



THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF  
THE MONADNOCK REGION.

January/February 2025  
Tevet/Shevat 5785

# The Bulletin

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

## From the Rabbi's Desk

### Takeaways from the Reconstructionist Convening in December

For three hours on Sunday, December 15th, I sat in rapt attention before my computer screen listening with an open heart as rabbis from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and representatives from Reconstructing Judaism spoke about their relationships with the Land, People, and State of Israel and with the Palestinian people. This was a movement-wide convening--hastily but thoughtfully and nearly flawlessly produced--that was intended "to take a close and nuanced look at what binds us in covenantal community, even during this time of deep crisis."

It was not always easy to hear what the speakers had to say, but it felt critically important to be present as they spoke. And, while I didn't get what I was hoping for, I did take away more than I expected.

Before sharing brief reflections, I should note that I am writing these words before hearing responses to the program from anyone in our community who might have logged in or might view whatever recordings are made available in the coming weeks. It is likely that within our community there will be a variety of strong reactions and much discussion before this bulletin lands in your mailboxes. So keep in mind that I am sharing raw thoughts here that will inevitably shift over the coming weeks as I hear from you and as I think more about what I've heard, how I feel, and what I believe.

*(continued on page 2)*

## January/February 2025

Jan 3	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan 4	Torah Study	9:30am
Jan 5	Religious School	9:30am
Jan 5	CAA Book Club	10:15am
Jan 8	Coffee Hour @ Brewbakers	2:00pm
Jan 8	CAA Board Meeting	7:00pm
Jan 9	Shmooze & Brews @ Modestman	6:00pm
Jan 10	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan 11	Shabbat Morning Service	9:30am
Jan 12	Religious School	9:30am
Jan 12	Yiddish Movie: <i>Tevye</i>	1:00pm
Jan 16	Community Kitchen	4:45pm
Jan 17	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan 18	Torah Study	9:30pm
Jan 24	Timely Topics at Covenant Living	11:00am
Jan 24	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Jan 25	Shabbat Service & Torah Study	9:30am
Jan 25	Meditation & mindfulness	10:30am
Jan 26	Religious School	9:30am
Jan 28	Coffee Hour @ Brewbakers	11:00am
Jan 31	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Feb 1	Torah Study	9:30am
Feb 2	Religious School	9:30am
Feb 2	Yiddish Movie: <i>The Dybbuk</i>	1:00pm
Feb 7	Friday Night Shirah Service with Eleanor Kaufman and her band "Kolot Shonim!"	7:00pm
Feb 8	Shabbat Shirah Morning Service	9:30am
Feb 9	Religious School	9:30am
Feb 12	Coffee Hour @ Brewbakers	2:00pm
Feb 12	CAA Board Meeting	7:00pm
Feb 13	Shmooze & Brews @ Modestman	6:00pm
Feb 14	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Feb 15	Torah Study	9:30am
Feb 20	Community Kitchen	4:45pm
Feb 21	Friday Night Service	7:00pm
Feb 22	Shabbat Service & Torah Study	9:30am
Feb 22	Meditation & Mindfulness	10:30am
Feb 25	Coffee Hour @ Brewbakers	11:00am
Feb 28	Friday Night Service	7:00pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Events .....4

CAA Book Club .....5

*See inside for details.*

What I was hoping would come out of this gathering was that rabbis, rabbinical students, and others, who explicitly or implicitly represent Reconstructionist Judaism while calling themselves “anti-Zionist,” would be told respectfully that activism in the name of dismantling the Jewish State falls outside the bounds of Reconstructing Judaism’s “covenantal community.” In this respect, I walked away empty-handed. To be fair, though, any such declaration would probably have to be voted upon by the movement and its rabbis at their respective conventions, which will take place in March 2026 and March 2025, respectively.



Rabbi Aronson

One thing I took away from the program was appreciation for the pain experienced by so many people within the Reconstructionist orbit, a pain that is rooted in a deep love for both Eretz and Am Yisrael, the Land and People of Israel, *and* for all human beings, who are created in the image of the Divine. The pain was articulated best by two rabbis, whom I know and admire, who have been living in Israel for about 25 years each. Both are ardent Zionists and Reconstructionists and activists for peace, justice, and democracy. Neither sounded hopeful, and yet neither would consider abandoning Israel or the Palestinians they know and love. One broke into tears while quoting these words from President Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address in 1865: “With malice toward none with charity for all... let us strive on to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan ~ to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.” All who spoke expressed a similar devotion to Israel and longed for a “just and lasting peace.”

Another takeaway was the idea that dividing the community into Zionists and anti-Zionists is not especially helpful or particularly meaningful. We have set up a binary way of thinking about our

relationship with Israel: you either love the State of Israel or you hate the State of Israel; you either love the People of Israel or you love the Palestinians; you either want Israel to thrive or you want it to disappear. This binary, though, does not represent reality. What most people want is simply something better than what we have now, and it almost doesn’t matter how we get there, whether that be one state, two states, or something entirely different. Most of us want democracy, justice, and freedom for everyone who shares that small parcel of land, no matter what we call ourselves.

We are also wise to remember that Zionism has not always been associated with statehood. Thinkers like Ahad Ha-Am and Mordecai Kaplan were primarily interested in having Judaism take root once again in the historic homeland of the Jewish people alongside the Arab population that had been there for centuries before 1948. Jewish settlement in Eretz Yisrael was supposed to revitalize the Jewish soul both in the Land and in the diaspora. For Ahad Ha-Am and Kaplan the state was a means to this end, not an end in and of itself. Sadly, too few Jews in the diaspora today derive such inspiration from our co-religionists in Eretz Yisrael who, as citizens of the State of Israel, feel so dispirited. Near the end of the program, the question was asked if Kaplan would call himself a Zionist today. If Zionism means nothing more than a commitment to a Jewish nation-state as an end in itself --as opposed to the eternal striving to build a Jewish homeland where Jews and Judaism can thrive securely-- perhaps not.

The virtual gathering of the Reconstructionist movement was intended to mark a new stage in a critical conversation that has already begun. We are not the only movement where the conversation about our relationship to Israel and the Palestinian people is taking place, however. Regardless of how you identify Jewishly, I hope you will commit to hearing what is difficult to hear and staying engaged in respectful conversation.

*L’shalom,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rabbi Aronson".

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## A Letter from the President

### Roots and Wings

About a month before Laura Broad (Lainee's mother) passed away, as I was driving her to the Dana Farber Hospital, she suggested to me to write about "Roots and Wings" in the next Newsletter. As many of you already know, Laura sadly passed away on November 14th from complications of both cancer and COVID.



Roye Ginsberg

What are "roots?" These are the anchors we rely upon to be successful in our lives. These roots are established as we learn values from grandparents and parents, essential to the creation of our individual moral fiber we need in living our lives. Going to the synagogue and learning about Jewish values and about the Torah develops these roots. Becoming educated and learning life skills are part of this anchor system. Learning to think independently, by being able to perceive different perspectives, is an important ingredient. Learning self-appreciation is also important.

I have observed Laura providing these roots to our family's tree. Laura taught our family the value of being charitable. She also taught and shared the beauty of classical music. Prior to meeting Lainee (and Laura), my interests included being an avid fan of the Boston Celtics, Red Sox and UConn basketball. Laura was delighted when I told her about my newfound appreciation of opera in the early years of my marriage to Lainee. I was brought up with a pervasive moral education based in synagogue and Jewish values. I wasn't brought up being exposed to opera! Lainee grew up on the lawn of Tanglewood, watching renowned conductors and performers. Laura encouraged and assisted Lainee and Dan (Lainee's brother) in committing themselves to music professions. I observed Laura having close friendships with other people with similar cultivated interests. Yet, she was also giving to people with various needs. She was truly kind to everyone. These are the root values that led to her bringing up her successful and compassionate family members.

Laura Broad transmitted values to our family that encouraged us to spread our wings and go out into the world in a meaningful way. We live lives of integrity. We value helping others. We appreciate music. The art of becoming a mensch was passed on from our previous generation.

L'dor va Dor (from generation to generation).

Most sincerely yours,

*Roye Ginsberg*



### Calling all knitters!!

Whether you're a beginner or have years of experience, let's get together once or twice a month for a knitting circle. Times and days are flexible. We can meet at CAA or Brewbakers or Panera or even at someone's house. If you're interested in learning or helping others learn, or just have questions, please email Robin Sylvern at [robinsylvern@gmail.com](mailto:robinsylvern@gmail.com)



# Congregation Ahavas Achim



THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF  
THE MONADNOCK REGION.

*Rabbi Daniel Aronson*

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## Religious School - Tu B'Shvat Seder

Sunday February 16 at 10:30am

Join us for a family Tu B'Shvat Seder during Religious School on Sunday, February 16th at 10:30am. All are welcome to sing songs, say special blessings and enjoy tasty treats and drinks while we honor Jewish tradition, the earth and each other during the New Year of the trees!

TU BISHVAT

For more information, please contact Daniella:  
[office@keenesynagogue.org](mailto:office@keenesynagogue.org)

## Events January/February

### Coffee Hour with the Rabbi at Brewbakers

Wednesday, January 8, at 2pm

Tuesday, January 28 at 11am

Wednesday, February 12 at 2pm

Tuesday, February 25 at 11am



### Shmooze & Brews with Jews at Modestman



Thursday, January 9 at 6pm

Thursday, February 13 at 6pm

### Yiddish Movies



Sunday, January 12 at 1pm: *Tevye*

Sunday, February 2 at 1pm: *The Dybbuk*

## Ahavas Achim Office Hours

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

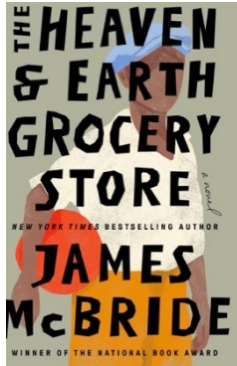
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Check out our website at  
[www.keenesynagogue.org](http://www.keenesynagogue.org)

## Join the CAA Book Discussion



The CAA Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

We'll be discussing *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.

The author describes how, in 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.

Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When state officials came looking for a deaf boy in order to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community — heaven and earth — that sustain us.

Join us to talk about this intriguing book! We meet at the synagogue at 10:15 a.m. for coffee and begin our discussion at 10:30. Hope to see you on January 5th

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.

## Are You Getting the Weekly Synagogue Email?

A mass mailing to CAA members and other interested parties provides information 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*.



On Thursday, January 16th, Mark Atlee, Regional Security Advisor from CJP & Communal Security Initiative, will be doing training for all CAA members and our partners in the Monadnock Interfaith Project. Mark will discuss De-Escalation and Be Aware Training. Training will take place in the CAA Social Hall.

CJP's Communal Security Initiative (CSI) supports a thriving Jewish community by providing professional security advice, trainings, and support to 250 Jewish organizations in the Greater Boston area. In these times of rising antisemitism, CSI now offers many services to the over 100 partners in the Expanded Services Area of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, as well. You can register for one or both training sessions.

### Schedule:

**11:00: De-Escalation Training:** This in-person training improves situational awareness and provides the foundation for other security trainings.

**12:00:** Break

**12:30: Be Aware Training:** In this introductory session, you will learn basic strategies to identify aggressive behaviors and avoid physical harm.

Please register by contacting Daniella: [office@keenesynagogue.org](mailto:office@keenesynagogue.org)

## Tu-B'Shvat Recipes

### Date-Fig Bars

#### Filling:

3 cups of dates & figs  
1 cup hot water  
1 Tbs +1 tsp lemon juice  
¼ tsp salt  
2 tsp vanilla

#### Crust:

1½ cups rolled oats  
1 cup brown sugar  
1½ cups whole wheat pastry flour or  
all-purpose flour  
¾ tsp baking soda  
¾ tsp salt  
½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans  
¾ cup unsalted butter, melted

#### Directions:

##### Filling:

1. In saucepan, combine the ingredients, bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer for about 5 minutes. The mixture will thicken after a few minutes.
2. Remove from heat and set aside to cool, (I ran the immersion blender through it to give it a nice smooth texture and let it sit for a while.

##### Crust:

1. Whisk together the dry ingredients (except nuts) and then add the melted butter. Stir until well combined.
2. Lightly grease a 9x9" pan and press 2½ cups of the crust mixture into the pan, smoothing it out to fill the bottom with no gaps.
3. Spread the filling on the crust. Add the nuts to the remaining crust mixture and sprinkle it over the filling.
4. Bake for 30 minutes at 350°F, until golden brown. Let cool before cutting.

### Deluxe Buckwheat Almond Cake with Raspberry Filling

#### Ingredients:

1½ cups skin on sliced almonds  
¾ cup unsalted butter, softened  
¾ cup sugar, divided  
4 eggs, separated  
2 tsp vanilla  
⅛ tsp salt  
½ cup light buckwheat flour  
½ cup raspberry preserves  
10" round paper lace doily  
1 Tbs confectioners' sugar

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F
2. Oil bottom of 9x1½" round cake pan and line with waxed paper. Finely grind almonds in food processor, blender or nut chopper.
3. In large bowl, cream butter and 6 tbs sugar. Beat in yolks, one at a time. Stir in vanilla and almonds.
4. In medium bowl, beat egg whites and salt to soft peaks; gradually add remaining sugar, beating until soft, glossy peaks form. Lightly fold ¼ of the beaten whites into batter. Sift ¼ flour over batter; combine lightly. Alternately add remaining whites and flour in this manner.
5. Pour batter into pan. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes or until tester inserted into center comes out clean. Cool on rack 10 minutes; remove from pan.
6. When cool, slice horizontally into 2 layers. Place bottom layer, cut side up, on plate; spread with preserves. Top with remaining layer, cut side down. Place doily on top; sprinkle with confectioners' sugar; remove doily.

Pictures from Robin & Craig Sylvern's Israel Trip 2024

Jerusalem at night



Along King David Street



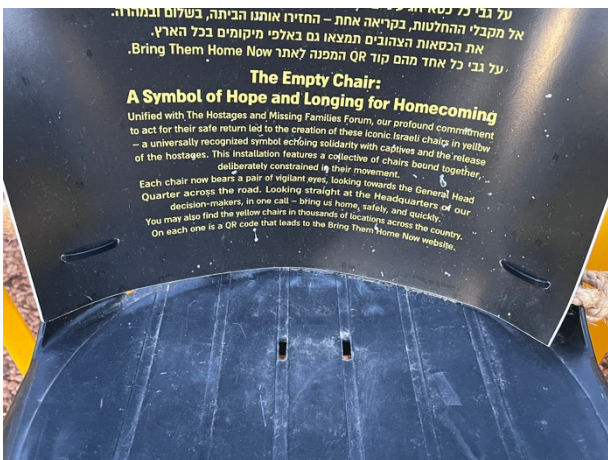
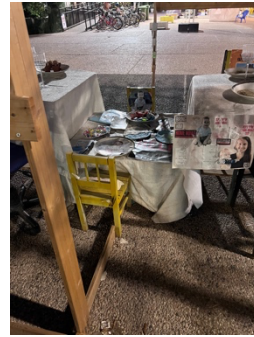
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Around Tel Aviv



# Hostages Square Tel Aviv 2024





## Simchas for January/February

### *Birthdays*

Dick Aronson .....	1/07	Noah Carmel .....	2/02
Molly Burman .....	1/08	Susan Steiglitz .....	2/09
Charles Schadick .....	1/08	Susan Weller .....	2/09
Scott Friedman .....	1/09	Negev Moon .....	2/10
Joan Grossman .....	1/17	Malcolm Katz .....	2/17
Jack Tenofsky .....	1/19	Kira Thomas .....	2/17
Ethan Bettinger .....	1/29	Cassie Elaine Grossman .....	2/18
Bethany Fulton.....	1/29	Joseph Steinfield .....	2/19
Rachel Silberstein .....	1/30	Beth Aronson.....	2/20
Solomon Silberstein.....	1/30	Kathi Borden.....	2/21
Jan Cohen.....	1/31	Maya-Grace Ginsberg .....	2/28
		Morgan Scagliotti.....	2/28

### *Anniversaries*

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

## Volunteer at The Community Kitchen

*Our next dates at TCK are Thursday, January 16th, and Thursday, February 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.

Please note CAA also works at TCK on Wednesday mornings (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 Wednesdays. 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*



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## Yahrzeits for January/February 2025

Date Observed	Yahrzeit	Jewish Date	Friday before Yahrzeit
1/3	Efim Garbuny	3 Tevet	1/3
1/7	Leland Martin Blair	7 Tevet	1/3
1/8	Caren Sichel	8 Tevet	1/3
1/9	Lois G. Levine	9 Tevet	1/3
1/9	Todd Schneider	9 Tevet	1/3
1/9	Nina Steg	9 Tevet	1/3
1/9	Jesse Wisan	9 Tevet	1/3
1/10	Larry Malin	10 Tevet	1/3
1/10	Stuart Ross	10 Tevet	1/3
1/11	Edward T. Moses	11 Tevet	1/10
1/11	Joseph Zalman	11 Tevet	1/10
1/13	Ethel R Bieber	13 Tevet	1/10
1/14	Harvey Rhodes	14 Tevet	1/10
1/14	Gene Schapiro	14 Tevet	1/10
1/15	Louis Reisig	15 Tevet	1/10
1/16	Regina Faye (Klahr) Fine	16 Tevet	1/10
1/16	Rachel Silverman	16 Tevet	1/10
1/19	Joseph Hennigar	19 Tevet	1/17
1/22	Mollie Post	22 Tevet	1/17
1/23	Joseph Small	23 Tevet	1/17
1/24	Bernard Butler	24 Tevet	1/24
1/24	Edwin Kaufman	24 Tevet	1/24
1/26	David Goldfarb	26 Tevet	1/24
1/27	Ann-Margaret Taylor	27 Tevet	1/24
1/28	Edith Forman	28 Tevet	1/24
1/28	Etta Kapiloff	28 Tevet	1/24
1/29	Michael Crocker	29 Tevet	1/24
1/29	Michael New	29 Tevet	1/24
1/29	George Smith	29 Tevet	1/24
1/30	Ethel Arth	1 Shevat	1/30
1/31	Sybil Dorner	2 Shevat	1/31
2/1	Max Drobner	3 Shevat	1/31
2/2	Phyllis Rosell	4 Shevat	1/31
2/3	Kenneth Broad	5 Shevat	1/31
2/5	Hyman Butler	7 Shevat	1/31
2/6	Edward Schwartz	8 Shevat	1/31
2/7	Esther Bernstein	9 Shevat	2/7
2/7	Florence Lipsky	9 Shevat	2/7
2/8	Leonard Kapiloff	10 Shevat	2/7
2/8	Miriam Peller Rhodes	10 Shevat	2/7
2/8	Tilda Richman Warsh	10 Shevat	2/7
2/9	Sye Visser	11 Shevat	2/7
2/10	Norman Aliber	12 Shevat	2/7
2/10	Mollie Buckowsky	12 Shevat	2/7
2/10	Olive Louise Prunier	12 Shevat	2/7
2/11	William J. Monnich, Jr	13 Shevat	2/7
2/11	Jules Shapiro	13 Shevat	2/7
2/14	Joseph Steg	14 Shevat	2/7
2/13	Theresa R. Levine	15 Shevat	2/7
2/14	Morris Fox	16 Shevat	2/14
2/16	William Gale	18 Shevat	2/14
2/18	Ruth Cohen	20 Shevat	2/14
2/18	Julia Crocker	20 Shevat	2/14

## Yahrzeits for January/February 2025

Date Observed	Yahrzeit	Jewish Date	Friday before Yahrzeit
2/18	Paul Shapiro	20 Shevat	2/14
2/18	Sheila Tenofsky	20 Shevat	2/14
2/19	Julian Berch	21 Shevat	2/14
2/20	Jack Kaplan	22 Shevat	2/14
2/22	Meyer Kaplan	24 Shevat	2/21
2/22	Charles Richmond	24 Shevat	2/21
2/24	Eve Reisig	26 Shevat	2/21
2/28	Sylvia Cooper (Rosenberg)	30 Shevat	2/28
2/28	Janet Fulton	30 Shevat	2/28
3/1	Lester Bieber	1 Adar-1	2/28
3/1	Taya Seligman	1 Adar-1	2/28
3/5	Mollie Hanan	5 Adar-1	2/28
3/5	Eric Komitzsky	5 Adar-1	2/28

*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 603-352-6747 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 the families of:*

Laura Broad z"l  
Mother of Laine Ginsberg

Donal Blaise Lloyd z"l  
Father of Deborah Kaufman and grandfather of Isaac & Eleanor Kaufman



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## Donations

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

By Patricia & Stephen Weiner, in gratitude of the High Holiday Services led by Rabbi Dan

Yahrzeit donation by Marion Shapiro, in memory of her father-in-law, Phillip Shapiro

By Russell & Michele Jansch, with gratitude for Rabbi Dan's assistance and advice

Yahrzeit donation by Doug & Risa Keene in memory of Harry Schneider, Risa's father

Yahrzeit donation by Eric Fine in memory of Regina & Arthur Fine

### *Congregant Assistance Fund*

Yahrzeit donation by Robin & Craig Sylvern in memory of her mother

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

Yahrzeit donation by Sarah & Robert Vogel in memory of Ruth Records, Sarah's mother

### *Florence Jenny Aliber Lipsky Fund*

Yahrzeit donation by Aaron Lipsky in memory of his father, Rubin Lipsky & his mother, Florence Aliber Lipsky

Yahrzeit donation by Dorothy Saks in memory of her parents, Rubin Lipsky & Florence Aliber Lipsky

### *Cohen Lecture Series*

Yahrzeit donation by Gail & Tom Giesen in memory of Frances Feingold, Gail's mother

Yahrzeit donation by Arthur Cohen, in memory of Nathan E. Cohen, Arthur's father

### *General Fund*

Yahrzeit donation by Paul & Elaine Bieber, in memory of Nathan Bieber, Paul's grandfather

Yahrzeit donation by Martin Gross & Jenna Hastings, in memory of Michael Gross, Martin's father

### *General Fund*

Yahrzeit donation by Steven & Susan Levy, in memory of Leatrice Levy, Steven's mother

By Denis Murphy

### *Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque*

Yahrzeit donation by Jan & Rick Cohen, in memory of Jan's mother, Bernie Feld

### *Yizkor Book*

By Jill & Marty Post

### *Tree of Life*

By Jan & Rick Cohen in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of their grandchildren Emma & Neko Bull-Cohen

By Jan & Rick Cohen in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

By Jan & Rick Cohen in honor of their daughter Jill Cohen

### *Rosh Hashanah Luncheon*

By Aaron Lipsky, in gratitude for the festive meal prepared by Daniella Yitzchak

By Paul & Elaine Bieber

By Risa & Doug Keene

By Rabbi Dan, Beth and Kro Aronson

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