

# Elul 5780-Tishrei 5781 September 2020

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## **Rabbi's Message**

As we enter into this New Year 5781, may you and your families be blessed with much joy, health, and blessing. May healing come to our broken world, and may we continue to pursue justice and act with kindness. Wherever we go, may we be an influence for good. May we be blessed to harvest the yield of the seeds we

sowed, and may Torah guide us to righteousness throughout the season and beyond.

Shanah Tovah U'metukah! Blessings in 5781!

~Rabbi Carmit Harari

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# Holiday Greetings 5781



Barry & Susan Bayer The Bloomberg Family Mark & Andreatte Brachman Lynn Brown Cathy Burnett & Nacho Tejeda & Family Nancy & Larry Burrows Lawrence & Barbara Cohan Sherry & Ron Dieckman Rabbi Ellen & Dr. James Dreyfus Deedee DuBrow & Family Laura & Jake Eisenwasser Carole Fefferman

Ruth & Sherman Friedman & Family Harlene & Irwin Friedman

The Garbow & Howse Families Ginny Gilbert Lloyd & Risa Graff Debbie & Dan Greenberg Janet & David Herbstman Susan Johnson Beatrice Kamen Sheri, Mike & Zachary Larks Charles Licht & Fran Moeckler Judy & Rich Lieb Marcia Lippert Judy Lohr-Safcik



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# Holiday Greetings 5781

Henry & Sharon Lorsch Donelle Macey Shari Cohen & Bob Mayer Wishing you Rabbi Shalom & Dalia Podwol a Joyful and Sweet New Year! Micah & David Rader Ev and Ed Rappaport Ron & Alene Rutzky David & Carmencita Schoeneman Barb and Gary Schwarz & Family Jordan and Leslie Sigale Celia-Ann Toll & Family Jodie & Jeff Virene Gayle Weil Helen Wolkow and Family



## President's Message, given during High Holiday Services

L'shana Tova and welcome to our first online High Holidays. In the words of Bob Dylan, "the times they are a-changin'." We have all seen major changes during our lifetimes, but when the pandemic began, our lives changed quickly. The coronavirus has changed the way we live, and it is unknown when things will return to normal. At the same time, due to the tragic death of George Floyd, the country has begun to recognize the existence of systemic racism in our society as never before.

Our new congregation has experienced a change, too. Sherry and Sherman's term as Co-Presidents ended in June. They did a great job navigating the process to establish Shir Tikvah and then agreed to be Co-Presidents for the initial two years to ensure a successful start. Shir Tikvah was blessed to have this duo to get us through the transition unifying two congregations into one. Sherry and Sherman, thank you for your tremendous efforts.

This year has also brought change for me. After being Treasurer for many years, I accepted the position as President, and I would like to thank Irwin Freidman for taking the Treasurer's position so I could accept this new role. As Treasurer, I know the names of all the congregants, but I would not recognize many members in person unless they introduced themselves. I presume then, that many members do not know me. I thought I would give a short introduction about myself to the congregation.

I am a proud Southsider, born in South Chicago Hospital. My family lived at 91st and Oglesby until I was ten years old. One of my early Jewish memories, probably through slides my father would show every Thanksgiving, occurred because my grandfather was a wholesale florist and donated evergreens for the sukkah. My family would then decorate the Sukkah on the large bema at South Shore Temple.

My family moved to Homewood in May 1970. We joined Temple B'nai Yehuda where I had my Bar Mitzvah and was confirmed. I then went to Northern Illinois University, where I earned an Accounting degree and met my wife, Carrie. After graduation, I went directly to work at our family business. Carrie and I married, but not by a Rabbi because Carrie is not Jewish. So, I am probably the first President at our congregation in an interfaith marriage.

We have two children, our son Zach and daughter Anna. They had their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and were both confirmed at BYBS. In college, they went on birthright trips with Anna going back to Israel the following two years. At the recent adult education program, the author noted that only 20% of families with a Jewish father and non-Jewish mother raise their children Jewish, so we beat the odds.

The family business dealt with the steel industry, so we stayed in the area. The family sold the business, and I retired in 2017. This took away any excuse for not having the time to be the congregation's President.

Zach is living in Pittsburgh with his wife Rachel and our grandson Ren, who will be one-year old next month. Anna lives in Chicago and is a special education teacher.

In addition to volunteering with Shir Tikvah, I am the Treasurer of a local Boy Scout troop. Of course, being a Southsider, I am a White Sox fan and follow the Blackhawks and Bulls but not the Bears. I spent my summers just north of Green Bay and grew up a Packer fan and remain so today.

That is a short recap of my life. With the racial reckoning in America I believe it is time to think about life from an outsider's perspective, so I would like to share a deeper insight into my life. I had a life that others would describe as a life of white privilege. I did not think I had a privileged life, because I worked hard and competed with peers throughout my life. This is not an unusual feeling, because everyone around me had the same privileges I did. For example, when I went to HF, there was only one

#### Presidents Message, continued from page 4

black student in the school. Growing up, I was not comparing my life to those of people of color. I had struggles and hurdles to overcome, but I did not face additional obstacles due to the color of my skin.

Many of the obstacles facing people of color in America are due to systemic or institutional racism. This is not the overt racism of the KKK or the confederate flag, although that racism still exists. Systemic racism in government policies, such as the Federal Housing Authority practicing redlining or the GI Bill excluding black veterans. Home ownership is the main way families build equity and was behind the growth of the middle class. These policies created a wealth gap between white and black Americans, which continues today.

Housing and lending are not the only areas of systemic racism. Inequities are found in education, healthcare, criminal justice, and, of course, policing. Conditions have improved, but not enough when we continue to see the disparities in the effects of COVID19 on minorities compared to white Americans.

We need to see the world from perspectives that differ from our own. Examples of racism are all around us, and, thankfully, some are now being corrected. The Washington football team is changing their name, companies are eliminating racist food branding, and Band-Aid is creating shades of Band-Aids that match different skin tones. I was aware of some of these issues, but I did not always recognize the racial connection. To make change, we need to be more aware of overt racism and inequities in society and work to correct it.

In other words, we need to be anti-racist. When we say we are not racist, it allows racism to exist. Being anti-racist is helping to end racism. This means speaking up when someone says something racist, learning the long-term effects of systemic racism, or donating to a social justice cause.

This sort of activism is not new to Judaism. Jewish tradition teaches us Tikkun olam, to repair the world. Jewish people, therefore, have always been

in the forefront of the civil rights movement. More than 400 black and white Americans, as many as 50% of them Jewish, were Freedom Riders, boarding buses heading to the South to challenge Jim Crow laws. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel walked with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma. The pursuit of a just society is a fundamental concept of Judaism. This country has not always provided a fair playing field, and we need to work to level it. Indeed, Jewish tradition requires we look at both ourselves and our society and act to correct them.

While different from the systemic racism people of color face in this country, Jews experience our share of prejudices through anti-Semitism. Hate crimes, including anti-Semitism, have been increasing in the past few years. As Treasurer, I would come to the building in the evenings to get work done, and I never thought twice about being in the synagogue alone at night. It was only after the Tree of Life shooting in Pittsburgh that I started questioning my judgement. I would hear something in the synagogue, was it the furnace? Is anyone in the parking lot? I would walk down the hall to see if anyone was inside. I never believed I would not feel safe being alone in a synagogue in America.

This atmosphere required Shir Tikvah to create a Security Task Force. The Task Force asked the local police department to inspect our building to improve security. I now only come during the day and not at night when the building is empty. It is sad that we need to change our behavior because of hate, but I am hopeful the Security Task Force can bring our congregants peace of mind.

As the lawn signs say, hate has no home here. We are taught teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah, repentance prayer and charity. Charity is what allows our synagogue to serve our community and keep our members safe. As President, during the High Holidays, I ask for your support of Shir Tikvah, so it remains a source of Jewish identity in the South Suburbs, as we are now the only synagogue in the South Suburbs. We ask you to give to the best of your abilities. If you cannot contribute financially, volunteering your time is encouraged and appreciated. Thank you to all the members who maintained their giving levels at this time of uncertainty.

In many ways, consolidating into one congregation was a blessing. Pooling our resources into a cohesive team has made it easier to manage during the pandemic, and the unification has gone smoothly. You would not know we were separate congregations just two years ago.

Although these times have changed almost everything in our lives, we continue to function as a synagogue. Rabbi Harari has been busy as we continue offering services via Zoom. We have three Bar Mitzvahs this year. The first was in August in the synagogue with limited attendance. Two more are planned for October. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the several members we have sadly lost over the past year. May their memories be a blessing.

While we all wish we could be together in the synagogue for the holidays, this is not currently possible for our congregation. We need to maintain a safe environment for our members during this pandemic and are following guidelines provided by our affiliated groups, the URJ and USCJ, along with the CDC and the State of Illinois.

Dealing with issues that affect the health and safety of our members has been stressful, to say the least. I would like to thank the members of the Board for their support and advice as we navigate through this crisis. I would also like to thank the many members who serve on our committees for their time and input, which also involved work on new committees with activities we never handled before, such as virtual High Holidays, re-opening the synagogue, and technology to keep everyone connected.

Last year, we started our own Sunday and Hebrew school. The school was a success thanks to the efforts of the school committee, with Barb Cohan as administrator, Carole Fefferman who taught Hebrew, and all the volunteers. The new school year just began, and it will be virtual for now. The teachers, children, and parents are looking forward to an active learning experience. Prior to the shutdown, the Women of Shir Tikvah were doing their usual great job supporting the congregation by providing helping hands at events and fundraising. They are planning to move events online to continue our spirit of community.

Our staff is part of our congregational family and continues to do a wonderful job. Bob keeps the building operating and has been able to complete several improvement projects. Diedre keeps the lines of communication open with the bulletin and weekly emails. Their work is invaluable to keep us operational.

Planning for the High Holidays began just before my installation as President. It is exceedingly difficult to plan an event when guidelines are changing daily. Planning for traditional High Holidays is demanding on its own and starting from scratch with how to handle the online service was a challenge. Thank you for the great work by our Co-Ritual Vice-Presidents, Janet Herbstman and Carole Fefferman, as well as Gayle Weil for coordinating the behind the scenes Reform activity. Ritual is not my forte, so I greatly appreciate Sherry and Sherman for co-chairing the High Holiday Oversight Committee. Thank you to Pastor Worthington for his video editing, Dr Terry Harmon and Adam for video recording along with Larry Burrows for providing musical and recording assistance.

This is a different experience for all of us, including the clergy, who have had to develop services online that remain inspirational. Thank you to Rabbi Harari, Rabbi Zukrow, Rabbi and Dalia Podwol.

I look forward to seeing you online and hope for the day when we can be together in person. At Pesach, we say next year in Jerusalem. Hopefully, for High Holidays, next year we will be in the synagogue.

Please be safe and stay healthy. I wish everyone the best for the New Year.

~Jerry Tenny. President

### **General Rules**

Face mask must be properly worn inside the building. This means covering the mouth and nose area with support straps around the ears. A mask will be provided if you do not have one. No one will be allowed to enter the building without a properly worn face mask.

Practice social distancing when in the building. Maintain at least six feet distance between people not living in the same household.

Hand sanitizer should be used on entering the building and as needed.

### Sanctuary will only be used for Bar/Bat Mitzvah services. Maximum capacity 25

All guests must be registered with the Shir Tikvah office at least five days before the event.

Upon arrival at Shir Tikvah, all attendees must complete a COVID-19 questionnaire. If any answers indicate a potential risk, admission to the building will be denied.

Do not congregate by the entrance, foyer, or hallway. After entry, individuals should proceed immediately to seats to avoid congregating.

Only sit with people within your household. `

Sanctuary doors will remain open for improved air flow and to avoid unnecessary contact.

No handshaking or hugging.

Prayer books can be picked up at the book cart by the front sanctuary doors. These books have not been used for at least two weeks. After the service, please return the books to the same cart, so they can be isolated for a proper period.

No Choir until further notice.

### Restrooms

Only one person should use the restroom at a time.

If a line forms near the restroom, please remain six feet from each other in the main hallway.

#### Office

If you need to enter the building, please contact Diedre prior to coming to the building. She can ensure she will be there for your visit and we can control the number of visitors in the building.

Upon entering the building, please sign into the logbook in the foyer and sign out when exiting. This will allow us to track all individuals who have been in the building.

Rabbi Harari and Diedre are the only people allowed in the offices. If you need to communicate with them, please do it from the hallway.

Kitchen - No food service will be allowed in the building.

### Facility Re-Opening Committee

There has not been much change to the status of the re-opening since last month. The office is open if you need to borrow a prayer book or drop something off. We have developed a Covid19 policy for those entering the building. The policy follows this article. If you need to enter the building, please follow the rules.

We want to minimize the number of visitors to our building. If you are required to come to the office, please email or call Diedre so she can schedule your visit. When in the building, please record your time in and out in the logbook in the foyer. This will allow us to track who has been in the building.

Please wear a face mask, practice social distancing, and use the hand sanitizer stationed in the hallway. Currently, we do not feel it is safe to begin in person services or meeting. Therefore, there are no changes to our status planned. We did make an exception to use the synagogue for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. On August 15, Grant Goldberg became Mitzvah in the synagogue with limited family attending and following the policy. Mazel Tov to the Goldberg family.

This is the status until conditions with the virus change. Please join us on Zoom for weekly services and other events. If you need assistance with Zoom, please contact Diedre so we can assist you. Please be safe and stay healthy.

Jerry Tenny

President and Re-Opening Committee

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### Welcome New Members!



The Women of Shir Tikvah had plans for the entire temple year but the corona virus did not allow us the opportunity to fulfill many of these plans. We shut down our activities when the building closed in March. The WoST has continued to meet virtually throughout the closure of the building.

Before that, we were able to accomplish some things. We supported the Shir Tikvah birthday celebration. We donated the profits from the Jewelry Sale to the temple. We also gave money from our theater events to Shir Tikvah. These monies totaled over \$3000 for the congregation.

We sponsored the Pizza in the Hut on Sukkot, Break-the-Fast, book reviews and Chair Yoga. We continue to sell Jewel cards.

We will continue many of these programs in the coming year. Due to the pandemic, we must reorganize some events as onsite events will not be possible.

Our Challah sale was a success, with deliveries and curbside pickup and we thank everyone who participated and supported us. If you did not sign up for Holiday Greetings, it's not too late! You can still participate for Hanukkah and Passover. Also, Sisterhood Membership is still open if you want to become a member. Email or call the office to request a link to the sign up forms.

The Women of Shir Tikvah are an important part of our community. We support our members and the congregation through good times and bad. We look forward to planning events for the coming year either virtually or in person.

Stay safe,

Gayle Weil, Sisterhood President

ZOOM Invites go out for Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturday services via the MailChimp emails.

Download the Zoom App on your device so you can join in.

See you on Zoom!

### **October Birthdays**

Richard Kaplan 10/310/4Kathy Bunville 10/5Linda Simon Barry Sturm 10/6 Walter Falk 10/610/10David Golland 10/11Lucille Wolf 10/12 Judy Herbstman 10/15Benjamin Fleischer Charles Licht 10/15 10/15Alan Sporn 10/16 Miriam Garbow 10/16Marianne Switt 10/17Ernest Ratowitz 10/17Joel Kaufman 10/18Barry Marks 10/19 Scott Wolf 10/22Janet Muchnik 10/23Jeffrey Gilbert 10/23Keigh Malis **Richard Lieb** 10/27Rabbi Carmit Harari 10/2810/29 Steve Altman 10/29 Laura Eisenwasser

Sara Marks

10/23 Marianne & Stuart Switt

**October Anniversaries** 

10/31



# יום הולדת שמח

### **November Birthdays**

- Stuart Friedman 11/1
- 11/6 Pat Simon
- 11/8Ruth Landauer
- 11/8David Rubin
- Gayle Weil 11/9
- 11/10David and Gary Ritter
- 11/11Sid Barch
- Grace Goldberg 11/11
- 11/11Alene Rutzky
- Beth Snedden 11/12
- 11/13Celia-Ann Toll
- 11/13 Mark Brachman
- Marilyn Ruche 11/13
- 11/17Amy Bloomberg
- 11/17Harold Reisler
- 11/19 Brian Latman
- 11/21Bonnie Mosbacher
- Lynn Brown 11/22
- 11/24 Iris Napoleon
- 11/25Stewart Lipman
- Sherry Wolf 11/27
- Martin Ritter 11/30



### **November Anniversaries**

- Judy & Richard Lieb 11/7
- 11/11Cathy Burnett & Ignacio Tejeda

יום נישואין שמח

# **Tributes**

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

#### In Memory of

Molly Berliner from Laura Berliner Eisenwasser

Loren L. Fox from Charlotte Fox

Elizabeth Levine & Jack Levinson from Cheryl Warshaw

Rachel Frydman from Helen Lincenberg

### General Fund

#### In Memory of

Rabbi Leo Wolkow from Larry & Nancy Burrows, Amy Schneider, Susan Silver Johnson

Marianne Dreyfus from Larry & Nancy Burrows

Pauline Silver & Helen Gutmann Johnson from Susan Johnson

Linda Gilbert, Louis Gilbert & David Gilbert from Jeff, Bettie, Barb & Melissa Gilbert

Lillian Sharmasky, Mordecai Marks, Rose Marks, Sam Marks, Bessie Lurie, Benjamin Lurie & Merol Rochel Marks from Sara & Barry Marks

### Sympathy

To Kevin Bodine in memory of his father, Davis, from Ginny Gilbert

### Sisterhood Tributes

### Mazel Tov

- To Marilyn & Marvin Goldberg in honor of Grant Goldberg becoming Bar Mitzvah from Judy Lohr-Safcik, Carole Fefferman, Susan & Barry Bayer
- To Sarah & Jeff Goldberg in honor of Grant Goldberg becoming Bar Mitzvah from Judy Lohr-Safcik, Carole Fefferman, and Susan & Barry Bayer
- To Leslye Botta in honor of her new granddaughter from Donelle Macey, Carole Fefferman, Judy Lohr-Safcik, and Ruth & Sherman Friedman

### Speedy Recovery

To Michael Berger/Carol for speedy recovery for Michael from Donelle Macey

### Sympathy

- Correction: To Doris Wolff in memory of Richard from Ginny Gilbert
- To Kevin Bodine in memory of his father, Davis, from Jerry & Penny Shnay, Donelle Macey, the Sisterhood Board, and Ruth & Sherman Friedman
- To Carol Spector in memory of her husband, David, from Judy Lohr-Safcik
- To The Zucker Family in memory of David Zucker from Ruth & Sherman Friedman
- To the Stelzer/Ritter Family in memory of Vivian Stelzer from Alene & Ron Rutzky, and Carol & Rich Zucker
- To Sandra Stelzer in memory of Vivian Stelzer from Judy Lohr-Safcik

Thank you for all the donations in memory of Rabbi Leo Wolkow. A special thank you to Bill Bransky and Steven and Barbara Wolf for their generosity.

Thank you for your cards and contributions to the fruit basket in memory of Dave. Carol & Rich Zucker

Thank you for your cards and contributions to the fruit basket in memory of David. Carol Spector & Family Support the Sisterhood by purchasing Jewel Cards! We receive a percentage from each card we sell. Denominations are \$50 and \$100 and are available by emailing the office. Diedre will get them to you! Thanks for your support!





### **Shalom Transportation**



### TOGETHER for GOOD

Are you over 55 and need a ride? Need to get to an activity at night, or just don't want to drive somewhere? The South Suburban office of JUF has partnered with GoGo Grandparent to offer 10 rides a month, up to 25 miles, for just \$5.00 a ride! How does this work? Call Amy Bloomberg at 708-249-6086 or email <u>amybloomberg@juf.org</u> to get registered and learn the easy program details. This program is generously funded by the Albert and Lucille Delighter and Marcella Winston Foundation, a Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.



Although both Sunday and Hebrew schools will need to be virtual at least until 2021, teachers have planned engaging curricula with activities for both students and families.

Sunday School meets at 10:00am on October 18 & 25 for the first theme; November 1, 8, & 15 for the second; and November 22, December 6 & 13 for the third.

Hebrew School meets at 4:30pm on September 30; October 7, 14, 21, & 28; November 4, 11, &18; and December 2 & 9.

Barb Cohan, School Coordinator



Henry Peter DuBrow made his debut on Tuesday, September 8th at 9:45 p.m. AZ time. He weighed in at an even 9 pounds . Proud parents are Matt and Catharine DuBrow!

Proud bubbe is Deedee DuBrow!



To DJ Munson and Chuko Akujieze on becoming Bar Mitzvah!

DJ's Bar Mitzvah is October 17

Chuko's Bar Mitzvah is October 24

Please join us on Zoom!

To send a congregational card please notify Diedre in the office (suggested donation is \$10). If you'd like a Sisterhood card sent out please notify Carol Zucker (suggested donation is \$5.50).

# What makes someone a Leader? Types of Judges in the Books of Judges and Samuel

## Sunday morning, November 8th at 10:00 via Zoom

In this class Jane Shapiro will explore a few characters—men and women— to see how people become leaders through different pathways and roles.



Jane Shapiro has been a teacher to many over the last thirty years, in classes ranging from weekly Torah study to Jewish thought, history and literature. She is a co-founder of Orot: Center for New Jewish Learning, which is building a new model for engaging Jewish adults in the Chicago area and beyond -- a holistic approach to Jewish education that is an emerging paradigm for personal and community growth. Jane received an Educators Award from the Covenant Foundation.

The program is free and open to the public.

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

The Zoom meeting ID, password, and link will be provided.

October 2020 Tishrei-Heshvan 5781						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Erev Sukkot 5:30p Virtual Candle Lighting & Kaddish	3 Sukkot I Virtual Shabbat Morning Reform Service 10:15 am
4 Sukkot II	5	6 Virtual Oneg 7pm	7 Hebrew School 4:30p	8 JUF Tov Drive drop- off 3:45p -5:45p	9 5:30p Virtual Candle Lighting & Kaddish 5:59p	10 Shmini Atzeret including Yizkor Virtual Shabbat Morning Conservative Service 9:45 am
11 Simchat Torah	12 Board Meeting 8p	13 Virtual Oneg 7pm	14 Hebrew School 4:30p	15	16 5:30p Virtual Candle Lighting & Kaddish	17 DJ Munson Bar Mitzvah 10a
18 Sunday School 10am	19	20 Virtual Oneg 7pm CJC Meeting 7p	21 Hebrew School 4:30p	22	23 5:30p Virtual Candle Lighting & Kaddish 5:38p	24 Chuko Akujieze Bar Mitzvah 10a
25 Sunday School 10am	26	27 Virtual Oneg 7pm	28 Hebrew School 4:30p	29	30 5:30p Virtual Candle Lighting & Kaddish	31 Virtual Shabbat Morning Conservative Service 9:45 am