



A NOTE FROM RABBI VALERIE

I've been in a time of discernment since I returned from Sabbatical. Actually, it probably started much earlier – in October. Discernment means to separate or distinguish between things. In a religious context, it means to go through this process through a spiritual lens, through prayer and study and values and faith and G'd-inquiry.

My time of discernment relates to my struggle of how I feel about the war between Israel and Hamas, and how it is devastating the lives of Israelis and Palestinians. At first, we were all experiencing shock and horror and grief and even anger. How could the members of Hamas – who are human beings – commit such horrible acts upon other human beings? How could this happen in Israel? And those emotions still linger today as the crimes committed by Hamas continue and so many hostages remain captive.

Still, we can hold multiple things at one time, even when those things are seemingly in conflict. I can be horrified about what Hamas is doing, and I can still be horrified at how the Israeli Government is choosing to wage war in Palestine.

Rabbi Sharon Brous, founder of the IKAR synagogue in Los Angeles, has spoken courageously and eloquently on this topic. She was recently interviewed on the Haaretz podcast* where she spoke out unequivocally against the atrocities committed by Hamas. True justice warriors, she said, "have to take the truth seriously, and understand that there's no way that rape and sexual assault, murder and abduction – these kinds of atrocities – can be a tool of liberation..."

But she didn't stop there. Because Jewish values compel us to care about every human life: "Each of us, in our own way, has to find when we're ready to step out of our shiva, and see that there is a world of human suffering that is happening just over the border." It is also about the society we want to live in ourselves. "I think at some point, our own humanity is on the line. We Jews, who expect the world to see our pain, have a particular responsibility to see and understand Palestinian human suffering."

Rabbi Brous' image of shiva is so compelling to me. There are so many of us who are still sitting shiva for the events of October 7. The grief is raw. As time has passed, some of us, while still continuing to grieve, have moved beyond shiva seeking, and are struggling to see and understand Palestinian human suffering and respond according to our personal Jewish values.

The concept of shiva used in this way acknowledges that each of us come from different perspectives and are experiencing different emotions. With that in mind, above all we need to respect each other, create spaces for diverse expressions even though it might be painful, and still offer love and support as Jews do. We are hurting. The world is hurting. And we all have the capacity to be healers.

*excerpt from the description of the January 9, 2024 Haaretz Podcast, 'How Can We Expect Others to Empathize With Us When We Fail to Empathize With Palestinians?'

I welcome any and all discussion in response to my article. If you have questions or would like to speak with me about the Israel-Gaza War, please contact Sophia Schlegelmilch (sschleg@emanuelsinai.org) to make an appointment with me.



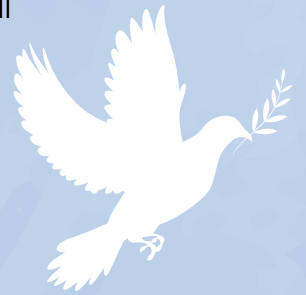
MUSIC NEWS

First, I want to thank all who have sent me such kind words of comfort and respect for my mother, who passed away in late January. It means a lot to me and my family. I am very sad, but I feel that for my mother, who was very sick in the last few years, it is a big relief, and I hope she found her way to heaven, where she deserves to be.

I am working with the fourth and fifth graders alongside their wonderful teacher, Emma, on our next Purim spiel. "We Don't Talk About Haman" is based on the beloved musical "Encanto." It is funny, and the music is wonderful! I hope you will enjoy it as much as we enjoy working on it.

It is hard to believe, but spring is approaching; we will begin to see our trees fill with green leaves before we know it, and celebrate the holiday of Passover, which I love so much. I pray that we will experience better times and be set free from wars and bloodshed.

Always yours,
Gitit



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND YOUTH NEWS



Shalom from our Religious School!

As we transition from the winter into the spring, our Religious School community has many exciting updates and events to share with you for the months of March and April.

Get ready to enjoy an unforgettable Purim celebration! Our students along with their teacher Emma Noce and Gitit, have been working tirelessly on this year's Encanto Purim spiel, a creative and entertaining, retelling of the Purim story. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 23 at 11:00am for our Purim spiel and Purim Carnival, and don't forget your costumes! This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and have fun, and for families to connect and celebrate together.

As Passover approaches, our classrooms are buzzing with excitement and learning. Our students are diving deep into the story of Exodus, understanding the significance of freedom and the traditions that make this holiday special. We also will be having a special Chocolate Seder with Heather Gelardi, our family educator.

We are thrilled to report great progress in our Hebrew classes! Our students have been mastering new vocabulary, prayers, and improving their reading skills. It is so great to see their confidence grow as they connect more deeply with their heritage.

This spring, our community is embracing the value of tikkun olam, repairing the world, with several social justice projects. Our Grade 6 and 7 students will be working on their annual Maot Chtim project, where they assemble and deliver Passover baskets to some of the elders in our community.

As we enjoy the festivities and learning opportunities these months bring, let's also take a moment to appreciate the growth and connections we have fostered within our Religious School community. We look forward to celebrating these special times with you and your families.

Wishing everyone a joyous Purim and a meaningful Passover season. Let's embrace the warmth and renewal that spring brings, and may we continue to grow together in learning, faith, and community.

Talia

Next Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Friday, April 5, 5:30pm



MARCH - APRIL 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

KI TISA

Friday, March 1
Candle Lighting at 5:19pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 2
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 30:11-34:35

VAYAKHEL

Friday, March 8
Candle Lighting at 5:28pm
No Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 9
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 35:1-38:20

PEKUDEI

Friday, March 15
Candle Lighting at 6:36pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 16
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 38:21-40:38

VAYIKRA

Friday, March 22
Candle Lighting at 6:44pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 23
Erev Purim
9:00am Torah Study
11:00am Purim Spiel & Carnival
Leviticus 1:1-5:26

TZAV

Friday, March 29
Candle Lighting at 6:52pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 30
10:30am Torah Study
Leviticus 6:1-8:36

SHMINI

Friday, April 5
Candle Lighting at 7:00pm
5:30pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, April 6
10:30am Torah Study
Leviticus 9:1-11:47

TAZRIA

Friday, April 12
Candle Lighting at 7:08pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, April 13
10:30am Torah Study
Leviticus 12:1-13:59

METZORA

Friday, April 19
Candle Lighting at 7:16pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, April 20
10:30am Torah Study
Leviticus 14:1-15:33

PESACH IV

Friday, April 26
Candle Lighting at 7:23pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, April 27

Pesach V

10:30am Torah Study

All WORSHIP SERVICES are held in person and livestreamed (emanuelsinai.org)

TORAH STUDY meets in person and via Zoom.

MINYAN is held every Monday at 5:45pm (except when the office is closed) only via Zoom and Livestream. Login information can be found in eNews.

CLERGY & STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rabbi Valerie Cohen
rabbivaleriecohen@gmail.com

Gitit Shoval, Cantorial Soloist & Music Director
gshoval@emanuelsinai.org

Talia Mugg, RS Director
tmugg@emanuelsinai.org

Christa Benoit, Office Assistant
cbenoit@emanuelsinai.org

Jade Le'Jeune, Temple Administrator
jlejeune@emanuelsinai.org

Sophia Schlegelmilch, Communications Administrator
sschleg@emanuelsinai.org

Steve Contois, Caretaker

Temple Main Phone Line
508-755-1257



Shabbat Across Central Mass

SAVE THE DATE of FRIDAY MARCH 8th!

Join the greater Central Mass Jewish community to come together in small groups to enjoy Shabbat dinner together in homes on the same Friday night.

For those who are members of synagogues, be on the lookout for more information in your temple emails and bulletins. For anyone who is not affiliated with a synagogue and would like to host and/or attend a Shabbat, please reach out to Mindy Hall at mhall@jfcmm.org.

Pre-Shabbat Workshop schedule in the works and open to all. More information to follow.

This program made possible through a generous grant of



Celebrate Shabbat at HOME!

Host a Shabbat dinner for friends and family or make a request to be hosted.

Please let us know if you have a few seats available at your Shabbat Table for people who need to be hosted.

Scan the QR code or use the link in our eNews to RSVP with your interest in joining or hosting a Shabbat Dinner.



Shabbat Services will be ONLINE ONLY on March 8

Visit emanuelsinai.org/live-streams/ to livestream the service

March 8th's Kaddish list will be read at the ONLINE service

PRE - SHABBAT WORKSHOPS

Register for any or all workshops by sending an RSVP to the workshop's designated link or email

Tuesday, February 27th, 7:30 pm

***Transforming Friday Night into Shabbat:
The Hows and Whys (Zoom option avail)***

Rabbi Yaakov Blotner

Shaarai Torah West, Worcester

RSVP: Lamplighters18@gmail.com

Sunday, March 3rd, 10:00 am

Young Families Pre-Shabbat Fun, Music, and Activities

Rabbi Aviva Fellman

Congregation Beth Israel, Worcester

RSVP: receptionist@bethisraelworc.org

Sunday, March 3rd, 11:00 am

The Art of Challah Braiding

Rabbi Eve Eichenholtz

Congregation Agudat Achim, Leominster

RSVP: office@agudat-achim.org


Wednesday, March 6th, 7:00 pm

Challah Making Workshop

Sheva Liberow and Sylvia Avinoam

Worcester JCC

RSVP: TheTorahcenter7@gmail.com



Earth Day Havdalah and Green Potluck

Saturday, April 13, 5:00 pm

A Green Potluck?

No, your food contribution does not have to be green!

Yes, your food contribution has to be eco-friendly:
vegetarian and vegan dishes welcome.

- Share your favorite vegetarian dish
- Share the recipe
- Schmooze and kibbitz with friends
- Participate in facilitated small group conversations
- Help build our eco-friendly Jewish community



Leave your steak at home and come find out how you can impact a different stake:
the stake of our climate future.

Please RSVP at templemanuelsinai.shulcloud.com/event/GreenPotluck or by scanning the QR code.

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AND MAKE
SOME NEW
FRIENDS



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MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and APRIL 6 & 27
(closed April 13 and 20 for Worcester schools April vacation)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee continues to meet monthly with the objective of enhancing the worship experience for all members of our congregation. The weekly Sabbath services held each Friday night, in addition to all the other services, require a lot of work behind the scenes, as well as the participation of many people.

We want to take the time to thank everyone who has helped out. No matter how big or small, each completed task adds to our community, and everyone deserves gratitude for helping out. These thanks go to many individuals, to committees, to affinity groups, and to the Temple staff, particularly our Cantorial Soloist Gitit and Rabbi Valerie, all of whom continue to contribute to our services. Thanks also to our congregants, for completing various honors such as Candle Blessing, Kiddush, English Readings, Torah Blessings, and Torah Readings and Blessings, being greeters to welcome people as they come into the building, organizing and providing snacks and challah, and cleaning up after the onegs.

Thanks to each and every one of you for all you do. Your time and effort strengthens our community, and does not go unnoticed. Participating in these honors is a meaningful way to acknowledge the yahrzeit of a loved one or to celebrate a simcha in your life such as a birthday, anniversary or other milestone or special occasion. Also, there doesn't need to be a special occasion or reason, you can participate just because you feel like it!

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns, or to let us know that you would like to participate or volunteer in any way. Please contact us at worship@emanuelsinai.org

LIFELONG LEARNING



"The Problem Of Genocide And Ethnic Cleansing: Definitions And How We Use Them"

Led by Jessa Sinnott,

Doctoral Candidate at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Sunday, March 3, 1:00 pm

Sunday, March 24, 1:00 pm

In person and on Zoom – see eNews or contact the temple office for Zoom link

This two-part discussion will examine genocide and ethnic cleansing as legal and theoretical concepts. Where does the term "genocide" come from? How has it been applied since its inception? What is the purpose or goal of categorizing mass violence? We will explore the problems with existing definitions, and discuss case studies (that have and have not been categorized under the UN genocide convention) in order to better understand how these concepts are applied and how they color our perceptions of atrocity.

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5784 Purim Spiel & Carnival

Saturday, March 23 11am - 2pm

An Interactive All Ages Program
Carnival Immediately Following Spiel

"WE DON'T TALK ABOUT HAMAN"

A Purim Spiel Set to the Music of Encanto



Register to attend by scanning the QR code or go to:
templemanuelsinai.shulcloud.com/event/Purim2024



PURIM FOOD DRIVE

March 6th - 31st

Did you know that Purim is the holiday when it is traditional for Jewish communities to hold food drives?

"The same days on which Jews enjoyed relief from their foes and the same month which had been transformed for them from one of grief to joy and from mourning to festival, they were to observe them as days of feasting and merry-making, and as an occasion for gifts to one another and gifts to people in need" (*Esther 9:22*).

In keeping with this commandment, the TES Social Action Committee is asking congregants to make a financial contribution toward our Purim Food Drive. With this money, our partner organization, Rachel's Table, will work with a produce company to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables, which are in short supply, and donate them to local shelters and neighborhood centers.

Increased cost of food, combined with skyrocketing housing expenses in Central MA, have resulted in a crisis of food insecurity, with some families having to make the heartbreaking choice between putting food on the table and heating their homes.

A few relevant facts about this crisis' local impact (provided by Worcester Center for Food Equity):

- 18% of Worcester residents experience food insecurity.

- 69% Live more than a mile from a food source.

- 42% of people who qualify for SNAP (food stamps) are not receiving them.

- 20% of households in Worcester live below the poverty level; for people of color, it is 36%.

Contributions will be collected March 6th - 31st and can be made by scanning the QR code or visiting manuelsinai.org/purimdrive



AFFINITY GROUP SPOTLIGHT

Temple Emanuel Sinai's affinity groups are essential parts of the TES community, and they have been meeting, connecting, schmoozing, and bonding with one another since 2018. If you are interested in joining one – or several – affinity groups, please reach out using the email addresses listed, or by calling or emailing the temple office.



Cooking

We have made challah and so much more. Join us to chat and figure out what makes recipes work -- or not! Contact Patty Jacobs at pattycj_10603@yahoo.com.



Mahjong

We have been learning and playing mahjong since the fall of 2018. New players, experienced players, and those who want to enjoy a game are all welcome.

Please contact Patty Jacobs at pattycj_10603@yahoo.com.



Hiking

We hike Wednesday mornings, usually from 10am - 12pm in the greater Worcester area. Each season offers something special to appreciate about our natural world, but the camaraderie is superb in all seasons. Contact Patti Gould or the TES office for more information.

BEIT OMANUT (HOUSE OF ART)

An In-Person Gathering for Artists and Crafters

Love creating but don't make the time?

Join other creatives monthly on Sunday mornings.

Bring your project and materials. Create and schmooze! *

Sundays, 10am-noon | Doors open at 9:45am for set-up

Next Meetings: March 24 & April 21

✨ Bonus: Each session begins with a 15-minute demonstration led by participants ✨

in-person only

* Meeting time coincides with our Mahjong group, which means meeting more people - OR - play Mahjong instead!

2023, A Very Good Year for our hosting of In the Hour of Need (IHN) Family Shelter

THANK YOU to all congregants who generously donated their time and money during Temple Emanuel Sinai's annual hosting of the IHN family shelter in Worcester.

We are happy to share that during our hosting period **seventy congregant & affiliated families** contributed more than six thousand dollars. IHN will spend these funds on operating expenses, youth programs and case management services.

Twenty individuals volunteered during evening and overnight shifts, providing a comforting presence and saving thousands of dollars in payroll.

Thank you for participating in this important act of Tikkun Olam!

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about IHN, contact the Sheri Lin, Director: slinn@ihnworchester.org.

Email office@emanuelsinai.org
with interest and tell us what
media you work with.

TES DONATIONS: DECEMBER 1, 2023 – JANUARY 30, 2024

Brotherhood Scholarship Funds

Alberta Chase in memory of Paul Chase

Sheila Tarlin in memory of Jack Reiff

Anne and Mac Levine Scholarship Fund

Joan & Rif Freedman & Family in memory of Anne Levine

Lurier Scholarship Fund

Lurier Family in memory of Eli Lurier

Manuel Berman Scholarship Fund

Davida & Joel Berman in memory of Stanley I. Berman

Richard Solomon Scholarship Fund

Robbins Family in memory of George Solomon

Robbins Family in memory of Richard Solomon

Cab Card Fund

Paula & Dennis Selvitella in memory of John Kapitulik

Caring Committee Fund

Alberta Chase in memory of Rose E. Brown

Floral Fund

Davida & Joel Berman in memory of Fran Lubin's sister

Davida & Joel Berman in honor of Monica and Gary Wolf's new grandchild

General Fund

Daniel Abraham in memory of Barbara Abraham and Betsy Binder

Ruth Berman & Family in memory of Alan Berman and Phyllis Scharf

Ruth Berman in memory of Phyllis Berman

Chet Boronski in memory of Bernice Weiss

Elaine Chase in memory of Arthur Chase

Cynthia & Dennis Cohen in memory of Mark Cohen

Marjorie & David Cohen in memory of Burton Chandler

Ronna & Jonah Cuker in memory of Catherine Dana Roth

Ronna & Jonah Cuker in memory of Milton Roth

Jenique & Eric Edelstein in honor of David Persky's birthday

Debbie & Steven Feingold in memory of Anna Levy, Sara Turow and Judy Glassman

Judith & Richard Fow in memory of Mel Porter

Paula Freeman & Jeremy Soybel in memory of Ruth Soybel

Kathleen & Stuart Glass in memory of Benjamin Glass

Judith Gluck in memory of Brina Saltzman, Joseph Saltzman and Henry Wolfset

Jill Szafran Goldstein in memory of Martha Goldstein

Ann Greenberg in memory of Philip Goldberg

Sharon Gurwitz

RoxAnn & Michael Gusar in memory of Morris Zablotsky

Susan Idzajtich in memory of Pearl Cotton

Doriann & Richard Jaffee in memory of Dorothy Jaffee and Robert Jaffee

Valerie Kerxhalli & Jesse Caplan in memory of Elvira Kerxhalli Phyllis

Leibman & Steven Alpert in memory of Leon Leibman Fredda

Levine in memory of Henry David Levine

Lois Lopatin in memory of Shirley Kane

Harriet & Stephen Lowe in memory of Donald Goldstein

Beth-Ann Martunas in memory of Paul K. Young

Jodie McInerney & Family in memory of Marion Hamel Barbara

& Arthur Miller in memory of Abraham Palley

Joseph Oakley in honor of Burton Chandler

Lauren Persky in memory of Bud Schultz

Marlene & David Persky in memory of Adele Engelberg Marlene

& David Persky in memory of Shirley Kane

Marlene & David Persky in memory of Zelda Pemstein

Avis & Irving Pilson speedy and complete recovery to Amy Huff

Becky & George Pins in memory of Traude Pins

Lee & Chuck Radlo in memory of Max Horn

Barbara & Arnold Ravelson & Family in memory of Anne Kaplan

Sophia & Spencer Schlegelmilch in memory of Frank J. Chiappini

Shwachman Family in memory of David J. Shwachman and in honor of David Persky's big birthday

Alexis Silver & Family in memory of Evelyn Silver

Toby Solomon in memory of Jerold Solomon

Toby Solomon in memory of Yale White

Sandy Sotak in memory of Roger Morrow

David Stern in memory of Bud Schultz

Roberta Sufrin in memory of Martin Budish

Roberta Sufrin in memory of Louis Budish

Albert Tapper in memory of Samuel Louis Tapper

High Holy Day Appeal

Joy Alexander

Davida & Joel Berman

Bruce Bursten & Carol Edelstein Laura

Cerniglia

Iris & Micah Chase

Catherine Colinvax & Phillip Zamore

Lauren Dunn

Rachael & Warren Ehrlich

Debbie & Steven Feingold

Joan & Richard Freedman

Merilee & Alan Freeman

Beth & Jeffrey Greenberg

Suan & Ronald Hayes

Julieanne & Michael Hirsh

Donna & Harry Hubbard

Wendy & Sheldon Katz

Susan & Robert Mack

Renee Malowitz & Frederick Lilienkamp

Susan & James Patrick

Joseph Persky

Paula & Neal Rosenblum

Eugene Rubin

Stuart Sadick

Judith & Philip Shwachman Deborah

& Daniel Steigman

Warren Yanoff

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Cynthia & Dennis Cohen
Susan Connolly in memory of Bertha Michaelson
Lori-Ann Cutler
Carole Dorris
Robert Dyer
Patti & Harvey Gould
Michael Gusar
Susan & Ronald Hayes
Meg Hoey & Mark Birnbaum in memory of
Lore & Abe Birnbaum
Ellen Hornig
Eydie Kasendorf
Deborah Kelly
Andrea Kendall & David Isenberg
Valerie Kerxhalli & Jesse Caplan
Janet & Barry Krock
Ellyn Lazar
Azim Rawji
Stephen Slaten
Debbie & Irwin Thomashow
Cynthia Turncliff

Lifelong Learning Fund

Susan Connolly in memory of John Connolly
National Mah Jongg League

Music Fund

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Emily Ritz Gerber in memory of Henry M. Ritz
and Bessie J. Schorr
Marilyn Goldsmith in memory of Joseph Kangisser
and Michael Jasper
Marilyn Goldsmith in memory of Ed Solomon
Lisa Harned in memory of Betty Polimer
Sandra Meltzer in memory of A. Isadore Meltzer
Marlene & David Persky in memory of Sara Shoval
Avis & Nick Pilson in memory of Jacob Pilson
Stuart Sadick in memory of Michael Jasper
and Joseph Kangisser
Deb, Mark, Erica & Alyssa Shear in memory of Phyllis Berman
Deb & Mark Shear and Family in memory of Sara Shoval Judy
& Allan Shriber in memory of Sara Shoval
Pamela & Alan Sigel in memory of Richard Sigel
and Shirley Sigel
Sheryl & Steven Sigel in memory of Richard L. Sigel
and Shirley Sigel

Oneg Fund

Margot Barnet, David Coyne & Selma Coyne in
memory of Harold Coyne

Alberta Chase
Lori-Ann Cutler
Paula & Dennis Selvitella
TES Hiking Group

Prayerbook Fund

Harriette Chandler in memory of S. Lester Levy

Rabbi's Fund

Margo Austein & Steve Miller in memory of George Austein
Davida & Joel Berman in memory of Shirley Kane
Trudy & Merrill Cohen in memory of Samuel Chafetz
Becci & John Craig
Lori-Ann Cutler
Anne & Stuart Diamond in memory of Paula Diamond
Diane, Len, Jessica & Steven Doerfler in memory of Edward
H. Doerfler
Freed Family in memory of Jean C. Freed
Sandra & Maurice Goodman in memory of
Rebecca N. Jacobson
Patti & Harvey Gould in memory of Eli Orbuch
Melvin Lubowitz & Family in memory of Dolores Lubowitz
Melvin Lubowitz & Family in memory of Jack Lubowitz
Lee & Chuck Radlo in memory of Dorothy McPhillips Stuart
Sadick in memory of Alvin Sadick
Stuart Sadick in honor of David Sadick's birthday
Deb, Mark, Erica & Alyssa Shear in memory of Bert Shear
Shirley Siff in honor of Marlene and David Persky's
big birthdays
Barbara & Joel Strogoff in memory of Shirley Sigel
and Richard L. Sigel
Lora Trotsky & Andrew Kotin in memory of Phyllis Kotin
Barry White in memory of Alice White

Religious School Fund

Lori-Ann Cutler
Laura Myers in memory of Evelyn Myers
Rosalie Rose in memory of Marc A. Sims
Cheryl & Douglas Ross in memory of Donald Goldstein

Shelanu Campaign Fund

Kathleen & Stuart Glass in memory of Sheila Schiffman
Debbie & Irwin Thomashow in honor of the birth of Colbie
Edith Ravelson
Debbie & Irwin Thomashow in memory of Irene Thomashow

Social Action Fund

EPIQ Partners, LLC in honor of Lois Lopatin

Torah Fund

Sandy Sotak in memory of Roger Alan Morrow, Marion
Morrow and Larry Rath



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TELEPHONE

508-485-6653

FAX

508-485-1311

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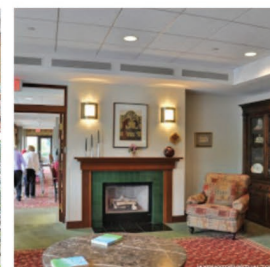
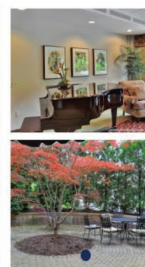
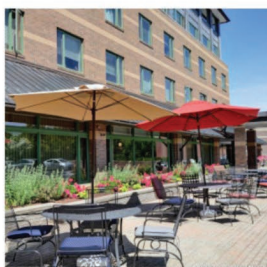
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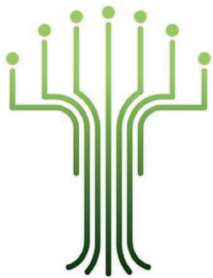


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