

SHAARE ZEDEK

SYNAGOGUE

News

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Office (314) 727-1747

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Shaare Zedek Congratulates Our Graduating Classes of 2009/5769

Shaare Zedek Confirmations of 2009/5769

Oliver Kodner son of Gary Kodner and Peggy Nehmen

Ben Levy son of Joseph and Gayle Levy

Delia Rainey daughter of Dennis and Laura Rainey

Hannah Rainey daughter of Dennis and Laura Rainey

Elliot Wilson son of Ken Wilson and Shelli Kastin

Shaare Zedek's Highschool Student Graduates of 2009

Jacob Goldsmith (*Clayton High School*) son of Halrold and Marcia Goldsmith

Eliot Markman (*Clayton High School*) son of Charles Markman and Janet Rader

Aaron Praiss (*Clayton High School*) son of Omri and Juliane Praiss

Jamie Rosenberg (*Ladue Horton Watkins Highschool*) daughter of Stuart and Kathi Rosenberg

Claire Waxenberg (*University City High School*) daughter of Michael and Julie Waxenberg

Solomon Schechter Day School 8th grade graduate

Daniel May- Rauchman son of Michael Rauchman and Ariane May

Shaare Zedek's Early Childhood Center graduating class of 2009/5769

This is the 22nd class to graduate from the ECC.

Itai Ben-Shahar son of Sarah Hartz and Yehuda Ben-Shahar

Ben Blumenhorst son of Lori Lipkind and Chris Blumenhorst

Madeline Brown daughter of Amy Ravin and Eric Brown

Trevor Dodson son of Priscilla Ahl and Darrick Dodson



Olivia, Maddie, Ben, Nathan, Zac, Trevor Kyle, Dustin, Jordan, Ari, Mason, Jacob, Itai (not shown)

Zachariah Dulkan son of Hazzan Joanna and Rabbi Ryan Dulkan

Dustin Glickman son of Susanne and Jeffery Glickman

Nathaniel Kaufman son of Andrea and David Kaufman

Ari Perryman, son of Teresa and Jaret Perryman

Olivia Saphian daughter of Ruth and David Saphian

Kyle Smith son of Dora and David Smith

Jacob Summers son of Rachel Gaertner and Thad Summers

Mason Taylor son of Emily and Joe Taylor

Jordan Uehle son of Bridget Murdock and John Uehle

What's Inside

- 2 Todah Rabah
- 3 Presidential Matters
- 5 HazzaNites
- 6 Mens' Club
- 8 Sisterhood Youth
- 9 Shaare Shalom Adult Education
- 10 Everyone Has A Story
- 14 Synagogue Tributes
- 15 David Iken Fund Sisterhood Tributes
- 16 Yahrzeits Condolences
- 18 Calendar

Shaare Zedek also congratulates all our college graduates of 2009. Mazal Tov!

Todah Rabah!

Haftarot for May

Tamara Doering, Alice Fasman, Harriet Shanas, David Weinstein, Aviva Yael, Joyce Olshan

Greeters for May

Marcia Goldsmith, Evan Goldfarb, Hal Goldsmith, Rhoda Grimsky, Maurice Guller

Kiddushes for May

Synagogue, Mitchell & Janice Shenker

Minyan Breakfast May

Al Leving, Bob Olshan, Dorit Galor, Mitch Shenker, Marion Cohen, Jeremy & Wendy Buehler, Esther Zuckerman, Bernard Mellman, Marshall & Sara Myers

Mazal Tov!

Anniversaries in June

Jeremy Buhler & Wendy Anderson
Ben & Joan Barzilai
Burton & Benita Boxerman
Sanford & Cynthia Boxerman
Ryan Dulkan & Joanna Selznick Dulkan
Mark & Karen Engel
Hilton & Carolyn Epstein
Richard & Jody Feldman
Mark Goffstein
Mark & Joy Goldfeder
Steven Brody & Brenda Grossman
Todd & Robyn Haim
William & Meris Hamilton
Fred & Estelle Handler
Stephen Selipsky & Phyllis Hanson
Ed Finkelstein & Rose Jonas
Richard & Ellen Kalina
Bernard & Marilyn Kunitz
Geoff & Shelly Loo
Barry & Carol Pessin
Seymour & Yetta Raiffie
Michael & Alisa Reichman
Sidney & Sylvia Rosen
Stuart Hoffman & Rita Rothschild
Harvey & Ava Small
Fred & Cecile Spiegelman
Steven & Yona Strasberg
Myles & Susan Tenzer
Daniel & Robin Wald
Peter & Susan Walker
Michael & Karen Wetmore
Burton & Sharon Wice
Jeff & Leslie Zacks

Engagements

Mazel Tov to Roger & Marcia Brockman on the engagement of their son, Justin, to Erica Tepper. They will be married on July 11th in West Bloomfield, MI.

Marriages

Mazel Tov to Rachel Shenker and Russell Gottlieb who were married on May 24th at the Jewel Box in St. Louis. Proud parents are Mitchell & Janice Shenker.

New Arrivals

Mazel Tov to Eric and Dana Emmenegger on the birth of their son, Isaac James, on April 24th.
Mazel Tov to Chad and Amy Doughty on the birth of their son, Caleb Joseph, on April 29th. Proud grandparents are Alan & Helene Spetner; proud great-grandparents are Sherry Kaplan, the late Sol Kaplan, the late Norman and the late Lillian Spetner.

Shaare Zedek Synagogue

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Mark Fasman
Rabbi

Joanna Selznick Dulkan
Hazzan

Marvin Lerner
Ba'al Koreh

Jeff Miller
Executive Director

Gary Kodner
Synagogue President

Liz Redler
Youth Director

Michael Raileanu
Shaare Shalom Education Director

Micki Kinglsey
Sisterhood President

Mitchell Shenker
Men's Club President

Jamie Rosenberg, Eliot Markman
USYCo-President

Board Leadership

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Marsha Birenbaum Chairman of the Board
Sandy Boxerman, Vice Presidents
Beth Levy, Monroe Ginsburg
Jeremy Buehler Secretary
Marc Spector Treasurer
Al Leving, Sergeants-at-Arms
Randy Silverstein

Committee Chairs

Monroe Ginsburg Ritual
Beth Levy Membership
Michael Levine Budget
Development
Sandy Boxerman Personnel
David Propper Building
Karen Rader Education
Kathi Rosenberg Youth
Jeremy Buehler, Steve Selipsky ECC
Beth Rubin Shaare Shalom
Sydney Farber Adult Ed
TBD Family Life
Barbara Bianco Chesed
Micki Kingsley Social Action
Gary Kodner Communications
Don Singer, Bob Olshan Israel
Sara Myers Halls & Catering

Shaare Zedek Newsletter designed by Tovah Enger

Presidential Matters

Gary Kodner

Green Sanctuaries

We defend our property, our country, our laws, but why not equally defend our earth?

After all the earth sustains all life as we know it. It is one of God's creations.

It may be impossible to completely offset our impact on the environment, yet there are many steps we can take to make a difference. Planting trees is a great way to offset some of the carbon emissions we create, but also making changes in our lifestyle, buildings and use of materials can have a vast impact on our environment.

There are a number of Jewish initiatives responding to this issue that we should learn about and consider.

Shomrei Ha'Aretz – an FJMC "Green" Initiative The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) accepted the mandate of the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism in 2008 to create new vehicles to "green our Movement." This effort, named Shomrei Ha'Aretz – "Guardians of the Earth" has resulted in the creation of soy based Shabbat candles, a solar eternal light (Ner Tamid) kit, partnering in North America and Israel with carbon offset efforts, and joint purchasing of bio-degradable products for institutional use.

The GO Neutral Program - <http://support.jnf.org/goneutral/index.html>

Our Men's Club and JNF have joined together to help save our planet and connect our synagogue to Israel through the FJMC/ JNF's GoNeutral Synagogue Affiliate program. This new program

will educate us on the environment, as well as the role that Israel plays as a global environmental leader. Our Men's club has obtained the resources to engage, educate and energize our community to make a difference. JNF has planted over 240

million trees in the land of Israel, which have absorbed about 110 million tons of carbon dioxide from the air. This, along with all of their other cutting edge environmental work, puts them in a unique position to be a leader in the global environmental movement. Through this campaign, you can go online and calculate your impact on the planet, and become "neutral" simply by planting trees in Israel. JNF will return 20% of all funds donated through this link to our congregation for environmental and Israel related projects and programs. This program offers us an excellent opportunity to educate our membership and increase our support of Israel and the environment.

To participate, simply go to our web site: shaarezedek.org and click on the link. This is an easy and smart way for recognizing simchas in your life or for a bar/bat mitzvah project. Interested in learning more?

Contact Bob Olshan at olshanr@aol.com.

Green Sanctuaries

The Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, Ill. not only built a new \$10 million model synagogue building, but they made it "green". For starters, they installed showers and bike racks — just in case they want to pedal to services — and tinted glass windows, to minimize the amount of heat the building absorbs. They also added solar-powered parking lot lights, used high-efficiency boilers and the cypress wood recycled from an old

East Coast barn to their new facility they opened in January 2008. They became the first synagogue to receive a LEED gold designation from the U.S. Green Building Council, which rates buildings for sustainability. And then there are the gestures whose symbolic



meanings far surpass their costs: A host of synagogues — including Evanston's Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation — have opted to replace the electric light above the ark where the Torah is kept, known as the Ner Tamid, with a solar-powered fixture.

While the 450-family congregation represents the most devoted end of the spectrum, it is not alone in its efforts to bring its religious ideals in line with environmentally conscious ideals. In fact, synagogues and Jewish organizations across denominations are moving toward better aligning their buildings and business practices with an environmental conscience. For the most part, they're joining the wider global shift toward environmentalism for distinctly Jewish reasons.

The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California

(COEJLSC) works to revitalize the relationship between Judaism and the environment. "We're not just doing this because it's a good thing for the world," said Rabbi Joel Baker, executive director of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Pacific Southwest region.

"We're doing it because it's incumbent on us as Jews to do it."

On the West coast, Baker has pushed in recent years to make the congregational arm of the Conservative movement more sensitive to environmental concerns. Baker, who represents 65 synagogues in six states — among them New Mexico, California and Hawaii — signed on to a pilot program of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California that brings together houses of worship and faith-based organizations to promote awareness of their ecological impact. The Conservative

Continued on Page 4

movement's affiliation with the program, known as Green Sanctuaries, was launched in 2005 to great fanfare at Los Angeles's Sinai Temple. Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa even showed up to trumpet the program's virtues, both moral and economic, noting that Sinai Temple could save \$40,000 a year with energy efficiency. The city of Los Angeles has also opened its coffers to Green Sanctuaries, offering financial and tactical support, including free energy audits from the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power.

"The Jewish communal aspect of Green Sanctuaries has taken a faster move forward," said Lee Wallach, president of COEJLSC (Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life of Southern California) www.coejl.org and co-chair of the Interfaith Environmental Council. Wallach attributed the Jewish community's heavy involvement to both its high level of organization and the willingness on the part of three of its denominations — the Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements — to band together around the issue.

Green Sanctuaries is creating a guidebook for its participating institutions and aims to create "green teams" at individual synagogues and organizations, which will implement changes and educate members. In Los Angeles, green teams have bought reusable bags from COEJLSC at less than half the price (89 cents, vs. \$2 at market value) to distribute to their members. The University of Southern California's Hillel recently distributed energy efficient light bulbs courtesy of Green Sanctuaries.

The East coast also has a fair share of synagogues that are breaking new ground on green building. Together with the New Jersey based nonprofit group, Green Faith, COEJL reached congregations representing all of the major Jewish denominations. They helped synagogues conserve, use renewable energy, improve the environmental sustainability of their operations, deepen their

awareness of environmental stewardship in a Jewish context, and encourage their involvement in environmental advocacy.

Participating congregations included:

B'nai Keshet

(Reconstructionist) in Montclair, NJ; Congregation Agudath Israel

(Conservative) in West Caldwell, NJ; Congregation Sharey Tefilo-Israel

(Reform) in South Orange, NJ; Keshet Community Synagogue (Orthodox) in Englewood, NJ; Temple Israel (Conservative) in Ridgewood, NJ; and Temple Beth El (Reform) in Closter, NJ.

In New York City, the Eldridge Street Project, dedicated to preserving Jewish life at the historic Lower East Side synagogue built in 1887, has been working on its 20-year restoration project from a green perspective. The restoration includes using recycled blue

jeans as insulation. Jill

Gotthelf, an architect and associate at Walter Sedovic Architects who has worked on the restoration since

1990, said that synagogues and Jewish organizations have caught on to green building over the past few years — even if larger businesses and government institutions may have paved the way — because it is finally a more affordable proposition. "It used to be that it would double or triple the cost of construction," Gotthelf said. "But now

that it's becoming more competitive, the cost of doing green construction has come down considerably."

Here are a few doable ideas to help make Shaare Zedek more "green" and help improve the health of our planet:

- * A building energy audit and energy conservation retrofits
- * Torah study for adults on Judaism and the environment
- * Biodegradable and compostable tableware instead of Styrofoam cups and plates
- * Jewish environmental education for children
- * Solar exterior lighting, Solar Ner Tamid (Eternal Light)
- * Reduction or eliminate toxic cleaning/maintenance products
- * Install motion sensor light switches that automatically turn off lights in un-used areas
- * Use less paper with e-mail and internet
- * Soy Wax Eco-Shabbat Tea Candles
- * JNF GO Neutral program (mentioned above)

Tradition mandates that we protect, serve and care for all of creation.

As it says in Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13, "Do not corrupt or desolate my world; for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you."



OPEN M-F 10:00AM- 12:30PM
Special Hebrew School Hours:
M, W 5:30- 6:30 pm
Sunday hours by appointment.
Arrangements may be made for special occasions (i.e., weddings, b'nai mitzvot, bris melah, etc.)

HazzaNotes

Hazzan Joanna Selznick Dulkan

As we reach the end of the school and "programming" year, I would like to honor the employees and volunteers who have helped to enrich and enliven our ritual life here at the synagogue: those who have freely and unwaveringly given of their time and effort to make sure our services happen, and go smoothly.

Todah Rabbah to our weekday Torah reading cohort: **Wendy Love Anderson, Jeremy Buhler, Margaux Buck-Yael, Karen Karabell, Harold Karabell, Michael Waxenberg, Suzanne Broddon, Rabbi Brad Horwitz, Linda Kram, Bonnie Templeton, Lisa Peckler, Rabbi Allen Selis, and Rabbi Ryan Dulkan.** Week in and week

out, they make sure that the Torah readings are covered! Thank you to our regular Shabbat Mincha leyners, **Dr. Michael**

Rauchman and to our weekly Shabbat mincha davener, **Harold Karabell.** Thank you to our Shabbat gabbaim **Rudy Oppenheim, Steve Keyser, Bernie Mellman, and Dorit Galor.** Thank you to our morning minyan and breakfast chef **Dr. Gerald Cohen,** and our evening minyan coordinator **Burton Boxerman.** Thanks to minyan "captains" **Marshall Myers, Jerry Schwartz, Mitch Shenker** and all our **Minyanaires** who make the commitment to be at shul once, twice, three, or more times, morning and evening, each week.

A big thank you to our Ritual Committee, ably chaired this year by **Jeremy Buhler** and **Monroe Ginsburg.** Thank you to our cadre of Shabbat floor Gabbaim: **Rolf Cooke, Micki Kingsley, Mark Weinstein,** and **Sherri Weintrop,** for helping the services run so smoothly. Thank you to the many who have filled in (and continue to fill in) for Rabbi Fasman on his sabbatical, stepping up to deliver a sermon, or an introduction to the

Torah or Haftarah readings. Thank you to **Elena Ashkenazi** for organizing and ensuring that our many **Shabbat greeters** are there to welcome members and guests week in and week out. Thank you to the greeters for your smiling faces! Thanks to **Sandy Boxerman, Hannah Boxerman, Karen Karabell, Alice Fasman, David Weinstein,** and others for filling in with Shabbat davening while I have been away. A huge thank-you to our trusty and talented Ba'al Koreh, **Marvin Lerner,** to **Wendy Love Anderson** and **Aviva Buck-Yael,** who have been behind the scenes assigning all the haftarot, and to all the many congregants who have taken time to learn and chant a haftarah this past year.

Thank you to the incomparable Shabbat Rinah Band: **Andrew Rehfeld, Wendy Hyman-Fite, Rob Birenbaum** and **Michael Shanas,** for enlivening our davening each time you play. It is a joy to work with all of you. Thank you to our Family and Youth Service leaders: **Margaux Buck-Yael** (Torah Club), **Jan Goldman** and **Julie Friedman** (Family Service). You have taken on the holy task of introducing our young people to Shabbat and holiday worship on their own terms, and for this we honor you. Thank you to High Holiday Family service leader **Rabbi Ryan Dulkan,** and to **Liz Redler** and **Michael**

"I would like to honor the employees and volunteers who have helped to enrich and enliven our ritual life here at the synagogue..."

New Plaques Installed in May

Sara Gaiman



Raileanu, who always make being at shul fun and exciting. Thank you to **Marty Schaeffer** and **Tessa Katan** for being such fabulous partners in the ECC: thanks to their wonderful work, our children are learning about davening, Hebrew and Jewish holidays beginning at age 2!

Thank you to **Gary Kodner,** our dedicated President, and his cabinet of officers who make sure that everything runs smoothly all year round. Thank you to the wonderful office and synagogue staff, who routinely work above and beyond the time they are paid for to make sure everything runs smoothly: **Jeff Miller, Nancy Greene, Linda Kelting, Mark Rodgers** and **Rico Crane.** Thank you to my partner, colleague and friend **Rabbi Mark Fasman.**

Thank you to the many dedicated shul goers who prioritize being here on Shabbat and festivals: thank you for your voices, thank you for your warmth, and thank you for making our community so special. Despite the economic downturn, we are truly rich with talent and energy here at Shaare Zedek, and it is worth stopping every year to recognize and honor these riches. I sincerely apologize if I have inadvertently left anyone out!

May the summer be renewing and relaxing for all!

If you are interested in reading Haftara for the shul, please contact **AvivaYael@yahoo.com** (314-267-6778)





Please find below an article discussing the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and the Keruv Initiative

Keruv - Outreach to Intermarrieds

A number of significant changes have occurred in our population during the past few decades, as a direct result of assimilation and intermarriage. Individuals marry later and produce fewer children. Today, most Jews have non-Jewish family members. The National Jewish Population Survey of 2000 indicates that a significant percentage of Jews who are marrying are not marrying Jewish. Supplementary surveys reveal that the ritual observance of intermarried couples when synagogue-connected is similar to non-intermarried couples while the identification of their children as Jewish is the same!

Demographers admit one cannot prevent intermarriage. Thus today, every Jew is a "Jew by Choice." The challenge of each community, of each family, is how to transform "Jews by Chance" into "Jews by Choice!" Additionally, the challenge of each community is to recognize the important role a supportive non-Jewish spouse can play in fostering Jewish living. **We call this Keruv.**

- *What is Keruv?*
- *Ideology*
- *What it means to Families and Congregations*
- *FJMC Program*
- *FJMC Keruv Initiative*

What is Keruv?

Keruv is a Hebrew word meaning, "to draw near." It often is used to describe "outreach," to draw Jewish people who are not necessarily synagogue members closer to Jewish life. It also is used to describe "inreach," to focus on existing synagogue membership. As a result of the significant changes in the Jewish population during the past few decades due to assimilation and intermarriage, the definition of Keruv has solidified to incorporate both Inreach and Outreach.

Ideology

A disagreement exists within the Conservative/Masorti movement about the exact meaning and goal of Keruv. It is FJMC's contention that this term describes our efforts to reach out to and include existing and potential synagogue members who have children and grandchildren with non-Jewish family members (ie. spouses, in-laws, grandparents). The FJMC position does not hamper attempts at conversion nor does it undermine the religious authority of the overarching organizations in the Conservative/Masorti movement. However, we recognize that a growing number of our children have intermarried. There are many who lead

Jewish lives and raise Jewish families along with spouses who, for a variety of reasons, are not willing or prepared to convert formally to Judaism. FJMC favors meeting these people where they are and assisting them in making Jewish choices.

The FJMC Keruv Initiative is based on the following assumptions:

- Each congregation has a unique culture.
- The rabbi/lay team is crucial in order to effect cultural change.
- The mara d'atra's authority of the rabbi is underutilized.
- Congregational transformation must develop from the rabbi's place of comfort.
- The Keruv process challenges each of us to be more effective human beings.

What it means to Families and Congregations

FJMC's Keruv initiative is vital to keeping Jewish families active and involved in our congregations. FJMC's goal is to help families no matter how composed to feel welcome in our communities.

FJMC Program

The FJMC Keruv initiative is based on a lay/professional partnership that began in 1999. Since 1999, FJMC has brought together groups of rabbis to learn and to think about

the issues that are occurring in their communities and within their member families. With the help of academics who study the dynamics of intermarriage, rabbis are challenged to examine how they respond to synagogue members and their children when intermarriages occur.

Rabbis are invited to recommend a man and a woman to be trained as FJMC Keruv consultants. During the course of a weekend of training, these volunteers are taught to partner with their rabbi and to provide strategic support to their fellow congregants. While the consultants are provided with a support network and an annual weekend of additional training, the rabbi/lay team works in their own way to address community needs.

FJMC Keruv Initiative

"I felt like such a failure when my son married out, it felt like a rejection of everything I believed in. I didn't tell any of my synagogue friends for weeks. We had done everything we were supposed to from Jewish camps to lighting candles--what happened?"

"Although I am not Jewish myself, I have been totally supportive of Jewish observance. I shlepped the kids to Hebrew school, brought them to the Purim carnivals, took them to services. And yet, I felt like a stranger when I watched my family on the bima at my son's Bar Mitzvah."

"People keep asking me why I don't convert. I would love to but my mother would be devastated. How would you feel if any of your children converted from Judaism?"

These comments came from a disparate group of adults sitting in a circle in a nondescript synagogue classroom. Some in the group had young children; some had grandchildren; some were empty-nesters. Some were Jewish; some were not. **What they all had in common was that their lives had in some way been affected by intermarriage. They were brought together at a FJMC Keruv event.** Every participant wanted to share his or her emotions and learn from others who had dealt with similar situations. A skilled and trained FJMC Keruv consultant facilitated the meeting, delicately steering the group through a spirited and emotional discussion.

In over sixty synagogues throughout North America, sessions like this one have been held under the auspices of the FJMC Keruv Initiative. Since 1999, FJMC has conducted rabbinic think tanks and lay consultant training sessions across the United States from Providence, Rhode Island to Berkeley, California. More than 100 lay people and 150 rabbis have participated. FJMC publications have helped congregations implement their own successful Keruv programs.

The FJMC Keruv Initiative was launched to address the most profound change affecting the American Jewish community in the 21st Century. Professor Sylvia Barack Fishman of Brandeis University, in her study, "Choosing Jewish," published by the American Jewish Committee, states that in the American Jewish community today:

1. More than one-third of American Jews are married to non-Jews.
2. Close to one-half of recent "Jewish" marriages are between a Jew and a non-Jew.

3. Of all the Jews who are co-habiting today, over 80% of these partnerships include individuals of non-Jewish origin.

In all too many cases, the parents of these marriages, of these co-habitations, of these arrangements, have

nowhere to go to express the pain they feel and the dilemmas they face. We have a name for these parents: synagogue congregants.

With nearly half of all Jews marrying a non-Jew, few people in our Conservative congregations do not have an intermarried family member. Yet until recently, the issues surrounding intermarriage were rarely acknowledged in Conservative synagogues. Moreover, intermarried families who chose to affiliate predominantly were choosing Reform congregations where outreach programs were more common and synagogue policies were often more appealing.

The FJMC Keruv Initiative serves the needs of our congregations in several ways. Keruv programming provides opportunities for congregants to explore issues relating to intermarriage in a safe and supportive environment. The establishment of a synagogue Keruv Committee fosters a culture change which makes the congregation more appealing to potential members with diverse backgrounds. As Rabbi Charles Simon, FJMC Executive Director, expressed it, *"If we are concerned with the future of Conservative Judaism and fail to act proactively, then our movement will be condemned to a diminishing future."*

As with all culture change, successful implementation of Keruv is not always easy. Resistance can come from both clergy and lay leaders who fear that promotion of Keruv either sanctions intermarriage or compromises *halachic* (Jewish legal) standards. FJMC Keruv consultants understand that interpretation of Jewish law is the province of the local rabbi (mara d'atra) and that the objectives of Keruv do not include changing ritual practices. While congregations might wish for 100% in-marriage, the FJMC Keruv program recognizes intermarriage as a reality they must confront as they face the future.

"...today, every Jew is a "Jew by Choice."

So what has been accomplished?

In congregations where FJMC Keruv consultants have active and flourishing committees and programs, changes are obvious. Intermarried families feel more welcome and all congregants have a forum in which to discuss their concerns and emotions. Broader yet are the changes throughout the Conservative movement, where every leading institution is now reconsidering its traditional posture toward intermarriage and Conservative congregations are evaluating their own policies and trying to find ways to open doors to intermarried families.

Twenty years after its creation, the Steering Committee of the FJMC Keruv Initiative remains focused on the people in the Conservative movement who need and want Keruv programming. FJMC is motivated by the continuing progress within the world of Conservative Judaism and remains inspired by mentors such as Rabbi Harold Shulweiss of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California, who has written,

"In our attitude and practice toward the stranger we as a community of faith will recover the moral passion and purpose in Jewish living. Out there I seek seekers who want to discover a faith, wisdom, ethics and people who can solidify their lives. Out there are intermarried couples who stand outside on the threshold of the synagogue, ambivalent, frightened to enter, waiting to be invited in."

Thank you to all my family and friends who sent cards and wished me a special birthday. It meant so much to me.

*Sincerely,
Ann Frank*

Sisterhood

Micki Kingsley, President

We had a beautiful Mitzvah brunch and program on Sunday, May 17th. Our own Louise Kaufman-Yavitz's son, Daniel, entertained us with classical piano pieces. We all appreciated his willingness to perform at our brunch. Thank you to Sue Propper, Cindy Ginsburg, Louise, Ava Small and the others who planned and provided the brunch.

Our fiscal year end is nearing and we managed this past year to continue to help support the shul in many ways, which included the *Mishloach Manot* program at Purim, the ECC, summer camp scholarships, and the USY carnival and their activities. We also made contributions to Masorti in Israel, the Jewish Film Festival, the Jewish Book Festival, the national Women's League for Conservative Judaism, the Jewish Food Pantry, gifts to Bar and Bat Mitzvah kids, and much more. We have small fund raisers from time to time, and we still have some pastry bags in the Gift Shop for sale, but most of our funds raised are from ...you guessed it...*kiddushes* on Shabbat for any special occasion.

Cindy Ginsburg and I attended the Intracontinental (regional) WL conference in Minneapolis the end of April. I don't know how the organizers of these meetings and workshops manage to get so much information into so few days. I do know they don't allow a lot of time for sleep. Cindy and I arrived at noon on Friday before Shabbat. The conference itself began officially with a *Havdallah* service Saturday evening, followed by a hospitality hour and early registration. Cindy and I were invited to dinner Friday evening at the home of Marleen Bukstein, one of the Minneapolis women attending the conference. She had invited about 12 people for dinner and it was really a lovely evening. Several of the local women at dinner were also attending the conference. There were even two women I had met last year at my first Women's League conference. Our hostess led us in candle lighting and her husband led us in Kiddush, followed by a tasty and varied cuisine (he did most of the cooking), followed by birkhat ha mazon. It was a wonderful Jewish Conservative way to begin our visit.



The workshops and general meetings were packed with information about attracting and retaining membership, yearly dues collections, various programming ideas and tips, leadership training, and arts and crafts for fund raising. There was also a general meeting on the rather-new program *Mitzva Yomit*, at which the speaker *high-lighted tzedakah, hachnasat orchim* (inviting guests to your home) and keeping a kosher home. We were hosted at two of the Conservative congregations for dinners on Sunday and Monday evenings. I plan to share a lot of the details of the workshops with you at future meetings. Thank you for the opportunity to attend this conference.

There will be a board meeting in June, but none in July.

I wish you all a pleasant and healthy summer. Remember to use sunscreen when you spend time in the sun, and when you have some free time, pick up a book on Jewish learning.

Youth Programs

Liz Redler, Youth Director

Recently I overheard a conversation among a group of people who were discussing how frustrated they were with kids. This particular group was concerned with what they felt was the laziness, self entitlement, and unappreciative nature of youth today. This was not the first time I had heard people air their concerns, but for some reason this particular conversation stuck with me. Maybe it was the way they spoke so matter of fact, so sure about what they were saying, that made me want to address the subject.

I am in touch with many of the kids in quite a few youth groups besides SZSL on a daily bases, via phone, text, email, etc... I have noticed throughout the year pretty much the same recurring theme with all of them. Most

begin their days around 6 am just to get ready for school, afterwards there are a number of activities such as sports, theater, or various academic groups to participate in. Some are active in all of them. After completing their days at school, there are the hours of homework and studying they need to do in order to make the grades they need to get into college. Many of them also have part-time jobs and baby sit on a regular basis. As if this wasn't enough, they then take part in a Jewish youth group that is also demanding of their time. So often they are running from one activity to another and another, that they haven't eaten, they haven't had enough sleep, and are quite stressed out that they are not good enough at what they are doing.

I am not saying that our youth is perfect. But what I see are kids with so much more pressure and expectations on them than we ever had. I am especially proud of our Shaare Zedek USY kids who participate in so much and do it with such enthusiasm and grace. These kids love their families, their synagogue, and their community, and are always ready and willing to step up to the plate and do what they can when called upon. I am so very fortunate to know, work, and be inspired by each and every one of them.

B'shalom

Liz Redler



Shaare Shalom

Michael Raileanu, Education Director

Wow, what a year it has been. So many people to thank, so little time. I am going to take a shot at thanking everyone, but in doing so, I am bound to leave people out. Please forgive me if that should happen.

Thanks to Bob and Joyce Olshan (and Dovran) for coming to the Shaare Shalom Yom HaAtzmaut celebration and adding so much by leading us in Israeli dancing. You efforts brought so much fun to the pleasure. Also to Liz Redler and Lauren Malm for being there to get everything set up. Thanks to all of the 10th grade parents and to Rabbi & Susan Miller for putting together such a nice Confirmation evening. We will print a picture or two in next months bulletin.

Thanks to all of the parents who took time at some point during the year to come in and tell me what was on their mind. I need to hear from the parents and taking time out of your busy day and stopping to fill me in is so important. The school is a work in progress, I need to hear from you, my customers, as to what you are thinking, where we are succeeding and where our biggest challenges lie. For those

of you who did not have time speak with me during the year, please call me during the summer or plan on schmoozing with me in the coming year.

Thank you to the faculty and staff of the Shaare Shalom Religious School who put in so much time and effort to ensure the future of the Jewish people. This group is hard-working, caring and thoughtful and has taught me a great deal. Most will be returning to work with us next year, to those who will be moving on, you will be missed and I look crossing paths with you in the future.

Thanks to all of the families who have already sent in their registration forms for the 5769-5770 (2009-2010) school year. The sooner I hear from you the sooner I can make sure that I have enough teachers, books, arts and crafts supplies, etc. If you have not yet sent in your forms, please do so as soon as possible. If you know families in the synagogue with children of school-age who are not enrolled, please let me know so that I can call them and discuss with them the benefits of enrolling in Shaare Shalom.



Ellen Scholten and Beth Rubin have been the Shaare Shalom Religious School Board Co-chairs and it has been great working with them. With these two at my side we accomplished a great deal. Ellen is moving aside so someone else can represent BSKI. Thank you Ellen we look forward to working with you in other capacities in the years to come.

Finally, thanks to all of the families who brought their children to synagogue throughout the year so that they could qualify for Bowling With The Rabbis. The BWTR party will be Wednesday, June 3, 4:00 - 6:00 pm at Olivette Lanes. We look forward to a great afternoon celebrating the accomplishments of these students with and their families.

Have a safe, relaxing and joyous summer.

-- Michael S. Raileanu, M.A.Ed.

Teach your passion to someone!

Adult Education

Sydney Farber

A recap of May Adult Education activities included two talks with Michael Raileanu, a lunch n' learn about Lag B'Omer with Hazzan Joanna Dulkan and the Shavuot Tikkun.

Several of you have come up to tell me of a great idea you have for an Adult Ed lunch n' learn or an evening get together and I hope we can incorporate many of your ideas in the coming months.

It is our goal to continue to arrange classes for adults in Bible study and/or Jewish history, learning Hebrew, encouraging Jewish belief and practices, as well as providing speakers to come to the Synagogue for the Sara &

Leo Wolf Scholar-in-Residence program, or for the Needleman or Asher series.

And now, on with the show. For June (Sivan/Tammuz), Adult Ed is taking a short break from scheduled projects to plan for an exciting year of learning. When Rabbi Fasman returns from his sabbatical (August 1st), he will restart his Tuesday evening classes, so stay tuned for more information about that and other exciting learning opportunities!

So in the meantime, and as you have so often heard Gary say on Shabbat: *Experience Judaism With All Your Senses* - as we continue to learn the W.A.Y.S. of Shaare Zedek. It is THE theme of Adult Education.

Some interesting facts about Sivan and Tammuz:

On the 17th Sivan (2105 BC) - Noah's Ark came to a rest.

On the 17th of Tammuz, five tragedies fell on the Jewish people, one of which was Moses breaking the two tablets on Mt. Sinai. *Do you know what the other four events were?*

Hope your Shavuot was a very meaningful and educational one.

Cya next month,

Sydney

Everyone Has A Story

By Sima Needleman

The Story of Nira Asher Geller

Nira Asher Geller's life began in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 1932 her parents, Avraham and Gita Libai, who were ardent Zionists, immigrated to Palestine from a small shtetel in Poland. At that time Jewish immigration to Palestine was very restricted.

Avraham came sponsored by his brother who had immigrated earlier. Gita entered the country illegally. She had been a member of the Polish delegation to the World's Fair in Egypt and from there slipped into Palestine. All of Gita's family members, with the exception of one brother, remained in Poland and perished in the Holocaust.

In Tel Aviv Avraham worked for the Dan Bus Company while Gita served meals to workers at a Histadrut restaurant. When Nira was 8 years old, her brother Shmuel was born. In 1999 he passed away at 54 years of age.

Nira's family lived on Dizengoff Street in a 3-story building that was owned by her uncle. The families of Uncle Moshe, Aunt Sarah, and Avraham all occupied apartments in that building. For a few years Nira's family shared their apartment with another couple and their child. Finally in 1950 the Libai family was thrilled to move to their new home on Kehillat Odessa Street in Shikun Dan of Tel Aviv.

Nira fondly remembers going to movies, concerts and plays with her father. She was a member of the Labor Party's Youth Movement (Hat'nua Hame'uchedet). The Libai family was not observant. Nira attended a school for the children of "working people". Each week one special day was reserved for such extracurricular activities as growing vegetables, working in the dining room or carpentry projects.

After graduating from high school, Nira went into the army and served for 2 years in Nahal,

where she lived in Kibbutz Yiftach. She was in the army during the 1956 war, but didn't see any action – "just sat in a trench". After army service she stayed at the Kibbutz an additional year and then went to Hebrew University the next year taking courses in English and Sociology. Her plan was to go to medical school in the States.

At that time, few women were accepted to medical school in Israel.

In 1959 Nira flew to New York on one of the first El Al jet planes. What a thrill!

There she lived with her mother's uncle in the Bronx and attended Stern College (Yeshiva University's College for Women). Coming to the USA changed the course of Nira's life. At first it was strange and somewhat difficult. The Bronx family was strictly Orthodox. Having been raised in a secular

home in Israel meant that life in New York required making many adjustments. In addition she was older and more experienced than her classmates at Stern. But then while living with her Bronx family she was introduced to Arnold (Arnie) Asher, who was a student at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). When they met, each thought the other was raised in a strictly Orthodox environment. They soon became aware that this was not the case. On their first date, Nira recalls that she was afraid to use an escalator. Arnie was mystified and thought that she just was being coy. Their first impressions were soon dispelled as they got to know each other over the next two years. In 1961 they got married in New York City.

Nira's mother came from Israel for the ceremony where after 30 years she met her only living relative, the brother who had survived the Holocaust. In 1963, Arnie and Nira both graduated: he from JTS and



she, the valedictorian of her class, with a bachelor's degree in Arts and Pre-Med Sciences from Stern College.

She never did go to medical school. Right after graduating, Nira and Arnie moved to St. Louis where Arnie became Assistant Rabbi to Rabbi Bernard Lipnick at Bnai Amoona. They found an apartment on Delmar within walking distance of the synagogue, which was then located near Trinity and Delmar in University City. Their first child, Naomi, was born in 1964, and with that event, according to Nira, "life stopped". Their baby was brain damaged by a sugar metabolism problem. This became an enduring heartache. Although the people they met in St. Louis were friendly and kind, Nira as a new mother at that time often felt very lonely and isolated. She had come from a different culture, was without relatives (i.e., her primary support system), didn't drive a car, and Arnie was very busy with his new job.

In 1966, their second child, Ruth (Ruthie), was born. One year later, after having served 4 years at B'nai Amoona, Arnie became the Associate Rabbi at Shaare Zedek.

The Asher family was very warmly received by their new congregation. In 1969 Jaron was born and that year the family moved to their new home on Stanford Avenue. Meanwhile SZ's chief rabbi, Ephraim Epstein, who was devoted to and loved by the congregation, became seriously ill. After

Continued on Page 12

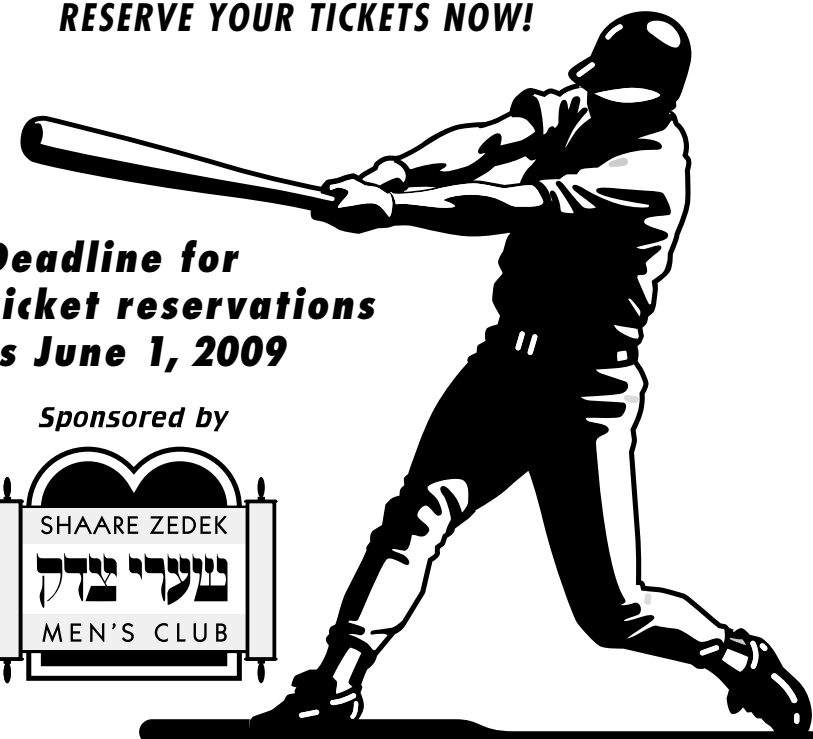
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Directions: Take Interstate 70 (I-70) west to the T.R. Hughes Blvd. exit. Take a right (north) from the off-ramp and continue on for approximately one mile. T.R. Hughes Ballpark is on the right-hand side at the corner of T.R. Hughes Blvd. and Tom Ginnever Avenue.

he passed away in 1971, Arnie became the shul's principal rabbi. During that year Arnie suffered his first heart attack but was able to resume his rabbinical duties within a short time. Arnie was innately a fun-loving person who was very well-liked by the congregation and (among other things) worked to bring diverse groups in the synagogue and in the community together. Arnie loved the congregation and his work; but at the same time, there were many demands on him and at times he found his work to be stressful.

In July 1978, one week after Ruthie's Bat Mitzvah, a second heart attack took Arnie's life. The SZ family was very generous and supportive of Nira and the children after Arnie's death. People helped her in many ways, big and small.

During the years that Arnie was alive, Nira taught Hebrew, first at Shaare Zedek, and then at Bloch Yeshiva High School. Later she was hired by Clayton High School and Washington University. Nira found teaching to be very rewarding because she felt that she touched people's lives. But now Nira went back to school and in due course earned several degrees, including a second Bachelor's degree (in mathematics), a Master's degree in Management Information Systems (UMSL 1982), and a teaching certificate (Webster University). During this time Ruthie became the main family cook and driver.

In 1982 a neighbor of Nira's introduced her to Dr. David Geller. At that time he was an Associate Professor of Pharmacology at Washington University School of Medicine. Nira and David dated for 5 years before getting married on July 12, 1987.

They have wonderful memories of their wedding day in Israel. The ceremony took place in her parents' front yard on Kehillat Odessa with all of her family present. Nira had invited Stanley and Nancy Goldstein. Other St Louisans who happened to be in Israel at

the time were also there. Cantor Leon Lissek was a primary participant. His remarkable voice singing the wedding blessings resounded throughout the neighborhood. After the ceremony a marvelous feast was served in the backyard that evening. And finally, a Dan Bus Company bus driven by a family member appeared to take the bride and groom to their honeymoon hotel. That was an extraordinary wedding!

The year that Nira met David (1982) she became a Systems Programmer at McDonnell Douglas. In 1987 she became a Technical Specialist at Barnes Hospital in the Information Technology Department where she still works today. (She recently officially retired from that position but now works at the same job half-time.) When Nira is not working at the hospital, she spends a great deal of time doing things with or on behalf of her children: Naomi; Ruth and Andrew Koshner; Jennifer Rogers and Jaron Asher as well as her grandchildren: Tali (16), Michal (14), Aaron (11), twins Elan and Shim (8) Koshner; and, Ellen Wooten (12) and Anna Asher (16 months). Also, Nira attends and participates in various educational programs and Shabbat Services at SZ,

enjoys reading, gardening, watching movies and attending symphony concerts.

Thinking back over her life, Nira stated that she is very grateful for the way she was treated both at B'nai Amoona and at Shaare Zedek. Members of both congregations made her feel very much at home, adding that they "let me be myself". Her life's journey, which began in Israel, has had some roadblocks along the way, but each time, with her own inner strength and the support of family and friends, she has overcome the obstacles.

"Nira found teaching to be very rewarding because she felt that she touched people's lives.."

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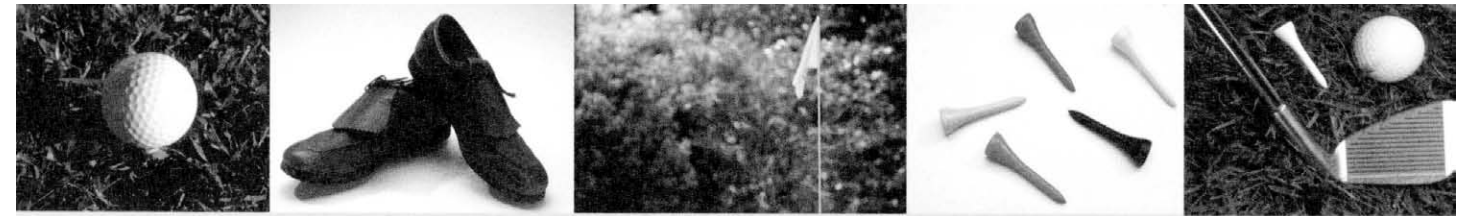
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Shaare Zedek acknowledges with gratitude the following contributions

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Generous Donation
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Those who Provided the Shalach Manot
Bags
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IN MEMORY OF

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Adele Zucker
Joe & Beth Levy
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Ann Frank
The birth of Alan & Helene Spetner's
grandson, Caleb Joseph
Ann Frank
Carol & Sig Adler
The birth of Sherry Kaplan's great-
grandson, Caleb Joseph
Ann Frank
Carol & Sig Adler
Nancy Berg – for a very enlightening and
interesting sermon
Barbara Bianco
Barbara Belsky's Recovery
Irene Belsky

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Sherri Weintrop
Ann Frank
Sig & Carol Adler

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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IN MEMORY OF

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and Zada
Rhoda Grimsky & Family

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Recovery of Rhoda Grimsky
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Hilda Markowitz

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314-721-0026 if you would like to
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We have daily minyanim, 7 am & 6 pm,
8 am on Sundays, 9 am on Saturdays.

Choose a time that is convenient
for you. Become a regular. You will
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Micki Kingsley
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Micki Kingsley
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Micki Kingsley

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Sherry Kaplan – great-grandson, Caleb
Micki Kingsley
Phyllis Warner
Dorrie & Marvin Lerner
Helene & Alan Spetner – new grandson,
Caleb
Dorrie & Marvin Lerner
Phyllis Warner

Recovery

Yetta Raiffie
Rhoda Grimsky
Rhoda Grimsky
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In Memory

JoAnn Grodsky – husband Leslie
Ruth Ehrlich
Dorrie & Marvin Lerner – Aunt Adele
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Kate Blumenfeld for mother-in-law Rose
Blumenfeld

Yahrzeits

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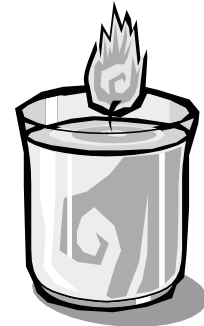
Condolences

The family of **Raymond Getzlow** who passed away on April 15th. Husband of Judith Getzlow.

The family of **Adele Zucker** who passed away on April 29th. Aunt of Dorrie (Marvin) Lerner.

The family of **Alyce Schneider** who passed away on May 4th. Aunt of Rachel (Maurice) Guller.

The family of **Morris Matlof** who passed away on May 5th. Morris was a long-time former member of Shaare Zedek.



The Jewish Food Pantry Needs Our Help

For the month of June the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry is looking for these specific items in order to provide well-balanced nourishment for the community in need:



Canned Chili and/or Beef Stew
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* Based on the reported value of 4 meals purchased by selected local food banks in the United States.

Ritual Calendar, Shaare Zedek

June 2009 (Central Time)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5	6
		9 Sivan 7am - Minyan 6 pm 6:30pm - Ritual cm.	10 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm 8am - Study/Fredman	11 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm	12 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm 7pm - Membership/D	13 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm 6pm - Rinah Band 8:04pm - Candle	14 Sivan Parashat Nasso @ 9am - Camp and 9am - Shabbat Service 7:40pm - Mincha 9:14pm - Shab_ends
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15 Sivan 8am - Minyan 6p 4pm - EHA	16 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm	17 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm 8am - Study/Fredman	18 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm	19 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm 6:30pm - Exec Board	20 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm 8:08pm - Candle	21 Sivan Bernie Mellman's Parashat Beha'aloicha 9am - Shabbat Service 7:45pm - Mincha 9:18pm - Shab_ends	22 Sivan Parashat Shlach @ 9am - Shabbat Service 7:50pm - Mincha 9:20pm - Shab_ends
22 Sivan 8am - Minyan 6p 9:30am - Men's Club	23 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm	24 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm	25 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm	26 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm	27 Sivan 7 am Minyan 6 pm 6pm - Rinah Band 8:11pm - Candle	28 Sivan Parashat Shlach @ 9am - Shabbat Service 7:50pm - Mincha 9:20pm - Shab_ends	29
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29 Sivan Summer Begins 8am - Minyan 6p	30 Sivan Rosh Hodesh 1 6:45am - Minyan 6p	1 Tammuz Rosh Hodesh 2 6:45am - Minyan 6pm	2 Tammuz 7 am Minyan 6 pm	3 Tammuz 7 am Minyan 6 pm 7pm - Board Meeting	4 Tammuz 7 am Minyan 6 pm 8:12pm - Candle	5 Tammuz Parashat Korach @ 9am - Shabbat Service 7:50pm - Mincha 9:21pm - Shab_ends	
	28	29	30	For a full interactive calendar, visit the Shaare Zedek website at www.ShaareZedek.org			
6 Tammuz 8am - Minyan 6p	7 am Minyan 6 pm 7 Tammuz	7 am Minyan 6 pm 8 Tammuz					

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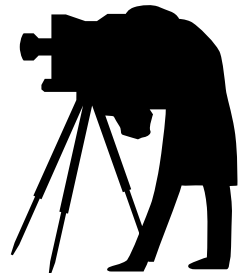
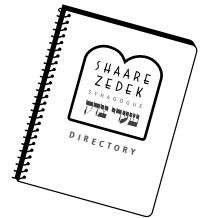
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