



KOLENU

"Our Voice" The Newsletter of Congregation Anshei Israel

July/August • Tammuz/Av/Elul 5786

Volume 78 Number 6



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AVIVA School Supplies Drive

KOLENU • קולנו

"Our Voice"

The Newsletter of Congregation Anshei Israel

Congregation Anshei Israel

A Conservative Synagogue and
Proud Member of USCJ



United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism

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.

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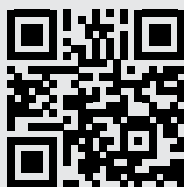
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Please visit our website caiaz.org and
check your email for the most
up-to-date information.

Scan QR Code to sign up for emails!



Shalom!

FROM RABBI METZ



It is hot. I won't pretend otherwise.

You step outside and the air presses against you like something alive. The sun doesn't just shine here; it insists. And somewhere between the car and the front door, you might find yourself wondering: why, exactly, do we live here?

But here is what I've come to believe: the desert doesn't ask that question. The desert simply is, ancient, patient, and full of a beauty that only reveals itself to those willing to look.

Our ancestors knew this intimately. The Jewish people were forged in a desert. It was in the scorching, disorienting expanse of the Sinai that we received Torah. It was there, stripped of distraction and comfort, that a people became a community, and a community became a covenant. The Torah tells us that the we journeyed through the wilderness and camped there. It was in the wilderness that God spoke to us. Not in a palace. Not in comfort. In the desert, on our journey, the divine voice found us.

There is something the desert teaches: how to find holiness exactly where you are.

Tucson, especially in the summer can have some similarities and be seen as our wilderness. And like our ancestors, we are not merely passing through; we have pitched our tents here. We have built homes, raised children, buried loved ones, and planted gardens that somehow, stubbornly, bloom. The heat is not an obstacle to our lives here; it is part of the texture of those lives. It is part of what makes us, us.

The Hebrew word *midbar* (wilderness or desert) shares its root with the word *davar*, meaning both "word" and "thing." Our tradition suggests that the desert is not empty. It speaks. When we slow down enough, when the heat forces us indoors and into stillness, we might discover that we are listening more carefully. To each other. To ourselves. To something larger.

This summer, I invite you not just to survive the heat, but to let it teach you something. And of course, you don't have to do it alone. We have planned a wonderful lineup of events to keep our community connected and comfortable through the season, with something for every age and every schedule. Watch the weekly email and Kolenu for full details, and please, bring a friend. Our tent is always big enough for more.

For those of you who head somewhere cooler this summer, know that you carry Tucson with you. You carry this community with you. The Jewish people have always been a portable people; our holiness has never been confined to one place. Wherever you find yourself, we hope you find rest, joy, and a Shabbat table to gather around. You are missed when you are gone, and celebrated when you return. This congregation is your home, whether you are here in the heat or somewhere far away watching the monsoon clouds roll in on your phone.

Our tradition teaches that wherever we go, we stand on holy ground. I believe that with my whole heart about this city, this congregation, and this season.

Summer in Tucson is ours. Let's make it sacred.

B'Shalom,

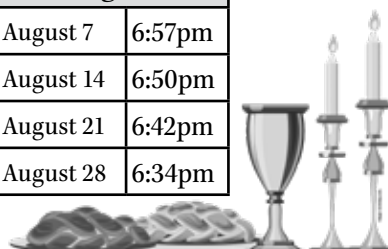
Rabbi Sara Metz

(520) 745-5550 ext. 230

RabbiMetz@caiaz.org

Candle Lighting Times

July		August	
July 3	7:16pm	August 7	6:57pm
July 10	7:14pm	August 14	6:50pm
July 17	7:12pm	August 21	6:42pm
July 24	7:08pm	August 28	6:34pm
July 31	7:03pm		



FROM THE PRESIDENT



When I was growing up in the Midwest three generations ago, nearly all the Jews in our town were affiliated with one of the congregations. It was the rare Jewish person who didn't belong to the one Reform, one Conservative or one of the two Orthodox shuls. There was a similar expectation for the 98% of the population that wasn't Jewish. Jewish life in Tucson in 2026 has a very different feel. According to the recent community pulse survey by JPSA with about 1% of the Jewish population of ~25,000 responding, only 55% identify with one of the three conventional religious movements, of which 18% call themselves Conservative. Some 45% therefore feel a Jewish identity, but not through affiliation with a congregation. And you can bet that if there are any biases from the small fraction of the population sampled, it's that the fraction of unaffiliated is likely to be higher.

So what does that result tell us? One safe conclusion is that affiliation is considered a choice, not an obligation, from either within the Jewish community or by the Tucson community as a whole. That same survey showed that the respondents sought Jewish community activities for their opportunities for socialization and making Jewish friends with twice the frequency as seeking spiritual, prayer or ritual experiences. Those results are compatible with our own congregational surveys of 2019 and 2025, where one of the top strategic priorities of 2020 and responses of 2025 were offering CAI activities with the opportunity for more social connection.

Our Rabbi, our *Shlichat Tzibbur* (Nichole) and the Board have heard this message. Beginning steps include expanding the range of Friday night experiences to include a later service and adult-oriented Oneg Shabbat. The Mah Jongg players have a devoted and regular weekly group. You have already heard about summer social pub evenings. JPSA funded the Rabbi's proposal for an 'Anshei Anywhere' program starting after the fall holidays to support Jewish community members getting together at offsite venues, like a zoo night, followed by an invitation to an Erev Shabbat congregational event. The Board and the Community Engagement Committee strongly encourage you to share your ideas and to help bring them to fruition.

What's different about having a Conservative congregation hosting purely social events? We want to build a community with shared religious values. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan (the originator of Reconstructionist philosophy) wrote, "A community is a form of social organization in which the welfare of each is the concern of all, and the life of the whole is the concern of each." Rabbi Deborah Waxman articulated the aspiration that our congregation can be the setting "where we agree to a set of values and then work to articulate norms that prioritize our interdependence over our individuality." And maybe have some fun in the process...

Bivrachah,

Richard F. Green

richard_green_94647203@comcast.net

TODAH RABAH

Joyce Becker for sponsoring Friday morning Kiddush on June 12 in memory of her husband, Bill, and in memory of her mother, Lillian Goldwyn.

CORRECTION

We inadvertently left Ron Gray off our list of Greeters who volunteered to help out during the Comedy Fundraiser held on February 21.

Todah Rabah, Ron!

INTRODUCING THE CAI GREEN COMMITTEE!

"When the Holy One, blessed be He, created the first human beings, God led them around all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said: 'Look at My works! See how beautiful they are—how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it after you.'" — Midrash Ecclesiastes (Kohelet) Rabbah 7:13 [1]

We are so excited to officially introduce ourselves and share our hopes for bringing more eco-friendly habits into both our synagogue's daily routine and our congregants' everyday lives. Beyond shrinking our building's environmental footprint, we really want to build a culture of conservation within our community and, hopefully, inspire congregants to do the same. If we also happen to spark your interest to jump in and volunteer, that would be wonderful—in fact, building a team of volunteers happens to be one of goals!

To keep you inspired, we plan to regularly share easy green tips, useful resources, and fun eco-trivia. Please keep an eye out for our upcoming features in future synagogue email blasts and our Kolenu columns. Our ultimate hope is to keep you reading, keep you learning, and inspire all of us to take action together. No matter how much time you have to spare, your voice and ideas matter. Please contact Joy Peskin at JoyBeth51@gmail.com today if you'd like to hang out with us, get involved, or share your thoughts!

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 spiritual, educational, and social opportunities our synagogue has to offer!



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We handle the details

You enjoy the journey

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Introducing Our New Sunday Morning Preschool Religious School Program



We are thrilled to welcome our youngest learners to a brand-new Sunday morning experience filled with play, discovery, friendship, and Jewish joy!

Open to children who are potty trained through Pre-K, this play-based program will introduce Jewish traditions, values, holidays, music, stories, and community in a warm, nurturing, and engaging environment. As part of our B'Yahad Religious School family, children and their caregivers will have opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together.

This program is open to the entire Jewish community—no synagogue membership required. We warmly welcome families of all backgrounds and levels of Jewish experience.

To help support program materials and security costs, we suggest an annual donation of \$180 or more. Most importantly, we want every family who wishes to participate to feel welcome, regardless of donation level.

Come play, learn, celebrate, and build community with us—we can't wait to share Sunday mornings together! Registration is now open for this program on our website, so help spread the word!

If you have any questions or would like to set up a time to chat, please contact Nichole Chorny at CantorialSoloist@caiaz.org

Thank you to those preschool families who completed our recent survey to help shape this next chapter of early childhood engagement at CAI. Your feedback and thoughtful input have been incredibly valuable as we considered how best to move forward following the preschool closure.

In addition to the B'Yahad Preschool Program, we will continue to offer quarterly Tot Shabbats and Preschool-geared family programming throughout the year, as well as explore other Parent-Tot possibilities. We are excited about what lies ahead and grateful to have your partnership in building meaningful Jewish experiences for young children and families.

Introducing Our Shalom Space!

Funded through a generous grant from Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona, our new Shalom Space provides a welcoming and accessible place for families during services and synagogue events.

The space at the back of the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash can be used for supervised babysitting, for parents who wish to stay with their children while participating in services, and as a private room for nursing, feeding, or diaper changes. We look forward to officially opening the Shalom Space during our August Family Shabbat Service.

B'Yahad and USY

We are busy with preparations for a wonderful Fall for B'Yahad and USY as we prepare curriculum & materials for the year and exciting opening programs! If you have not yet registered for B'Yahad or USY for the 2026-27 school year, be sure to do so now. Registration forms can be found on our website.



We are excited to announce the addition of a Sunday morning weekly Preschool Program within B'Yahad starting in the Fall! This program will be open to children who are potty trained through Pre-K and will be a play-based learning experience with Judaic enrichment for young children. For more information about this new program, please contact me.

B'Yahad classes resume on **August 23**, followed immediately by the first day of **Kadima** (4th-6th grades). Stay tuned for more information about our **first USY Lounge (7th-12th grades) on Saturday, August 15**.

We are thrilled to announce our Annual Midbar Turnaround Trip for 7th-12th grade Junior & Senior USYers over Labor Day weekend: this year we will once again be meeting up with USYers from Phoenix, Nevada, and California in DISNEYLAND! Keep an eye out for huge scholarship opportunities and be sure to register for USY now. You can find registration for USY on our website, and sign-up for Disneyland will be sent out via email. As a reminder, Kadima and Junior USY registration is included in B'Yahad registration for 4th-6th grade, and 7th & 8th grade students, so there is no need to do the extra registration.



Be sure to also join us for our **Welcome Back Family Service & dinner on Friday, August 28** and watch your email for details about the start of the 2026-27 school year. We look forward to wonderful year of learning and being together!

B'Shalom,

Nichole Chorny

Cantorial Soloist and Education & Youth Director

(520) 745-5550 ext. 228

CantorialSoloist@caiaz.org



**Do you like to sing?
We want to hear from you!
High Holy Days Youth Choir**

**Sunday, August 16
9:00am • Classroom 3**

As in previous years, students who enjoy singing will be participating in High Holy Days services as our Youth Choir. All students between the ages of 13-18 are encouraged to participate! Come and sing with us!

**To RSVP for the rehearsal or for more information,
contact Cantorial Soloist Nichole Chorny
at 745-5550, ext. 228 or
CantorialSoloist@caiaz.org**

ADULT EDUCATION

Continuing & Restarting **Hebrew** *Class*



Aug. 6-Sept. 24
(no class Sept. 10)
Thursdays, after minyan
(approx. 6pm)

In the Rabbi Eisen
Belt Midrash

**Suggested
Donation \$90***



**Scan QR Code
To Register**



Join Eva Kvaloesund after Thursday evening minyan for an Adult Education Hebrew class focused on building confidence and comfort with Hebrew reading. Whether you are just beginning or looking to strengthen your skills, this class offers a supportive, low-pressure space to practice reading, pronunciation and deepen your connection to prayer and Jewish text. All levels are welcome.

*We invite a suggested donation of \$90 per person. Contributions of any amount help sustain the program and support a safe and welcoming environment. Please come as you are — everyone belongs here!

Jewish Afterlife

What happens after we die?
Sundays, August 16, 23 & 30

12:30-2:00pm

(in person only)

Instructor: Gila Silverman

Jewish tradition offers a range of perspectives, from the World to Come to the power of memory and legacy. In this three-session class, we will explore texts and traditions while engaging big questions about the soul, how we live our lives, and how we think about dying. No background needed, just curiosity.

Please feel free to bring a vegetarian lunch to enjoy during our time together.

A suggested donation is \$50 per person or more, as you are able. Your generosity helps make this course possible and supports a safe and welcoming space for all.

Everyone is welcome.

**Suggested
Donation
\$50 per person**



**Scan QR Code
to
Register**

Join us for Talmud Study!



Exploring the Talmud: The Stories That Shape Us

**10:00am Thursdays
on Zoom**

Join our Thursday study group as we explore the Talmud, home of deep wisdom, spirited debates, and stories so quirky you'll wonder if the rabbis missed their calling as comedians.

Each week we'll explore one tale and what it can teach us today. No background needed, just curiosity and a sense of humor. Come learn, laugh a little, and discover timeless meaning in these ancient stories.

Check your email for details and Zoom link.

The Mitzvah of Bikur Holim [Visiting the Sick]



Federal healthcare privacy regulations make it difficult for us to know when a member of CAI has been admitted to a hospital.

Become a partner in the *mitzvah* of *Bikur Holim* — visiting the sick — by advising our clergy when you, a relative, or a friend is hospitalized. We can stay informed **ONLY** if a family member or friend provides the information to us.

Please call Rabbi Metz at (520) 745-5550

COMING UP

Daily & Weekly Services

Join us in prayer services!

HYBRID Evening Minyan

Tuesdays* & Thursdays at 5:30pm

In-person in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash & on Zoom

**Learner's Minyan - Slower Pace*

HYBRID Morning Minyan

Fridays at 7:30am

In-person in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash & on Zoom,
followed by a light breakfast.

Morning & Evening Minyan Service

To request an additional service, scan QR Code
or visit caiaz.org to request a minyan!



Welcome Back Shabbat Oneg Service

**Friday, August 7
7:30pm Service**

in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash and on Zoom

Dessert & L'Chaim Oneg to follow

Join us for a later *Kabbalat Shabbat & Ma'ariv*
service in our Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash.

Stay after services to schmooze over sweet
treats, drinks, and great conversation as we
connect and celebrate with our community
together.

Both pareve and dairy desserts will be available.

Friday Evening

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

JULY	AUGUST
3rd - 5:45pm on Zoom	7th - 7:30pm Hybrid Shabbat Oneg
10th - 5:45pm on Zoom	14th - 5:45pm on Zoom
17th - 5:45pm on Zoom	21st - 5:45pm Hybrid Shabbat Sovev
24th - 5:45pm on Zoom	28th - 5:45pm Hybrid Family Shabbat
31st - 5:45pm on Zoom	

Subject to change. Check your email for details.

Hybrid Shabbat Morning Services

IN THE RABBI EISEN BEIT MIDRASH & ON ZOOM

9:30am Saturdays

Welcome Back Family Shabbat Service & Dinner

Friday, August 28



**Service at 5:45pm
Dinner Approx. 7:00pm**

Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash & on Zoom
(approximately 1 hour)

Join Rabbi Metz & Nichole Chorny for a family-friendly
Shabbat service in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash.

Followed by a delicious chicken dinner with
vegetarian option.

**RSVP and payment for dinner required
no later than August 25.**

Scan QR Code for pricing
& RSVP or visit caiaz.org



COMING UP SUMMER OF FUN

Join Nichole Chorny for

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday, July 9
Join us at 6:30pm
Game starts at 7:00pm

Don't miss the fun and festivities -
reservations are sure to fill up fast!
(Bring cash or card for food & drinks.)

CANYON'S CROWN
RESTAURANT & PUB
6958 E Tanque Verde Rd.

Scan QR Code
to reserve
your spot!



Gelato Tasting

Sunday, July 19
2:00PM

Join us for a delicious
afternoon and beat the
summer heat with Debra Lytle
and your CAI community!

**BLUE ICE
GELATO**
6878 E Sunrise Dr

Enjoy a 6-Flavor Gelato Flight for \$25 per person.
Flight reservations must be made and paid for in advance.

Not interested in the tasting flight? You're still welcome to join us!
Single scoops and other menu items will be available for purchase
directly from Blue Ice Gelato on the day of the event.

We look forward to sharing a sweet summer treat with you!

Scan QR Code to register
& order your gelato flight!



DJ BINGO GAME

WITH DEBRA LYTLE

THURSDAY, JULY 21
6:30PM

at Canyon's Crown
6958 E Tanque Verde Road
Game starts at 7:00pm!

Don't miss the fun and festivities -
reservations are sure to fill up fast!
(Bring cash or card for food & drinks.)

Scan QR
Code to
RSVP




SAVE THE DATE! Shred-a-thon August 14 • 8:30-11am

Watch your email
for details!



SHIV'A ASAR B'TAMMUZ

The 17th of Tammuz is observed as a fast commemorating the breaking down of the wall of Jerusalem.

This year, the 17th of Tammuz is observed on
Thursday, July 2 with *Ma'ariv* at 1:00pm (Hybrid).

SHABBAT HAZON & SHABBAT NAHAMU

The Sabbath immediately preceding the Ninth of Av is known as the Sabbath of Vision (*Hazon*).

Shabbat Nahamu provides words of consolation.

This year, *Shabbat Hazon* falls on July 17 & 18;
Shabbat Nahamu falls on July 24 & 25.

TISHA B'AV A TIME TO MOURN

The ninth day of Av, mentioned in Zechariah 8:19 as the "Fast of the Fifth" month, commemorates such national calamities as the destruction of both Temples, the fall of Bar Kokhba's fortress, Bethar, and the expulsion from Spain in 1492. *Tisha B'Av* is a time for mourning, communal loss, reflection, repentance, and the hope for rebuilding and redemption.

TISHA B'AV SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday, July 22

Ma'ariv/Lamentations..... 8:00pm (Hybrid)

Thursday, July 23

Shacharit..... 7:30am (Hybrid)

Mincha 12:30pm on Zoom

Ma'ariv 7:45pm on Zoom

ROSH CHODESH ELUL

The month of *Elul* (which immediately precedes *Rosh Hashanah*) is traditionally a month of repentance (*teshuvah*), spiritual preparation, self-examination, and increased prayer and charity in advance of the High Holy Days.

Rosh Chodesh Elul falls on August 13 & 14.



Join us as we sound the shofar
following services
on Friday, August 14.

COMING UP



USY HONEY

Send honey to your family & friends to sweeten the New Year!

8 oz. jar of delicious Kosher 100%

pure clover honey:

\$18 Each

(jar includes a printed keepsake blessing)

Proceeds benefit CAI's United Synagogue Youth.

FREE shipping with orders placed by August 16.

After August 16, shipping fees apply.

Delivery guaranteed in time for Rosh Hashanah when orders are placed by **Sept. 4.**

TO ORDER:

Scan the QR Code to place your secure order online or visit **caiaz.org**



Yahrzeit Plaques

Yahrzeit plaques placed in the Congregation Anshei Israel Memorial Hall during the past year will be dedicated on *Shemini Atzeret*, Saturday, October 3.

To ensure their timely arrival for this year's dedication, orders for yahrzeit plaques must be placed **no later than JULY 26.**

Scan the QR Code to place your secure order online or visit **caiaz.org**

Plaques ordered abefore July 26, 2026 will be dedicated on Shemini Atzeret 5787 (Saturday, October 3)



Get Shaking!

Add meaning to your Jewish life and create special memories for your family by shaking a lulav in your home!

We offer fully assembled Lulav & Etrog Sets for \$54

Scan QR Code to order by September 1.



1st of Elul Service Friday, August 14

7:30am in the Rabbi Eisen Beit Midrash & on Zoom

Join us to hear the first shofar blast for the new year on the First of Elul! The month of Elul is a time of repentance in preparation for the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Breakfast 8:30am

Scan QR Code to RSVP for our free breakfast!



Book of Remembrance

A Book of Readings and Memorial Prayers

The High Holy Days are a time for reflection, a time when we remember with fondness the relatives and friends who had a significant role in shaping our lives. We publish a **Book of Remembrance** to be used at all Yizkor Services throughout the year.

The **Book of Remembrance** includes special readings, psalms and prayers, as well as listings of those being remembered, their relationship to, and the name(s) of those who are remembering them.

Scan QR Code to fill out & submit your form no later than Friday, August 28.



You will also find the form online at caiaz.org, and in the Administrative Office, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm

CATCHING UP

Artisan Market & Judaica Exchange - April 19, 2026



Pizza & Parsha - May 28, 2026

Todah Rabah & Yasher Koach

Ari Espinoza for leading this session in the Linda Roy Youth Center following *minyan*, and to the Men's Club for putting this together!



Annual Meeting - May 18, 2026



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CATCHING UP

Preschool Closing Program - May 21, 2026



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\$4,300,000

An extraordinary 12.5-acre estate awaits—designed for those who appreciate space and craftsmanship. 11,888 sq ft of living space including main home, guest house, carriage apartment, workshop. French-inspired landscape with brick pathways, mature gardens, tranquil ponds/canals, and fountains.

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VICE PRESIDENT, ABR, CRS, GRI
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TUCSONHOMEFINDER@AOL.COM



CAI is participating in the



This raffle is unique because we sell tickets, and CAI keeps 100% of the money! By purchasing ticket(s), **YOU** can help raise much-needed funds for CAI and **YOU** could **win** a 2025 Kia Carnival Hybrid SX Prestige, airline tickets or cash!

TICKETS: \$25 each or 5 for \$100

Scan the QR Code, visit the Administrative Office Front Desk or caiaz.org through November 25, 2026.



Drawing will be held Dec. 4, 2026.

*Good luck, and thank you for supporting
Congregation Anshei Israel!*

MAZAL TOV TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

*We tried to contact all our families with graduating high school seniors. If we missed you, we apologize.
If you would like to be included in further announcements, please let us know.*

Contact Nichole Chorny at CantorialSoloist@caiaz.org

GABE MELSON

Gabe graduated from The Gregorgy School and will be spending next year in Jerusalem studying at the Shalom Hartman Institute through their *Hevruta* Gap Year Program. He then plans to attend Brandeis University.

ZOE GORDON

Zoe graduated from Tanque Verde High School and will be attending University of Arizona where she plans to major in Physiology and Medical Sciences.

DEREK CASSEN

Derek graduated from Catalina Foothills High School, and will be attending University of Arizona where he plans to major in Medical Sciences.

LILLIANA KALISH

Lilliana graduated from Catalina Foothills High School, and will be attending University of Arizona honors college and plans to study Medicine and Chemistry.

MELAYNA MATHESON

Melayna graduated from The Gregory School and will be going to the University of Arizona, majoring in Engineering.

ZEY WINKELMAN

Zev graduated from Catalina Foothills High School and is going to the University of Arizona and majoring in Mining Engineering.

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah



Arava River Weed August 1, 2026

Arava is the daughter of Irit Maor & Greg Weed, and granddaughter of Jane & Lou Fadell, and Sheila & Uri Maor z"l. Arava's sister is Eshel Weed. Arava attends Rincon Vista Middle School. When not in school, Arava likes to play oboe and participates in gymnastics. For her mitzvah project, Arava is volunteering at House to Home, and cooks at Ronald McDonald House!

Ayden Alexander Cher August 8, 2026

Ayden is the son of Jennifer & Amit Cher, and brother to Evan & Kaley. Ayden's grandparents are Arlene & Richard Bluth, and Lisa & Boris Cher. Ayden attends Sahuarita Middle School, and enjoys wrestling, guitar, video games, and watching anime in his spare time. For his mitzvah project, Ayden is donating books to children with special needs.





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CAI Family
Owned

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

Etai Jonas Podos April 11, 2026

Etai is the grandson of Jami Ober Gan, Scott Gan, and Stacie & Ken Podos. (Parents: Maddison & Jared Podos)

Luca Isaac Blitzer June 2, 2026

Luca is the grandson of Marsha & Charles Blitzer. (Parents: Bianca & Eric Blitzer)

Charles Douglas Smith June 5, 2026



Charles is the grandson of Joyce & Michael Smith, and Kathy Haywood. (Parents: Mary & Matthew Smith)

Bob Cohen is proud to announce the birth of his first great-great-granddaughter on May 29, 2026!

Engagement

Leah Mann & Daniel Jablansky

Leah is the daughter of Ronald M. Mann, M.D & Rebecca Mann

July Anniversaries

Date	Years
2 Nancy & Tidhar Ozeri	37
3 Kathy Hays & Gerald Barkan	35
4 Elaine & Howard Fagan	55
7 Suzanne & Elliott Goldstein	63
9 Barbara & Sanford Selznick	26
14 Alayne & Bruce Greenberg	53
22 Sharon & Morris Barkan	43

MAZAL TOV!
Joy Peskin has been selected to participate in the



Program!

August Anniversaries

Date	Years
2 Barbara & Michael Schoenhals	56
Rachel & Jonathan Green	34
Nichole & Joel Chorny	17
3 Myrna & James Frisch	51
Terri & David Polan	46
4 Maya Horowitz & David Enard	10
5 Susan & Steven Weisman	47
7 Carole & Sylvain Sidi	55
Rebecca & Ronald Mann	38
11 Ina & Gerson Goldberg	58
12 Margo & Ron Gray	53
18 Felisa & Ruben Bien-Willner	53
Elyce & Michael Haber	30
20 Arlene & Richard Bluth	59
21 Brooke Rabe & Thomas Williams	16
25 Lyudmila Rytulina & Ilya Tepelboym	37
30 Eleanor & Don Jeck	62
Mirta & Alberto Bien-Willner	51
31 Holly & Steven Shenitzer	51
Alice & Joel Steinfeld	51



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, visit caiaz.org/resources as part of CAI's "Myths vs. Facts" program.

Todah Rabah!

New Legacy Society Members

The Iris Bernstein & David Karp Endowment Fund has been created at the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona to benefit CAI.

Honorable "Menschens"

Todah Rabah to:

Zamru Weekend

Volunteers

Jami Gan
Ron Gray
Rosie Kahn
Nancy Ozeri
Joy Peskin
Kala Phelps
Linda Silverman
Jim Whitehill

Gabbaim

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

Kolenu Proofreaders

Evelyn Sigafus
Linda Silverman
Dawn Steinberg

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 & Haftarah in April & May)

Charles Blitzer	Mike Jacobson	Scott Phelps
Derek Cassen	Marty Johnston	Zaida Phelps
Ari Espinoza	Michael Jurkowitz	Zarek Phelps
Hillary Goldstein	Jerry Kaufman	Gregg Pollack
Zoe Gordon	Eva Kvaloesund	Gabrielle Rotenberg
Richard Green	Ziva Mason	Hollie Rotenberg
Michael Haber	Phillip Pepper	Leonard Schultz
Adeline Horst	Joy Peskin	

Thank you to the following families for sponsoring our Kiddushim

- Iris Bernstein & David Karp, in honor of Norma & Ron Karp's 60th wedding anniversary
- The Cassen & Gordon Families, in honor of the 2026 CAI High School Graduates & CAI Alumni
- Beverly & Ken Sandock, and Maxine & Stephen Shoskes, in honor of their granddaughter Gabbie Rotenberg becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Kala & Scott Phelps, in honor of their daughter Zaida Phelps becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- Linda Silverman & Family, in memory of their beloved Husband, Father & Saba, Shelby

Please contact Kim Miller at EdAsst@caiaz.org to reserve a date to sponsor a future Kiddush.

Condolences

המקום ינחם אתכם

The congregation mourns the loss of our members:

*Marvin Hoffman
Stanley Lehman
Marilyn Sodomsky*

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

Nancy Bishop, father Stanley Lehman
Susan Chaikin, partner Stanley Lehman
Ruthie Hoffman, husband Marvin
Lisa Longwill, father Peter Longwill
Terri (David) Polan, mother Phyllis Lapin

May the Author of Life Comfort the Mourners

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

Share your Simcha!

Become a Kiddush sponsor!



Sponsoring a Kiddush is a meaningful way to contribute to your community and celebrate joyous milestones with others, whether it's a festive event like a wedding or a bar/bat mitzvah, or the commemoration of a Yahrzeit. If you would like to sponsor a future Kiddush, please contact Debra Lytle after Shabbat at ExecDir@caiaz.org

Stay connected with us!

- **Email Updates** (Sign up on our website Home page: caiaz.org)
- **Facebook** (CAI, Preschool, B'Yahad Religious School & USY)



Some tips:

- Sharing our Facebook posts allows more people to learn about us.
- When you comment on or like our Facebook posts, it puts our page on your friends' radars, expanding our audience.

CONGREGATION ANSHEI ISRAEL DONATIONS

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 Rabah 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.

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Grandmother, Sara Levin
Uncle, Leonard Levine
Amy & Robert Direnfeld
Father, Harry
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Phyllis Lapin, Mother of Terri Polan
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Mother, Jeanette
Grandfather, Morris
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Father, Marcus
Robert Neuman

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Nichole Chorny and the beauty she adds to Shabbat
Dennis Dawson

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Gabrielle Rotenberg becoming Bat Mitzvah

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Joan & Richard Green's new grandchild, Veronica

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In Honor of:

The birth of Jami Gan's new
grandson
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Passover Welcome from Rabbi
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Kolenu is published bi-monthly September–August. The deadline for all submissions is the first day of the month prior to the publication month. Ad placement & editing of submissions at CAI's discretion. For more information, contact the office at (520) 745-5550.



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