



KOLENU

"Our Voice" The Newsletter of Congregation Anshei Israel

March/April 2023 • Adar/Nisan/Iyar 5783

Volume 76 Number 4



**Purim in the Land of Oz
and Megillah Reading
Monday, March 6 at 5:00pm**



**Community Passover
Second Night Seder
Thursday, April 6 at 6:30pm**

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Passover 5783
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Community Second Night Seder at JCC

KOLENU • קולנו

"Our Voice"

The Newsletter of Congregation Anshei Israel

Congregation Anshei Israel

A Conservative Synagogue and
Proud Member of USCJ



5550 East 5th Street • Tucson AZ 85711
(520) 745-5550 • fax (520) 745-9058
caiaz.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation Anshei Israel shall serve as a source of spiritual, educational, and social enrichment in order to encourage and ensure Judaic values in accordance with the Principles of Conservative Judaism.

CLERGY & STAFF INFORMATION

Rabbi • Sara Metz
Ext. 230 • RabbiMetz@caiaz.org

Rabbi Emeritus • Robert J. Eisen
Rabbi.Eisen.AZ@gmail.com

Rabbi Emeritus • Arthur Oleisky, z"l

**Cantorial Soloist and Education & Youth
Director • Nichole Chorny**
Ext. 227 • CantorialSoloist@caiaz.org

Executive Director • Debra Lytle
Ext. 242 • ExecDir@caiaz.org

Early Childhood Director • Tania Spivak
Ext. 229 • ECDirector@caiaz.org

Finance Director • Susan Kirschner
Ext. 223 • FinanceDirector@caiaz.org

Communications • Nancy Auslander
Ext. 228 • Communications@caiaz.org

Education Assistant • Kim Miller
Ext. 224 • EdAsst@caiaz.org

Executive Assistant • Amber Page
Ext. 225 • ExecAssist@caiaz.org

Finance Assistant • Lanette Garnett
Ext. 244 • FinanceAsst@caiaz.org



Please visit our website
caiaz.org and check your email
for the most
up-to-date information.

Shalom!

FROM RABBI METZ

A version of this was presented as a sermon on Shabbat morning.

In January I had the incredible opportunity to join about 20 other rabbis to learn more in depth the processes on helping Jews complete the divorce procedure in a Jewish legal context.

We discussed the specificity of how to write the *get* document including how to brew the special ink that is used to write a Torah Scroll, *mezuzah*, *tefillin* & a *get*. We also practiced writing the very specific calligraphy script that is only used for a *get*. This was a continuation of an 18-month course in which we studied the Talmud tractate called *Gittin*, which is the plural of *Get*.

Many of you and my own family have asked me, simply, "Why? Why devote so much time to this exercise?" Surely it is more fun to officiate weddings! That is certainly true, but I feel a calling to help people in difficult moments of their lives with respect and kindness.

I am committed to working within the system, to be an agent of change, to bring comfort to an incredibly difficult ritual. When this ritual is performed with respect and care, it can be redemptive. When done well, the ceremony can respect both people and help each of them to keep the good memories and start to let the rest go. Rituals of closure can be incredibly difficult, yet they can also help to bring peace and redemption to our hearts. This is part of the goal. There is also a very limited number of rabbis who are certified to write a *get*. There are none in Arizona currently.

As we began our learning together, Rabbi Scott Rosenberg of El Paso, Texas, shared his educational goals for our time together: simplicity and clarity. Part of doing things as simply and clearly as possible also involves what to do when you make a mistake. Some written mistakes on a *get* can be corrected by lightly scraping the ink of the page and rewriting the letter. Yet when one does that, there is a principal that one should remove as little as possible. One also cannot make a letter by removal. For example, if the scribe or *soferet* is attempting to write the letter of a final *mem* and instead creates a letter that looks like a box, they get a solid blob. One cannot scrape out the middle to create the letter. This concept of creating only by doing and not by undoing is a powerful one.

In all that we do in our lives, we must be conscious of how we do them. When correcting a letter, we must be careful not to create another letter. For example, if the smaller part of a **7** is written wrong, we cannot just erase that part as we would be left with the letter **7**. Instead, we must first separate a part of the top part of the letter so when the bottom part is erased, no letter is left behind. Then we can correct the mistake. So, there is a certain artistry and creativity. I have found in counseling families in disagreement, we often have to think creatively on how we help people move forward.

We also learned the many specific ways to create the letters using our own carved feather quills and writing instruments we carved from bamboo. We learned certain letters as being combinations of other letters. For example, in the specific *get* script, a *vav* is a longer *yud*.

To make a *shin* we make 3 *yuds*, and then connect the bottom and make the middle one into a *vav*. A *bet* is a *dalet* with a bottom, a *hey* is a *dalet* with an upside-down *yud*.

In this way we built on our previous knowledge to create these letters. Yet, it is more than that. Each time our quill touched the paper, we created a mark that is inherently connected to many others. Without having building blocks, we could not advance to writing other more complex letters.

In all our learning we discussed connecting letters, yet this was all in the service of severing the connection made between two married people. I am sitting with that irony and thinking of all the ways we make connections in our lives and the difficult times when we must separate.



Continued on page 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to March and April, such an exciting, fun, and busy time on our Jewish calendar. First comes Purim on March 6, followed one month later, on April 5, with Passover's first seder.

To start the month of March, we will once again have *Hamentaschen for Hunger* in-person on March 5. I hope you will join me at this fun event for all ages. You are never too young or too old to make *hamentaschen*. You can eat all of them yourself, or you can make *shalach manot* bags to share with your friends and family. If you've never made a *shalach manot* gift bag or basket, you might be curious how to do it. What does one generally put in it? I think of it as a "snack bag" for one or more people. Tops on the list are the *hamentaschen*, then maybe some fruit, trail mix, cereal or granola bars, and as well as juice boxes, tea bags or cocoa mixes. A few candy kisses to show your love is a nice treat. You might even add a *grogger* to use in shul to drown out Haman's name.

So after you've made and distributed your gift bags, don't forget to attend CAI's Purim in the Land of Oz, followed by the *megillah* reading on March 6. I look forward to seeing you there.

March is a busy month for the Board of Trustees and staff as we work on the budget for the next fiscal year. Along with the budget, programming is another top priority.

Many of our programming ideas are developed from the input of our members. Our synagogue could not exist without the active involvement of you, our congregants, who not only contribute so generously to our financial well-being, but of your time. Lay involvement is essential to this congregation. We all need to "step-up" and volunteer, whether it's to lead a service, read the Torah or Haftarah, attend a daily minyan, holiday and Shabbat services, cook a congregational meal, serve on a committee, and the list goes on. Yes, I am saying that you need to share your talents and expertise and to volunteer and to be an active member of Congregation Anshei Israel.

Wishing all of you a Happy Purim and a Happy Passover.

See you in shul.

B'Shalom,

Evelyn Sigafus, ESigafus@aol.com

From Rabbi Metz, continued from page 2

Very soon we will celebrate Purim and then Passover. Both parts of our history involve us living in a foreign land with foreign leaders. In our Passover story, Moses and Aaron go before Pharaoh imploring him to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt to pray to God.

That connection between the Israelites, Pharaoh, and Egypt needs to be severed for us to be a free people. Moses and Aaron came before Pharaoh in essence saying to him, once we were close, our ancestor Joseph was second in command to the pharaoh.

Yet that connection and trust was forgotten, you abused us and we must separate from each other in order for us to find God and receive Torah. The process of Moses and Aaron going before Pharaoh to the point after the final plague that Pharaoh agrees to let us go is an incredibly complex one.

Yet the Egyptians needed to experience God's power and the Israelites needed to as well. In order to receive Torah and be redeemed as a people, we had to leave a negative relationship. For the Israelites seeking freedom and for those who choose that there is no path forward in a marriage, it is heartbreaking, and **the only way out is through**. The process is difficult and yet we can do all we can consciously and carefully, fixing our mistakes when needed so that we may find redemption.

May we have more love and connection than separation. Yet when we are in times when separation is necessary, it is a *mitzvah*, a commandment from God. In those moments, may you know we are all connected. We cannot create by erasing and taking away. When we join to gather, to support and help each other, we are able to find redemption together.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Sara Metz

(520) 745-5550 ext. 230

RabbiMetz@caiaz.org

CAI's 92nd Annual Meeting Monday May 8, 2023

SAVE
the DATE

The Governance Committee is responsible for conducting an annual review of the bylaws and suggesting changes as appropriate, updating bylaws and resolving questions about them as required, reviewing all petitions to amend bylaws, reviewing general Board, Synagogue Life Council and committee operating rules, and maintaining and updating Board policies as appropriate. They also assess the leadership needs of committees and Board and create a slate of Officers and Board members.

This year's slate of Officers and Board member recommendations will be shared in the 92nd Annual Meeting announcement coming out soon.

CAI's Governance Committee: Jonathan Green, Chair

Dan Jurkowitz	Mike Jacobson	Andy Douglas
Joy Peskin	David Polan	Nancy Ozeri
Paul Kahn, Alternate		

Calling all cooks!



Volunteers needed to assist with preparing & serving our delicious Shabbat, Festival, and other meals.

If interested, please contact Nancy Auslander at Communications@caiaz.org



EDUCATION

Preschool



The days are sure flying by. The weather is warming up and the children are growing. I've had the pleasure of adding new staff and new classes. I am looking forward to continuing on this post-Covid path of additions and renewal for our beloved Esther B. Feldman Preschool.

We have added a once-a-month Parent and Me Music Jamboree with Mr. Nature. If you or someone you know has a little one that is twelve months old, we would love to have them join in on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:45–2:30 pm. The dates are as follows March 15th, April 19th and May 17th. For our member and current preschool families there is no cost. For guests, the first class is free, and after that we are asking for an \$18.00 donation.

In addition to our Mr. Nature Parent and Me Music Jamboree, I'm excited to share that our PAC moms and I have started a monthly Coffee Cart. The Coffee Cart is a great fundraiser for our Preschool as well as an opportunity for parents and grandparents to skip breakfast at home, grab a muffin for your little one and a cup of coffee for yourself. Stay and chat with your friends and me, and shop for preschool gear. We are excited to be rolling out some new style shirts and other wearables in the upcoming months. Dates for the upcoming Coffee Cart are March 22nd, April 26th, and May 10th.

We also have our monthly PAC meetings in the library starting at 9:15am and usually last no longer than an hour. Our upcoming PAC meeting dates are March 15th, April 19th, and May 17th. Enjoy a lovely breakfast spread made by our very own Lupe, use the opportunity to get involved, give your feedback, and participate in the exciting events and goings on in our Preschool.

Purim is just around the corner. It's time to dust off those costumes and get your groggers ready! I'm very excited to experience my first Purim parade here in Tucson at Anshei Israel. The children will be parading around and singing on March 7th at 9:30am (after drop-off), so mark your calendars. We will be enjoying Hamentaschen and dancing immediately following the children's performance.

In addition to celebrating Purim, the frogs will be jumping here, there and everywhere as we celebrate the holiday of Passover. The children will enjoy a Passover Model Seder and all kinds of interesting recipes containing matzah this year.

And...we have opened up our 23-24 school registration to the public. If you know anyone with children between the ages of 14 months and 5 years, I am offering referral credit for each registered family.

I'm so excited to begin planning our Summer Camp program. We will have a lot of new exciting activities such as special activity days with guests and, of course lots and lots of water play. So, get your summer gear ready!

B'Shalom,
Tania Spivak
Early Childhood Director
(520) 745-5550 ext. 229
ECDirector@caiaz.org

B'Yahad and USY



As we enter Spring and get closer to the summer, our B'Yahad families were given the opportunity to explore Jewish Summer Camp options at our Jewish Summer Camp Fair with Kol Ami.



We were thrilled to welcome Camp Representatives from 9 different Jewish camps (including Camp Ramah Ojai AND Camp Ramah Galim!). As a reminder, we have scholarships available for families who are interested in sending their child to camp this summer. We want to make sure that every family that wants to send a child to camp can, so please be in touch with us!

We look forward to celebrating Purim together with **Hamantaschen for Hunger on Sunday, March 5**, and a special **Purim Celebration in the evening of Monday, March 6**! Be sure to join us for the fun! The students and teachers of Kol Ami will join us for our final collaborative program of the year at our **Chocolate Seder & Passover Workshop on Sunday, March 26** at Kol Ami. Watch your emails for details and volunteer opportunities.

Keep an eye out for details about our upcoming Kadima & USY events. As a reminder, Kadima will be April 16, and USYers will be helping with the Purim Carnival in March & meeting again on April 22. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our USY Kinnus/Shabbaton Scholarship campaign! We are looking forward to sending many of our Kadimaniks to their first Kinnus this month at Camp Stein in Prescott. Our USYers had a blast at their Kinnus in January at Camp Ramah.

We hope to see you at our Family Service & Tot Shabbat Service this month! Family Services will be March 10 & April 14, with Tot Shabbat on March 24.



B'Shalom,
Nichole Chorny
Cantorial Soloist and Education & Youth Director
(520) 745-5550 ext. 227
CantorialSoloist@caiaz.org

Candle Lighting Times March/April 2023

March		April	
March 3	6:04pm	April 5 (1st night Pesach)	6:28pm
March 10	6:10pm	April 6 (2nd night Pesach)	7:24pm
March 17	6:15pm	April 7	6:29pm
March 24	6:19pm	April 11 (7th night Pesach)	6:32pm
March 31	6:24pm	April 12 (8th night Pesach)	7:28pm
		April 14	6:34pm
		April 21	6:39pm
		April 28	6:44pm

ADULT EDUCATION



Walking with Mitzvot: Understanding the Commandments

A 6-week course with Rabbi Metz

Tuesdays, through March 28
at 7:00pm on Zoom

Learn how *mitzvot* (commandments) changed and evolved over time, and how to apply them to every day life.

\$18 per member / \$36 per guest

Materials & Zoom link provided upon registration.

Check your email for details and Zoom link.



Read It and Meet

Please join Women's League on Zoom for Read It and Meet to discuss a wide variety of books by Jewish authors and/or about Jewish themes.

**Sundays, March 26 and April 23
at 11:00am on Zoom**

Schedule for 2022-2023:*

DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR
3/26/23	The Kill Artist	Daniel Silva
4/23/23	Have You Seen Luis Velez?	Catherine Ryan Hyde

**Subject to change.*

Watch your email for details and links.



For every **"Box Tops for Education"** coupon from specially-marked General Mills products, CAI's preschool receives 10 cents!

And now, no more clipping! Just scan your receipt.

Go to boxtops4education.com for more information.

Online Weekday Torah Study Group



Led by Rabbi Metz, this informal study group can lead to lively discussion. Held Thursdays on Zoom, 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Bring your Bible and your desire to learn together.

Study materials can be found at caiaz.org/resources

Check your email for details and Zoom link.

Upcoming classes you won't want to miss!



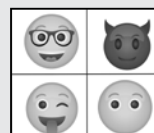
Psalms of Our Siddur

**Sundays, March 12, 19 & 26
at 9:45am**

in the Office Conference Room

Join Lev Metz to learn the translations, history, and interpretations of the Psalms of our prayer book.

We Are All the Four Children



**Passover Kollel
with
Rabbi Metz**

**Thursday, March 30 at 7:00pm
on Zoom**

Join Rabbi Metz on Zoom for an in-depth study of the traditional and modern interpretations of the four children discussed during the Passover Seder.

This discussion will continue with an activity during the Anshei Israel community second night Seder.

Check your email for details.

Know Someone New to Tucson?



If you know someone new to the Tucson community who you believe would be interested in learning about CAI, please call Debra Lytle at (520) 745-5550, ext. 242, so we can speak to them about all of the many religious, spiritual, educational, and communal opportunities the synagogue has to offer!

COMING UP



Sunday, March 5 at 11:00am In Cantor Falkow Lounge

Plan to join us for our annual Hamentaschen for Hunger event on Sunday, March 5 at 11:00am, in the Cantor Falkow Lounge. Executive Director Debra Lytle will walk participants step-by-step through the recipe, giving tips and tricks along the way. After the dough is made and chilling, participants will have the opportunity to perform the *mitzvah* of *matanot la'evyonim*, and visit our Donation Station to make bags for those in need at the Primavera Foundation Homeless Shelter. When the dough is chilled we will roll, stuff and shape our cookies to bring them home to bake.

Designed to satisfy both the body and the soul, all proceeds will be split evenly between the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and Leket Israel, the National Food Bank of Israel. Please give as you can on our secure website. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a custom-printed Hamentaschen for Hunger Apron, while supplies last.

\$18 per set-up

(Each set-up makes about 12 cookies.)

(complimentary for our B'Yahad students.)

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, March 1.

RSVP and secure donations can be made at
caiaz.org

See insert for more information

Purim in the Land of Oz Monday, March 6



Carnival	Dairy Dinner	Megillah Reading
5:00pm	5:45pm	6:30pm
Rabbi Breger Hall	Cantor Falkow Lounge	Sanctuary & Zoom

See insert for more information.
RSVP by Thursday, March 2 at caiaz.org

Join us again for the morning service and
Megillah Reading on

Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00am on Zoom

SAVE THE DATE!

Community Second Night Passover Seder



Thursday, April 6

at the
Jewish Community Center
3800 E. River Road

**This night will truly be different from all
other nights!**

Please join Rabbi Metz for this very special Seder.

See grey insert for more information.

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Enrolling!

**PROUD TO BE
TUCSON'S
PREMIER
JEWISH DAY
SCHOOL**

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WWW.THAZ.ORG



"Matzah & More" Passover Food Drive March 1 - March 17

CAI's B'Yahad Religious School is coordinating this community drive for Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS) to provide Passover foods for families in need. *Please help with this cause to enhance the Passover celebration for these families.*

Only monetary donations can be accepted. JFCS will then purchase gift cards to distribute safely.

Mail checks made payable to CAI, 5550 E. 5th Street, Tucson, AZ 85711, and note "Matzah & More" on it. You can also make a secure donation online at caiaz.org.

Todah Rabah and Chag Pesach Sameach to all!

COMING UP



FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE & DINNER

FRIDAYS, MARCH 10 & APRIL 14

Family Shabbat Service at 5:45pm

With Rabbi Metz and Cantorial Soloist Nichole Chorny in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash and on Zoom
(approximately 1 hour)

Followed by a chicken dinner with vegetarian option.

RSVP and payment for dinner required
no later than **March 7 & April 11**
RSVP at caiaz.org



Tot Shabbat & Dinner

**Friday, March 24
at 5:45pm**

Join Rabbi Metz and Cantorial Soloist Nichole Chorny in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash for this tot-friendly service, followed by a chicken dinner with vegetarian option at approximately 6:15pm.

RSVP & payment for dinner required
no later than **March 21**
RSVP for dinner at caiaz.org



Shabbat Sovev

Friday, April 28 at 5:45pm
in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash

Dinner approximately 7:00pm

Join us for a spiritually moving Kabbalat Shabbat Service full of community and new melodies sung to traditional liturgy.

After the service, join us for a chicken dinner with vegetarian option.

RSVP and payment for dinner required no later than
April 25. RSVP at caiaz.org



*For students
2nd through 6th grades!*

KIDS' MINYAN

**Saturday, March 4 &
April 22 at 9:30am**
In the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash

Kids in 2nd through 6th grades are invited to join Lev Metz in the Beit Midrash for a fun and engaging Shabbat morning service starting at 9:30am, while parents attend the main service. Younger kids (1st grade & under) are welcome to stay alongside their parents.

Babysitting will be provided for children 1st grade and younger starting at 9:30am in Room 5.

The Kids' Minyan will join the main service for the closing prayers, followed by a kid-friendly "Kid-dush."

Please RSVP for service & babysitting at caiaz.org by
Thursday, March 2 and April 20.

**Effective Saturday,
April 15, 2023**

**New Start
Time!**

**Shabbat Morning Service will begin at
9:30am.**

**If a holiday falls on Shabbat, Shabbat
Morning Service will begin at 9:00am.**

Daily & Weekly Services

Join us online for daily prayer services!

Morning Minyan Service on Zoom

8:00am Sunday • 7:30am Monday-Friday

Evening Minyan Service on Zoom

5:30pm Sunday-Thursday

Please check your email for any scheduling changes.

Shabbat Services

Kabbalat Shabbat Service*

5:45pm Friday

Zoom Only - March 3, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 21

Hybrid Family Shabbat - March 10 & April 14

Hybrid Shabbat Sovev - April 28

**Subject to change - check your email for details*

Shabbat Morning Service

In-person & online on Zoom

9:00am Saturdays through April 8, 2023

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

In the second half of 2019, the “Strategic Development and Rabbinic Transition Task Force” was formed by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees. The charge of this Task Force was to determine a path forward after the retirement of Rabbi Robert Eisen. After three years plus, this Task Force (now known as the Strategic Development Steering Committee or SDSC) has come to the end of its charge and presents this report to the Board.

The Task Force first set about to create a plan for a rabbinic transition. With the assistance of a skilled consultant Jessica Emerson McCormick (JEM), we commenced the initial phase of work which included: (i) gathering and interpreting data reflecting the desires, needs and wants of our congregation for the coming years; (ii) taking these criteria and creating a strategic description of the rabbinic leadership necessary to achieve the criteria; (iii) conducting a search for that individual.

With the assessment phase complete the Task Force began a search for CAI’s next rabbi. This search was organized, consistent and intentional. It culminated with the hiring of Rabbi Sara Metz who began on July 1, 2020.

Phase II of the Task Force was the onboarding of Rabbi Metz. This was conducted during a global pandemic. Rabbi Metz was successfully integrated into the congregation and there have been many positive changes and accomplishments as a result of her hiring.

In early 2021 the Task Force began to look at the priorities identified by the congregation during the assessment phase. In order to fully address these, in April of 2021, Phase III began with a few additional members and a new name. The Strategic Development and Rabbinic Transition Task Force transitioned into The Strategic Development Steering Committee so named to both identify those priorities most important to the congregation, to create a strategic plan, and to steer the congregation toward the accomplishment of that plan.

After reviewing the assessment data and working closely with the rabbi, cantorial soloist, and executive director, the SDSC came up with the following set of priorities for 2021/2022:

1. Engage our congregants and incorporate them into the life of the CAI community
 - a. Focus on young individuals and families
 - b. Reaching out to young individuals and families that are current members but not regular participants. How do we best welcome them and incorporate them into our CAI community?
 - c. How do we best attract young individuals and families who are not currently associated with CAI?
 - d. While the focus is on growing our younger population, we must be certain to attend to the older congregants as well
2. In order to grow the CAI impact and exposure in the Jewish community, build coalitions and partnering opportunities with synagogues and other community organizations
3. Create more opportunities for congregants to form meaningful relationships while promoting fellowship using small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.

The strategy for accomplishing these priorities was to work within the current governance structure of the congregation, including its committees, councils and of course the Board. The SDSC determined that there were two key ways to impact the congregational structure: First, to develop and implement a Committee Liaison process which planted members of the Steering Committee into the active committees, councils, etc. to help keep those entities focused on the congregational priorities; and second, the establishment of a Volunteer Development Program to impact the cultivation and training of the volunteers necessary in supporting CAI’s volunteer-run organization. This was all presented to the Board and approved unanimously.

Since that time there has been much accomplished. The rabbi,

cantorial soloist and executive director have completely embraced the priorities and have worked diligently to create programs, activities and services that address them. Two committees of specific note, the Ritual Advisory and Youth/Family committees were highly successful in the coordination of the chairs, liaisons and staff forming a true partnership that embraced these priorities. The liaisons from the SDSC and several other committees enjoyed other successes as well. Accomplishment of these strategic tactics include:

- Inter-congregational and community programming with Kol Ami, Hillel, THA, JCC and JPSA
- New Siddur
- Shabbat Sovev Evening Services
- Pride Shabbat
- Family Shabbatot and dinners
- Saturday AM Kids’ Minyan
- Social programming for young adults in partnership with Bet Shalom’s rabbi

In addition, Donna Saffioti and the Volunteer Development Program Task Force created an excellent roadmap for a volunteer recruitment and integration program.

One of the priorities identified as needing greater future emphasis is the need to achieve a better balance between attracting and retaining young people and families, and keeping our older, established members engaged and happy. As with all the other priorities, this needs to be focused on by the Board, its committees and the CAI staff.

Closing Recommendations to the Board of Trustees:

- Support Donna Saffioti in reengaging with the Volunteer Development Program Task Force to flesh out the details of the program to include the necessary components as outlined in the Task Force’s Charter and Strategic Plan.
- Identify better methods of cross communication among committees, the Board and the congregation.
- Continue to support staff and committees in their efforts to address the priorities AND balance the need to attract the younger people/families with that of the older congregants
- Review the current Board and Committee structure to determine what is the best way to accomplish what the congregation must accomplish over both the short and long term.
- Questions to consider:
 - Given the vision of the synagogue, what are the strategies and tactics needed to accomplish that vision?
 - Why are so few committees functioning? Is this something to be reconsidered?
 - How do we attract people to come to volunteer? To become lay leaders?
- Consider conducting a new survey and possibly focus groups to determine next steps

Conclusion:

As we reflect on the challenges and successes of this Task Force/Steering Committee, we are truly inspired by the CAI volunteers who committed countless hours, enormous energy and bold thought to the process. All volunteers are important to our organization, but this group took on the responsibility of creating and implementing a major chapter in the life of our congregation. We both are extraordinarily grateful to:

Josh Anbar, Joel Black, Michele Cassen, Marcy Friedman, Marshall Heyman, Josh Hurand z”l, Tracy Jeck, Rosie Kahn, Bob Mutterperl, Joy Peskin, Scott Phelps, Donna Saffioti, Lily Selznick, and Paul Simon

BOT Officer Liaison: Jonathan Green

Staff Liaison: Debra Lytle

Respectfully,

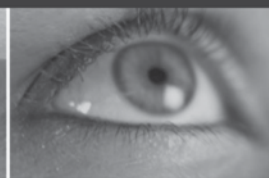
Stephanie Roberts and Phillip Pepper

CATCHING UP

B'Yahad Chanukkah Maccabiah - December 18, 2022



It Matters Who You See



T P
F O Z
E W M S
M S F L W
E L Y A O X

Offering complete eye care, outpatient and laser vision correction surgery, and quality optical service.

Brock K. Bakewell, M.D., FACS
Jeff S. Maltzman, M.D., FACS
Brian A. Hunter, M.D., FACS
Michael D. Henry, M.D.
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Tu B'Shvat Seder - February 5, 2023



Mom's Craft Night Out - January 26, 2023



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MAZAL TOV

Birth Announcements

This column features the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of CAI members. The announcement and photo (if available) will appear in the issue of Kolenu within appropriate print dates. Please notify Amber at (520) 745-5550, ext. 225 or ExecAssist@caiaz.org

Shabtai Yisroel Poliakoff December 6, 2022

Shabtai is the grandchild of Joanne & Brad Morantz. (Parents: Rabbi Ari & Aleah Poliakoff)

March Anniversaries

Date		Years
5	Billie & Boris Kozolchyk	56
	Ofelia & Simon Fried	42
7	Marsha & Charles Blitzer	42
9	Nancy & Richard Weiss	38
14	Marylou & Norman Feiger	30
18	Hollie & Bradley Rotenberg	11
21	Shelly & Les Silberman	38
	Valorie & Andrew Douglas	14
	Irene & Scott Glass	14
25	Dani & Phil Bregman	22
27	Stacey & Zach Singer	12
30	Sarah & Leonard Schultz	54

April Anniversaries

Date		Years
2	Norma & Ron Karp	57
28	Barbara & Peter Danes	21
29	Ellen Eichler-Grabell & Lawrence Grabell	28



Marriage



Marriage



Mazal Tov to
**Ben Cook
&
Huan Wang**

for their marriage on
January 22, 2023

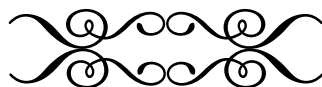
Ben & Huan are the sons of:
Vickey Cook & Allan Cook z"l
Yi Liu & Hao Wang

Celebrating Becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Abigail Jeck
March 25, 2023



Abby is the daughter of Tracy & David Jeck, granddaughter of Eleanor & Don Jeck, and Barry & Sandy Thall. Abby has two brothers, Coby and Alex. Abby attends The Gregory School, and her hobbies include playing tennis, baking, hanging out with friends, and watching U of A basketball. As her mitzvah project, Abby is collecting donations of money, food, and toys for the Humane Society.



ANNOUNCEMENT amazon

Effective February 20, 2023, Amazon ended the AmazonSmile program, where Amazon donated 0.5% of all Amazon purchases to favorite charities. Amazon will, however, continue to partner with and support a variety of local, national and international charities in other ways.

At CAI, we thank you for the support your Amazon purchases have provided for our community over the past years, and we look forward to working with you and other members of our congregation and the Tucson Jewish community to find additional opportunities to support us.

Chesed Committee



Did you know that you are a member of the *Chesed* Committee, the largest committee at Congregation Anshei Israel? Every congregant is a member!

Chesed means loving-kindness, grace, helping each other. We exist to help our members in times of need.

Please feel free to contact me.

Ron Gray, Chesed Committee Chair, RonPsych@yahoo.com

Interfaith Families Welcome

CAI welcomes all interfaith families and encourages them to participate in as much synagogue life as they choose within the framework of Conservative Judaism. For more information, go to caiaz.org/resources as part of CAI's "Myths vs. Facts" program.

Honorable "Menschens"

Todah Rabah to:

Shabbat Dinners Kitchen Crew

Rebecca Auslander
Lisa Jurkowitz
Scott Phelps
Brooke Rabe
Abby Rosen
Karen Skolnik
Teri Thienhaus

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Jonathan Green
Kerri Haelflinger
Beth McGinnis
Josh & Gabe Melson
Emily Pendleton
Scott & Kala Phelps
Brooke Rabe & Tom Williams

Gabbaim

Lois Bodin
Phil Bregman
Ari Espinoza
Ron Gray
Rosie Kahn
Vicki Pepper
Joy Peskin
Stephanie Roberts
Steve Singer

Kolenu Proofreaders

Donna Saffioti
Judith Schultz
Evelyn Sigafus
Teri Thienhaus

If we missed you, we apologize. If you would like to be included in further announcements, please let us know.

Thank you to our "Yad Squad"

(Those who read Torah and Haftarah in December & January)

Andy Douglas	Adeline Horst	Phillip Pepper
Will Douglas	Mike Jacobson	Hayden Peskin-Owens
Ari Espinoza	Lisa Jurkowitz	Joy Peskin
Hillary Goldstein	Michael Jurkowitz	Leonard Schultz
Richard Green	Ziva Mason	Steve Seltzer

Thank you to the following congregants for sponsoring our Kiddushes

- Bertie Levkowitz, in memory of her mother, Hettie Goslins, and husband Jack Levkowitz
- Brina, Marty & Glenn Grusin in memory of mother and nonny, Ethel DeVorkin
- Evelyn Sigafus, in memory of parents, Claire & Herman Weiss

Please contact Debra Lytle at ExecDir@caiaz.org to reserve a date to sponsor Kiddush



Tree of Life - Etz Chayim

The Congregation Anshei Israel Tree of Life is a loving way to commemorate weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, special occasions, and memories of your family and friends.

Anyone may purchase leaves or stones in honor or in memory of their loved ones. Our Tree of Life is displayed in the Honor Hallway by the Linda Roy Youth Center. You are invited to pause and share the special memories in the lives of our community.

For more information and to place your order for a leaf or stone, please visit caiaz.org

Condolences

המקום ינחם אתכם

The congregation mourns the loss of our members:

Everett Broder
Lou Ginsberg
Steven Weinstein

Our condolences to these members who mourn the loss of their loved ones:

Teresa (Brandon) Matheson, her father, Bob Moen
Melayna & Jared Matheson, their grandfather, Bob Moen
Barbara (Sanford) Selznick, her mother, Betty Wilinsky
Lily & Eillis Selznick, their grandmother, Betty Wilinsky
Joann Weinstein, her husband Steven
Tyler & Jacob Weinstein, their father Steven

May the Author of Life Comfort the Mourners

*A Memorial Plaque has been installed for
Danny Singer*

Anshei Israel Memorial Hall

Installation of a memorial plaque is a beautiful way to perpetuate the memory of a loved one. Each year on the anniversary of your loved one's death, the synagogue will send you a reminder of the Yahrzeit and light the light adjacent to their memorial plaque. Call Debra at (520) 745-5550, ext. 242, to make arrangements or if you wish to reserve a space for the future.

Dealing with Grief and Loss?



Are you having difficulty dealing with grief and loss? Perhaps it would be helpful to talk with a trained counselor. A synagogue volunteer would be happy to speak with you confidentially.

Please call Norma Karp at (520) 299-3382.

Share your Simcha! Become a Kiddush sponsor!

Sponsorships will be acknowledged in eblasts, during services, and in the Kolenu.

If you are able to support us, please email Debra Lytle at ExecDir@caiaz.org

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Donations made to Anshei Israel Funds enable our Synagogue to continue to carry out its work, thereby better serving our members.
Please consider making a donation in honor of a relative or friend who may be celebrating a simcha or in memory of a loved one.
This list reflects those donations made after the last issue's publication date. Todah Rabbah to all.

Our Donation Form
is at the Front Desk
in the administrative office
AND
at caiaz.org
Notification cards are
sent for donations of
\$18 or more.

Tributes

(FI) BELLA FINGERETT ISRAEL TRIPS/SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor of:

Gloria Hirsch's Birthday
Linda & Shelby Silverman

(BR) RABBI MARCUS BREGER-ADULT STUDIES FUND

In Honor of:

Ron Gray's 75th Birthday
Bertie Levkowitz & Tom Herz

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In Memory of:

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Brother, Gerald Kadish
Jean Glassberg
Father, Joseph
Stephen Seltzer
Anita Locker
Ruth Hoffman

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In Memory of:

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Herb Meshel
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Sister, Esther Mona Davidson
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Grandfather, Moshe Lox
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Barbara (Sanford) Selznick
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Family We Have Lost
Aletha & David Kalish
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Birth of Shabtai Yisroel,
Grandson of Joanne &
Brad Morantz
Evelyn Sigafus
Linda Silverman's Birthday
Gloria Hirsch
Father Stuart Taussig's Birthday
Ava Weinstein

In Appreciation of:

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Ron Gray's 75th Birthday
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In Honor of:

Ron Gray's 75th Birthday
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In Honor of:

Ron Gray's 75th Birthday
Barbara & Gerald Goldberg

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In Honor of:

Hannah Faith, 1st Yahrzeit
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Their Aliyah on 12/17/22
Norma & Ron Karp

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Fay Green
Marianne Langer



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