March - April 2022 Nisan - Iyar 5782 Vol. 9 No. 4

#### A NOTE FROM RABBI VALERIE

"God's dream is ...to have humanity as a partner in the drama of continuous creation." -Abraham Joshua Heschel



Two years ago, I was on Sabbatical. Probably the most profound experience in those two months was my trip to Israel. Just being in Israel is meaningful, and words are inadequate to describe what happens when you arrive: feelings and thoughts expand, senses are heightened, everything is just more intense. I traveled with a group of rabbis, and our tour was focused on the thriving arts and culture landscape in Israel. It was breathtaking.

Temple nanuel Sinai

I don't know if the trip inspired what happened next or being stuck at home or the need to fill an empty space that this time of isolation had cracked open, but I began to make art. And I'm still creating.

The Jewish People have always been creators, and our creations have expressed both religious and secular messages. Our earliest artistic expression was the written word, the majestic poetry and prose of the Bible and the linguistic aerobatics of rabbinic literature. The first Jewish craftsman was Betzalel who designed the Temple, and Miriam was our first choreographer leading the women dancing at the Red Sea. David played the harp and wrote poetry as did his son Solomon. We inherited a legacy of artistry and creation from our ancestors, a legacy that continues to flourish.

Judaism is so infused with art that we can assume it is essential for life. We see art in our prayerbooks, haggadot, bibles, and in the "performance" of worship itself; we see art in our buildings and in our ritual items; we experience art in the telling of our stories and our understanding of the world and so much more.

For many of us, whether creating or experiencing the creations of others, multiple forms of artistic expression have enhanced our lives and often connected us to the Divine. Just like being in Israel, words are inadequate to describe what happens when we are moved by art.

If you haven't already, I invite you to find the genre of art that speaks to your soul, whether it is considered "Jewish" art or not. (Who knows how to define "Jewish" art anyway?!) Find the time to either benefit from other people's creations or learn to create yourself. If you have already discovered your love for art, ensure that you are still making time to experience it.

"There are halls in heaven that are open only to the voice of song." – Zohar There are halls in heaven that are open only through the experience of art.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



#### PINK MESSAGES

A friend of mine (and you KNOW who you are!) recently sent me an article about The Kraft Group/Kraft Family Philanthropies which includes the non-profit organizations Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism and Together Beat Hate. The piece was interesting because it made me aware of something I didn't know. Apparently, there are bright pink billboards bringing awareness to antisemitism all over the greater Boston area. A group called JewBelong, specifically Archie Gottesman and Stacy Stuart, has partnered with the Kraft Group and designed these billboards, and there are six of them. They can be seen in Peabody, Everett, Chelsea, and Brockton, and I guess you can't they are near pink. I need to take a drive

miss them. After all, they are neon pink. I need to take a drive.

The reason I say "interesting" is that, as Jews, we never seem to be very vocal about antisemitism... or am I missing something. One of the signature slogans of the group is, "We don't care which half of you is Jewish." I don't recall any time where we as Jews have marched down the street with banners proclaiming our displeasure at being mistreated. Maybe it's the sinisterism of antisemitism that scares us. Too much attention? No courage? I don't have an answer. All I know is, being quiet doesn't make it go away.

One of the messages on these billboards is, "You didn't like it when we didn't defend ourselves. And you don't like it when we do. Doesn't leave much wiggle room." This is a very strong statement! I think that because these billboards will catch people's attention and surprise them, there may be more awareness, and...please...more talk about this issue!

I, for one, am very proud to be a Jew. I am many things, but being a Jew is a very large part of me. I think we should show our pride. Judaism is not just about fighting antisemitism, as the article goes on to say. It's a community, a family, and it's a joy! Judaism is the fabric of our make-up. "I promise to love being Jewish 10x more than anyone hates me for it." Now there's a definite statement.

Also, as I write this, I realize that Purim and Passover will fall within the months of when this Bulletin comes out. We can definitely take pride in our Judaism! My family and I wish you all, most sincerely and with love, a time filled with joy and connecting with your family and friends. This season only means that Spring is coming! Now THAT makes me feel really good!

# L'Shalom, Paula Selvitella, President

#### MARCH - APRIL 2022 WORSHIP SERVICES

#### P'KUDEI – SOLOIST GITIT SHOVAL

Friday, March 4th Candle Lighting At 5:23pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, March 5th 10:30am Torah Study EXODUS 38:21-39:1

#### VA-YIKRA – SOLOIST GITIT SHOVAL

Friday, March 11th Candle Lighting At 5:31pm EARLY 6:30pm Shabbat Service Lead by the 5th and 6th grade classes Saturday, March 12th 10:30am Torah Study LEVITICUS 1:1-2:6

#### TZAV – GUEST MUSICIAN ELIANA LIGHT

Friday, March 18th Candle Lighting At 6:39pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, March 19th EARLY 9:00am Torah Study 10:30am Worship Workshop With Eliana Light LEVITICUS 6:1-23

#### SH'MINI – JOSH SHRIBER

Friday, March 25th Candle Lighting At 6:47pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, March 26th 10:30am Torah Study LEVITICUS 9:1-15



#### TAZRIA – GUEST RABBI JOSH WARSHAWSKY

Friday, April 1st Candle Lighting at 6:55pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, April 2nd 10:30am Torah Study with Rabbi Warshawsky LEVITICUS 12:1-8

#### M'TZORA – CANTOR SHIRA NAFSHI

Friday, April 8th Candle Lighting at 7:03pm EARLY 6:30 Shabbat Service Grades 3&4 Leading Saturday, April 9th 10:30am Torah Study LEVITICUS 14:1-20

#### PESACH, 1ST DAY

Friday, April 15th Candle Lighting at 7:11pm NO SERVICE – 1st Seder Saturday, April 16th 10:30am Torah Study EXODUS 12:37-51

#### ACHAREI MOT - JODI BLANKSTEIN & ADAM DEHMER

Friday, April 22nd Candle Lighting at 7:19pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, April 23rd 10:30am Torah Study LEVITICUS 16:1-17

#### K'DOSHIM – SOLOIST GITIT SHOVAL

Friday, April 29th Candle Lighting at 7:27pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, April 30th 10:30am Torah Study LEVITICUS 19:1-18

All WORSHIP SERVICES are held in person and livestreamed on our website (emanuelsinai.org) TORAH STUDY meets in person and via Zoom. TALMUD CLASS meets every Wednesday at 12:00 noon in person and via Zoom. MINYAN is held every Monday at 5:45 pm (except when the office is closed) via Zoom and Livestream Login information can be found in eNews.

#### **CLERGY & STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rabbi Valerie Cohen rabbivaleriecohen@gmail.com Talia Mugg, RS Director tmugg@emanuelsinai.org

Christa Benoit, Office Assistant cbenoit@emanuelsinai.org

Sean Morgan, Business Manager smorgan@emanuelsinai.org Jessica Lamothe, Administrative Assistant jlamothe@emanuelsinai.org

Steve Contois, Caretaker

#### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND YOUTH NEWS**



Shalom from the Religious School!

January and February were very busy months at our Religious School! Although we moved to remote learning for a little while, our students were able to learn and grow. In January they learned about Tu B'shevat which is a Jewish Arbor Day celebrated all over the world, especially in Israel, and celebrated it with an amazing Tu B'Shevat Seder. I want to

thank Yael Savage and Margot Barnet from the Social Action committee for planning and running this great Tu B'Shevat program. In February our students started to learn about the Holiday of Purim with special activities in their classes. We are looking forward to our special Purim talent show/ celebration on Wednesday, 3/16.

Part of the story of Purim is about courage. To be courageous and brave and to know that during times of challenge we can rise up. How can we have courage during this difficult time in history, how can we work and play together and ensure we stay strong as a community? What can we do to make sure we continue to thrive amidst very difficult times? We need to ensure we have courage and stay together and support one another. We need to ensure that we stay connected, supportive and share in the celebrations and traditions together. I am very proud that each teacher has continued to work hard to keep our children and our learning community strong throughout this year.

Our grade 7 students led an amazing Friday night service on February 11th. The children worked very hard, practiced their parts and songs, and wrote beautiful personal prayers. It was such a great feeling to see them leading the service for our congregation.

We are looking forward to the Spring and the warmer weather!

Talia

#### CONGREGATIONAL PURIM CELEBRATION

#### **SHOW YOUR TALENT IN SHUSHAN!**

Can you sing? Can you dance? Can you act? Are you funny? Or do you just like to be on stage with a mic even if you don't have talent?

Then you are PERFECT for our Shushan Show and Purim Performance! Create an "act" for you and your family to perform for the congregation in-person or online If you are participating online, please record your act on a mobile phone or tablet in the landscape position

> Pre-recorded videos can be uploaded to: https://bit.ly/3oWQ1Oi (Deadline for videos is Thursday, March 10)

Show run-through for in-person participants is Saturday, March 12 at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary

#### SHUSHAN SHOW AND PURIM PERFORMANCE

Celebrate Purim with Temple Emanuel Sinai Starring: Temple Emanuel Sinai Congregants Guest Appearances by our Religious School Students Wednesday, March 16, 5:30 pm In Person in the Sanctuary and online

FULL MEGILLAH READING TO FOLLOW THE SHOW

#### PURIM CARNIVAL

Saturday, March 12 during Religious School All Religious School Students will take part in the Carnival as part of their morning activities

If you have a child or a grandchild who is not in Religious School and would like to attend the Carnival, please contact Talia Mugg: tmugg@emanualsinai.org

#### VISITING ARTISTS MUSIC SERIES





#### JCC GALA HONORING GEORGE & BECKY PINS Saturday, March 12, 2022 6-11pm



Congratulations to TES Members George and Becky Pins, who are being honored this year at the JCC's annual gala!

The Gala will be in-person, with limited attendence, with a live virtual option for those who cannot attend due to COVID-related capacity restrictions

If you have questions, contact Andrea Sullivan at the Worcester JCC

#### LIFELONG LEARNING

#### BYOB (BRING YOUR OWN BAGEL) SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES



Sunday, March 6, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Jenna Blum International bestselling author and one of Oprah's Top 30 women writers.

She will discuss her memoir Woodrow on the Bench: Life Lessons from a Wise Old Dog. With additional insights from Rabbi Valerie about pets and community from a Jewish lens.

Woodrow on the Bench

Life Lesson from a Wise Old Dog Jenna Blum New York Times bestselling author of The Lost Family

Presented in collaboration with the Worcester JCC.

#### Zoom Login

Meeting ID: 860 6001 6031 Passcode: Bagels5782 Livestream: emanuelsinai.org/live-streams Facebook: facebook.com/emanuelsinaiworcester

#### THE STORY OF THE STORY: HISTORY, ART, AND CULTURE OF THE HAGGADAH Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, March 30, April 6, 13, 27 In-person and on Zoom

Join Rabbi Valerie Cohen for a 4-session series on the history of the Haggadah. Although we can find basic elements of our Seder service in the Mishnah (redacted around 200 C.E.), the "modern" text of the Haggadah developed in the Middle Ages. The Haggadah we use now would look completely foreign to ancient Jews. In this series, we will discuss the development of the Haggadah and how it changed, its theology and authorship. We will also look at the art, music and other culture that is integrated in a variety of Haggadot throughout the ages as well as in the Seder service.

As a bonus, our Walls to Bridges/Racial Justice Alliance will offer a session:

Wait, What? Were You and I Really Slaves in Egypt: Incorporating Racial Justice Themes into Your Passover Seder

Saturday, April 9 (Time TBD)

See page 8 for a detailed description



#### WALLS TO BRIDGES/RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

#### Wait, What? Were You and I *Really* Slaves in Egypt? Incorporating Racial Justice Themes into Your Passover Seder Saturday, April 9, 2022

When we recite the words of the Haggadah in our Passover seders each year, we read that in every generation we must tell the story as if we ourselves had been liberated from slavery in Egypt. Does this ring true for us? What do these words mean for us today? What forces today press down on people like Pharoah did upon our ancestors long ago? Can we be God's partners in bringing about liberation? How? Who might also be our partners? What plagues do we face today?

TES Racial Justice Alliance is offering an **interactive workshop on Saturday**, April 9 to help congregants enliven our seders with discussions of these and other burning questions. We'll share experiences and point to resources that can help you produce your own Haggadah, add readings to your favorite one, or find discussion starter questions. Some of us who have used such resources for years have found that they added meaning and depth to our seders, and have helped us think about action steps for justice that we might take in the world around us.

This workshop will serve as a bonus for anyone who joins Rabbi Valerie's class about the history of the Haggadah (see page --) or can stand alone. Let all who are hungry for such discussion come and share it with us! Stay tuned for more details in your E-News.

#### CAMP Shabbat, March 25-26, 2022

#### March 25th

Shabbat Services, 7:30 pm with Josh Shriber from Josh and the Jamtones

Let's bring some summer into our springtime

For future, current, and former campers of ALL ages (even if you attended Jewish Camp 50 years ago or more) Join us for an energetic and fun camp-style Shabbat service

Wear your favorite camp t-shirt (if you still fit in it) and we'll provide a nametag to write your camp's name and wear with pride

#### March 26th 9:00 am at the JCC with Religious School

Special Camp Activities and Presentation by Camp Staff representing Crane Lake, Eisner, and Six Points Sci-Tech Camps For Parents and Children Contact Tali Mugg for more information: tmugg@emanuelsinai.org

#### TES DONATIONS: DECEMBER 1, 2021 – JANUARY 31, 2022

#### **Brotherhood Scholarship Funds**

Emily Gerber in memory of Henry M. Ritz Elaine & Stephen Smith in memory of Howard Gordon Sheila Tarlin in memory of Jack Reiff

<u>Lurier Scholarship Fund</u> Sue & Herb Feldman in memory of Howard Fish

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#### DONATIONS CONTINUED

#### High Holy Day Appeal

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#### Interfaith Hospitality Network Fund

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#### Prayerbook Fund

Harriette & Burton Chandler in memory of S. Lester Levy

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#### <u>Rabbi's Fund</u>

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Helene & Lawrence Freed in memory of Jean Freed Helene & Lawrence Freed in memory of Sanford Perler Sandra & Maurice Goodman in memory of Rebecca N. Jacobson Sandra & Maurice Goodman in memory of Ely B. Goodman Bobbie Hirshberg in memory of Sarah Allentuch Hirshberg Valerie Kerxhalli & Jesse, Isabelle & Rose Caplan in memory of Elaine Caplan

Frances & David Lubin in memory of Morris Lubin Ann Merritt & Richard Fox in memory of Rosalyn Fox Michael Namath & Sue Shankman Namath in appreciation Barcy Proctor in memory of Howard Fish Stuart Sadick in honor of David Sadick's birthday Selma Snider in memory of Howard Fish Edward Stein in memory of Howard Fish, Howard Gordon & Mark Morganstern Barbara & Joel Strogoff in memory of Shirley Sigel

#### Religious School Fund

Cindy Kalish in memory of Howard Fish

#### Shelanu Campaign Fund

Nancy & James Coghlin in honor of Carol & Michael Sleeper Kathleen & Stuart Glass in honor of their new grandson, Leo James Glass Chebrami Susie & Dickie Gotz in honor of David Persky's birthday Marlene & David Persky in memory of Adele Engelberg

#### DONATIONS CONTINUED

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#### Tillie Savat Music Fund

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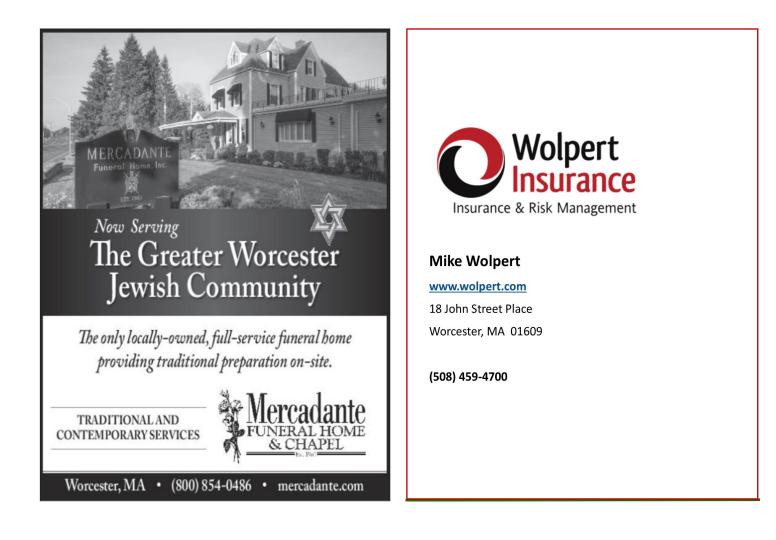
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