitude to all service personnel in the U.S. and in Israel who prepare daily to give their lives for all we hold dear,

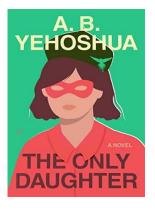
Rabbi fan

Committee Updates

We are still looking for a New Chair for the Kesher Committee. The following are our new Chairs:

Adult Education: Malia Boaz Membership: Alyse Bettinger Building: Michael Davern

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, June 16, 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 <u>The Only Daughter</u> By A.B. Yehoshua. The book focuses on a multi-generation Jewish-Italian family and the young "only" daughter. From Kirkus Reviews: "An only child born into a family of Jewish lawyers. Rachele Luzzatto attends a church school in northern Italy while regularly taking Hebrew lessons from a rabbi imported from Israel for that purpose by her parents. Trouble brews when this bright and inquisitive girl is happily assigned the part of the Mother of God in a seasonal school play. Even in depicting antisemitism, [Yehoshua} finds humor in the strained relations between Jews and Gentiles. [The book is a wise, masterfully understated work by of Israel's towering literary figures."

It can be purchased on Amazon (new or used) and on Kindle. It is also available at the Keene Public Library. Hope to see you on June 16th!



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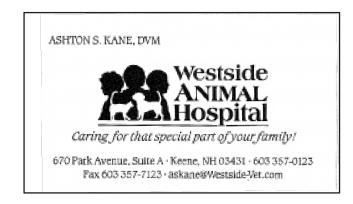


Are You Getting the Weekly Synagogue **Email?**

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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Monadnock Interfaith Jewish Film Festival

CAA Purim 2024





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Simchas for May/June 2024 *Birthdays*

Daniella Yitzchak	5/01
Lisa Schadick	5/04
Lauren Platt	5/05
Paul Bettinger	5/08
Jane Shapiro	
Brooke Burman	
Maureen Nebenzahl	5/15
Camryn Adams	5/16
Norma Cohen	5/16
Mitchell Greenwald	5/18
Rachel Prunier	5/18
Noah Davern	5/19
Isaac Kaufman	5/21
Robin Kost	5/21

Rose Weinrieb	5/21
Michael Dias	5/22
Mark Mizel	5/23
Guy Burman	5/25
Deborah Galinski	5/26
Tami Bettinger	5/26
Olivia Schadick	5/31

Anniversaries

Tom & Sue Weller	.5/16
Rick & Jan Cohen	.5/26

Volunteer at The Community Kitchen

Our next dates at TCK are Thursday, May 16th, May 30th, and Thursday, June 20th

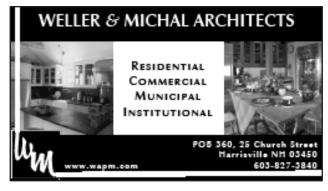
The Kitchen has re-opened the facility, so guests can now dine on-site. As a result, as time goes by, we will need more volunteers to serve the meals. Please contact Gary Shapiro or Malcolm Katz if you are interested in volunteering with this great group of CAA congregants.

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 <u>gm_shapiro@yahoo.com</u>



Yahrzeits for May/June 2024

I allizents for May/Julie 202	.4	
Date Yahrzeit	Jewish	Friday before
Observed	Date	Yahrzeit
5/9 Pearl Goldberg	Iyar 1	5/03
5/10 Albert Elchner	Iyar 2	5/10
5/10 Irving Post	Iyar 2	5/10
5/12 Normn Fulton	Iyar 4	5/10
5/13 Sam Fox	Iyar 5	5/10
5/15 Richard Domer	Iyar 7	5/10
5/15 Burton Sylvern	Iyar 7	5/10
5/18 Michael Forman	Iyar 10	5/17
5/20 Rose Hanan	Iyar 12	5/17
5/21 Barry Berk	Iyar 13	5/17
5/21 Oscar Crocker	Iyar 13	5/17
5/24 Adam Winn	Iyar 16	5/24
5/25 Eli Hanan	Iyar 17	5/24
5/30 Alexander Zalman	Iyar 22	5/24
5/31 Robert Feingold	Iyar 23	5/31
6/1 Mae Shapiro	Iyar 24	5/31
6/7 Dorothy Vogel	Sivan 1	6/07
6/10 Nathan Goodman Zeski	nd Sivan 4	6/07
6/8 Frances Iorio	Sivan 13	6/14
6/20 Yetta Popover	Sivan 14	6/14
6/20 Sophie Rosell	Sivan 14	6/14
6/20 Lillian Shapiro	Sivan 14	6/14
6/21 Martha Ann Lloyd	Sivan 15	6/21
6/29 Celia Weinrieb	Sivan 23	6/28
6/30 Morris Tonofsky	Sivan24	6/28
7/1 Michael Buckowsky	Sivan 25	6/28
7/1 Sidney Butler	Sivan 25	6/28
7/3 Saul Mariaschin	Sivan 27	6/28
7/4 Judy R Drobner	Sivan 28	6/28
7/4 Jamila Kidary	Sivan 28	6/28
7/4 Stanley Schadick	Sivan 28	6/8
7/5 Burton Beiber	Sivan 29	7/5

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

Donations

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Yahrzeit Donation by Dick & Adele Aronson in memory of their parents Dora & Sidney Aronson & Bertha & Joseph Silverman

Yahrzeit Donation in memory of Yvette Yeager's mother.

Congregant Assistance Fund

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Yahrzeit Donation by Elyse Komitzsky in memory of her brother Eric (Rick) Komitzsky

Cohen Lecture Series.

Yahrzeit Donation by Michael Schuman in memory of his brother Larry & father David

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Yahrzeit Donation by Jill & Marty Post in memory of Jill's father Harvey Miner & Marty's father Irving Post

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Ken Krigelman

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Yahrzeit Donation by Steve Levy in memory of his father.

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Yahrzeit Donation by Norma Cohen in memory of her husband.

Sheyna Hoitsma

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Jon Ostriker

RECIPES

Cocoa Cheesecake

1 cup Graham cracker crumbs 3 tbsp sugar 3 tbsp melted marg

2-8oz cream cheese 1/3 cup cocoa ³⁄₄ cup sugar 1 tsp vanilla

1 cup sour cream 1 tsp vanilla 2 tbsp sugar

Combine crumbs, sugar & marg. Press into bottom of spring form pan, Bake 10 min at 325. Combine cream cheese, sugar cocoa & vanilla, mix-

ing at med. speed. Add eggs 1 at a time & pour over crust. Bake 30 min at 375 Combine remaining ingredients a& spread over

cheesecake. Bake 10min at 425

Blintzes Wrapper

1 cup flour	1/4 tsp baking powder
1 ¼ cup water	½ tsp salt
2 eggs	1 tbsp oil

Mix well spoon enough to cover bottom of small/medium fry pan cook till browned, if necessary add little water when batter is too thick. Fill with your choice of filling and wrap.

Mock Chopped Liver (very good)

Cheesecake

3-8oz pks cream cheese	4 egg whites beaten
1 cup sugar	1 tsp vanilla
2 cups sour cream	2 tbsp sugar
1 can drained crushed pineapple	e (optional)
½ tsp vanilla	1 sleeve graham crackers
2 tbsp melted butter or marg.	-

Make graham cracker crust with 1 sleeve of graham crackers & 2 tbs melted butter or marg. Press into a spring form pan.

Cream well to soften cream cheese, beat egg whites until stiff, blend in sugar & combine with cheese &(optional pineapple) add vanilla. Bake 25 min at 350.

Mix sour cream, sugar & vanilla. Spread on top and return to oven for 5 more minutes.

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