

THE NINE DAYS OF REDEMPTION



The Jewish holiday cycle is not just a series of individual holy days and festivals. Holidays are linked to one another to constitute a process of ritualizing, thereby strengthening the connective tissue of the Jewish people. The holiday of Passover celebrates the Exodus from Egypt and is made more powerful in its link to *Shavuot*, which celebrates our freedom to receive Torah. *Tisha B'Av* (the Ninth of Av) is preceded by three weeks of mourning, from the moment when Jerusalem was attacked in 70 CE. The celebration of the New Year at *Rosh Hashanah*, is deepened by the process of *teshuvah* (return, repentance) that culminates on *Yom Kippur*.

Sacred time in the Diaspora is experienced as the sacred time of the Jewish people as a whole, as it is in Israel. Since the founding of the modern State of Israel, this modern holiday cycle of *Yom Hashoah v'Hagevruah* (Commemoration of the Holocaust and Heroism), *Yom Hazikaron* (Israel's Memorial Day), *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) may be more deeply embedded in the Israeli psyche, but I believe can also deepen and expand Jewish identity formation for the Diaspora as well.

I have been a part of such observances in America my entire life, and I have always understood that these modern holidays are experienced as Jewish holidays as much as they are Israeli days of commemoration as well. These three holidays were added after the founding of the State of Israel on May 1948, for the 5th day of the Hebrew month of *Iyar*, immediately preceded by Memorial Day. The Knesset (Israeli Parliament) formally set the commemoration of the Holocaust in 1953, and Jewish communities around the world mark these days with solemn ceremony and celebration, respectively.

I know that synagogues, Jewish Day Schools, and other Jewish organizations promote and mark these days in many ways, and at the same time, living outside of Israel can further distance Jewish communities if there aren't points of engagement and connection with Israel the rest of the year. Yet, I believe that this isn't inevitable. Twenty years ago, I learned from educator Avram Infeld, one of the most unique and compelling teachers with whom I have ever had the chance to study, how these modern holidays infuse our current holiday cycle with added identity formation.

(continued on page 4)

Our wonderful administrator, Valentina Sharabi, has taken a full-time position at another synagogue. Interviews are currently underway and the Board hopes to have a new administrator in place by June 1. In the meantime, Holly Baumann will be filling in at the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons throughout the month of May from noon-4 p.m. Your phone messages and emails are monitored daily and will be responded to as quickly as possible.

Contents

| | |
|--|-------|
| Gesher News..... | 2 |
| Madrihim Happenings..... | 2 |
| From the President..... | 3 |
| Dor Hadash Happenings..... | 3 |
| Volunteers Needed..... | 7 |
| Jewish Resources..... | 9 |
| Let's Kvell and <i>D'verei Torah</i> | 10 |
| Life Cycle..... | 13 |
| Yahrzeits..... | 14-15 |
| Reconstructionist News..... | 16 |
| Calendar..... | 17-18 |

Upcoming

Coming in May and June

- Gesher Shabbat • May 13
- Lev Hadash Kabbalat Shabbat • May 19
- Gesher School Open House • May 21
- Taste of Gesher • May 21
- Community Israel Fest • May 21
- Last Day of Gesher • June 4
- Annual Meeting • June 4
- Bar Mitzvah of Mark Rifkin • June 9-10
- Lev Hadash Kabbalat Shabbat • June 16

Coming in July

- PRIDE Shabbat at the Bay • July 14
- PRIDE Parade • July 15



Temporary Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

858-268-3674 x101

administrator1@dorhadash.org



GESHER SCHOOL NEWS

BETSY SCHNEIDER, EDUCATION DIRECTOR



As we begin to look toward the summer, the registration forms for Gesher School 2017–18 school year are rolling in. The youngest students in our Taste of Gesher class will return as PreK students, and two of our lifelong students will be graduating from high school! So often we hear people say that the years go by so quickly, and it is so evident at this time each year, as our students are getting taller by the week, becoming more confident in their Hebrew reading skills, and demonstrating *g'milut hasadim* (act of kindness) toward each other and toward our world.

There are not many synagogue education directors in San Diego or in the larger Jewish community who can count on their teachers the way that we can at Dor Hadash! I am so happy to report that all of our teachers will be returning to Gesher School in the Fall, some in modified capacities, but they will be part of our community. **Many thanks to Giza, Carolyn, Maddie, Shir, Mindy, Holly, and our intern, Sophie for a year full of shared knowledge and a love of Judaism passed on to our students!**

I look forward to seeing all Dor Hadash members at the CDH Annual Meeting on June 4, when I will share more about this school year as well as exciting plans to look forward to in 5778.

— Betsy Schneider



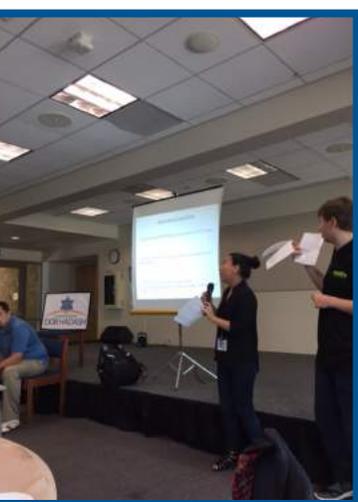
MADRIHIM HAPPENINGS

CYBER SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR TEENS

Can you protect your kids by removing all their Internet devices? Jon Moffat of Cyber Education Consulting argues that it is too late to remove those devices, but it's not too late to become educated about the risks of the online world. Thirty teens and adults joined Moffat for a talk on managing their social media image on Sunday, April 23. The event was completely free, as *madrihim* teens Brianna Ingber and Samuel Chessler applied for and received a grant from Motiv, a new organization in town that helps teens engage in *Tikkun Olam* (community service) projects. As part of the grant requirement, Brianna and Samuel also presented a Jewish learning component where participants created their own *brit* (contract) for how to act online based on Jewish values.

Slides of the presentation (parent version) are available at the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/geouk7blthjo604/Dor%20Hadash%20Student%20Pres%204-23-17.pdf?dl=0>



Left to right: presenter Jon Moffat,
madrih Brianna Ingber, Samuel
Chessler

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Friends,

My term as President of the Board of Trustees is quickly coming to a close. At our Annual Meeting on June 4, with your approval, I will transfer my responsibilities to our First Vice President David Kamper. If you don't yet know David and his family, make a point of getting to know them—they are energetic and fun people who are very involved in Dor Hadash activities. I know that David will be an excellent leader for our community.

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity you have given me to serve as your President. Three years ago, I was less than fully convinced that this was the right role for me. It seemed like a strange and daunting task for someone accustomed to managing teams of engineers in a corporate environment to instead lead a volunteer, non-profit organization focused on spirituality, learning, and interpersonal relationships. It was hard for me to imagine being successful and effective. However, from the moment I took office, the support and constructive input I received from the Executive Committee and our staff made the transition easier than I could have imagined. The personal reward and satisfaction of being your President these past three years has been beyond what I could have imagined. From the moment I took office, you all made me feel valued, supported, and capable. It has truly been a joy to work day after day with our incredible staff and dedicated Board. The joy of learning from each of these individuals far outweighed the occasional feelings of being overwhelmed and under-qualified. I am left with pride in what we have all accomplished together.

Early in my term, we made the decision to move out of our rented worship space at Congregation Beth El, bringing our school, offices, and worship space back to a single location at SDJA. We have a strong working relationship with SDJA management. They are happy to have us as synagogue-in-residence, and we have settled in and become comfortable with our surroundings. As a Board, we have focused on financial stability and close scrutiny of our budget and daily expenditures. We focused closely on the congregational schedule to make the best use of our facilities. Our community calendar has changed—we now have scheduled *Shabbatot* at home, which are perfect opportunities to get together in each other's homes. We have uplifting musical *Lev Hadash* services and lively music for holiday celebrations. Some of our celebrations and adult education have moved to Sundays where they are accessible to more of our members. I am especially grateful for the gentle guidance of Rabbi Yael, who always helps me see things more clearly and with Jewish values in mind. I am grateful for Betsy Schneider, who makes time for my questions and helps me to understand the challenges of running a school. I so appreciate Patti Nussbaum, who keeps me on track (no easy task), reminds me to delegate, and takes so much on herself for the good of the community. A huge thank you also to Barbara Chancy, who spends countless hours with me untangling the financial side of everything. Going forward, budget/financial control is a high priority. I look forward to seeing expansion of the endowment program, continued growth of our membership, and implementation of exciting social and fun-raising events.

This is your community. Dor Hadash can be a dynamic place when energized people want to make things happen. I strongly encourage all of you to step forward and become more involved, even if you do only one more thing than you did last year. It's unbelievably rewarding to give of your creativity and your time, and we need you involved to make everything happen. Please don't wait for someone else to do it. I look forward to my new role as Immediate Past President and am excited to hand over the Presidency into such capable hands. I plan to stay involved and find new ways to help Dor Hadash grow and evolve. Coincidentally my term ends as Steve's and my kids really truly (for the last time?) head off into their futures as gainfully employed adults.

—Judy Hante



(Rabbi's column continued from page 1)

Infeld called the nine days in between *Yom Hashoah* and the 24-hour *Yom Hazikaron* lead into *Yom Haatzmaut*, “the nine days of redemption.” If the ten days in between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* represent days of personal introspection, these nine days are of Jewish communal commemoration. This combination of days helps create the “I-we” relationship that underscores Jewish peoplehood.

In Israel this process is felt most profoundly by the two-minute siren sounded all over the country both on *Yom Hashoah* and on *Yom Hazikaron*. Everything from the traffic on the highway to people shopping in stores comes to a halt to stand with respect for Jewish communal life that was nearly destroyed by the Holocaust, and then for those who have given their lives so that the Jewish people and the State of Israel could remain a strong and vibrant homeland.

In the Diaspora, we don't have a communal siren, but we have communal gatherings that bring together Israelis and Americans to share in the grief and honor of our collective communal past. The celebration of *Yom Haatzmaut* can and should be an opportunity, in Israel and the Diaspora, to reflect and celebrate the existential yearnings of the Jewish people: to be like all other countries who yearned to breath free and independent, and the particularistic nature of Jewish identity that demands Israel be worthy of the memory of the past, and create a vibrant and peaceful future for all its inhabitants.

As we remember the victims and the heroes of the Holocaust this week and anticipate Israel's 69th birthday next week (May 2), the legacy of our past and the challenge of our future remain deeply connected to these feelings. I pray that Jews all over the world might connect with the notion of these “Nine Days of Redemption,” in that the message is timeless, and demands that we remember and guard against anti-Semitism and xenophobia in all of its forms; and call upon all who love Israel to engage and contribute to the ongoing redemption of the Jewish people.

May the commemoration of *Yom HaShoah* and the celebration of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* in Israel and wherever Jews live, lead the Jewish people beyond bitterness and despair, bring an end to suffering, and may we continue to work for a future where the “I-we” connection is all of our responsibility.

—Rabbi Yael Ridberg
published in HuffPost April 27, 2017

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Do you create and try to follow a family budget?

Congregations, just like families, try to estimate income and expenses to make good decisions. Over 65% of CDH income is derived from membership dues and Gesher School fees, so knowing what total to anticipate is very important to the Board for good decision-making.

Around June 1, you'll receive the annual snail mail about membership for the fiscal year that starts July 1. It includes your "Invoice for Membership Dues and Gesher School Fees 2017–2018." By July 1, please return the invoice form with some amount of payment (depending on your choice of annual, semi-annual or ten monthly payments). We appreciate not having to chase down unreturned forms during the summer.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Patti Nussbaum, Membership Committee Chair, at pattinussbaum@hotmail.com. Thank you.

TODAH RABAH (Thank You!)

You listened to our plea this year regarding funding for new programming in the coming year and the usual yearly financial challenges and you came through with unprecedented generosity and support during our BIG ASK Campaign in April. We hit our goal of \$25,000! Thank you! Our campaign this year also surpassed the number of household participating—quite possibly the highest percentage ever. This fact speaks loudest, because it communicates your confidence in and engagement with our Dor Hadash community. Thank you for all that you do, all year long, to make this an amazing community.

Todah rabah Lee Goldberg (Chair Extraordinaire of the campaign), David Kamper, Cynthia Sistik-Chandler, Patti Nussbaum, John Ciancio, Jack Reingold, Betsy Chessler, Char Katz, Kathy Chen, Lois Ingber, (and me) for stepping up and making calls this year.

Judy Hante
President

GESHER STUDENTS CELEBRATE ISRAEL



How the Chesslers Spent *Pesah*, or Portable Seder in Yosemite

We booked lodging at Yosemite National Park a year ago, not realizing that our Spring Break was also *Pesah*. But that was no problem, as we brought the *seder* with us. We roughed it easy, staying in a cottage near The Majestic Hotel (formerly known as the Ahwahnee). We were surrounded by towering granite mountains and waterfalls, which lent an ethereality to our *seder*.

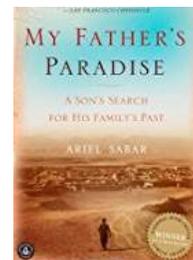
We also learned that our particular cottage housed the Obama First Family in 2016, making us feel pretty special. I snuck in an electric skillet and made some fresh matzoh ball soup, but brought in the rest of the ingredients, including *Pesah*-themed disposable plates and “plague puppets.” Our view during the *seder* was an old growth forest and Merced River. Perfect.



ONE BOOK, ONE CONGREGATION

On **Sunday, May 7, 2017**, 1:00 p.m., at the home of Bleema and Richard Warburton, OBOC will discuss *My Father's Paradise* by Ariel Sabar. Please buy this book at Amazon through Dor Hadash's [website](#).

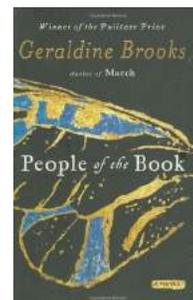
The Jewish Book Council review says that Sabar "has crafted a fascinating and moving account" of the Jews of Kurdistan and "created a detailed picture of a rich and peaceful coexistence with non-Jewish neighbors." It is a "captivating book that introduces readers to a little-known piece of non-Askenazi Jewish history." See <http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/my-fathers-paradise-a-sons-search-for-his-jewish-past-in-kurdish-iraq>



In **July** (date TBD) OBOC will discuss *The People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. The novel tells the fictional story of Hanna Heath, an Australian book conservator who is responsible for restoring the Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the oldest surviving Jewish illuminated texts. "Inspired by a true story, *People of the Book* is at once a novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity, an ambitious, electrifying work by an acclaimed and beloved author." See http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1379961.People_of_the_Book

Copies of both books are available in the public library or you may purchase them at Amazon. Please go online to amazon.com **through the Dor Hadash website** to buy these books.

Please join us for thought-provoking discussions.



VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED



Kabbalat Shabbat at the Bay (Mission Bay Park)

Friday, June 16 • 6:30–8:00 p.m.

PRIDE Shabbat at the Bay, July 14 • 6:30-8:00p.m.

The Ritual Committee is looking for volunteers to coordinate *Kabbalat Shabbat/Lev Hadash at the Bay in June and PRIDE Shabbat at the Bay in July.*

Volunteers are needed for the overall organization, set up and clean up. There is a checklist prepared, so there is no need to “reinvent the wheel!”

Please contact [Susan Levine](#) if you would like to volunteer or call the office at 858-268-3674.

SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT



Host an *oneg* in honor of a special person or occasion, or to remember a loved one's *yahrzeit*.

For an \$18 donation, Dor Hadash will provide the *challah*, wine and juice, candles, paper goods and utensils which can all be found on the red cart in our storage room. The sponsor is responsible for setting up, including filling cups with wine and juice for *kiddush*, and cleaning up.

How do you sign up? There is a link on the Dor Hadash website (look under the tab “Our Community — Forms and Onegs) or just use this [link](http://tinyurl.com/cdhonegsignup) <<http://tinyurl.com/cdhonegsignup>> to sign up. For more detailed information on hosting, please check out the [instructions](http://tinyurl.com/oneginstructions) <<http://tinyurl.com/oneginstructions>>.

So hurry and sign up before the date you want is taken by someone else. And remember, you are encouraged to sign up for as many *onegs* as you want to honor birthdays, anniversaries, new job, retiring...what a great way to celebrate that special occasion!

Questions? Email the office or call 858-268-3674.

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. ~Author Unknown

Please volunteer to help with one of our upcoming events. Contact the office (858-268-3674) and leave a message on how you'd like to volunteer.

CRACK! BAM! FLOWER!

Learn how these three words translate to specific tiles in Mah Jongg, an ancient game originating in China. For several years a Dor Hadash group has been playing American Mah Jongg twice a month. Mahj night moves to the second and fourth **Wednesday** of (usually) every month at 7 p.m. The group meets at members' homes on a rotating basis.

We welcome all Mah Jongg players! Beginners are welcome. For more information, contact [Susan Enowitz](#).

Hands of Peace (www.handsofpeace.org) is an interfaith organization that empowers young people to raise their voices as leaders of change. Through the power of dialogue, Palestinians, Israelis and Americans partner to pursue peace, equality, freedom and justice.

Hands of Peace is currently looking for Host Families for their summer program this July 12–31. Do you know a family who would be willing to join their community and host a Jewish Israeli or Palestinian for 19 days? Join them for this life changing experience.

For Host Family information, please contact Tamara Kabban-Miller at tjkabbanmiller@gmail.com or 619-375-8538.

amazon.com

There are two programs at Amazon to earn \$\$\$ for Dor Hadash. One is the Affiliate program and the other is smile.amazon.com and one offers more reward than the other.

The payback Dor Hadash receives through the Amazon Associates program is much greater than through smile.amazon.com. Qualifying purchases made through the amazon.com links on our website can result in a payback range of 4%–8.5% on total monthly purchases through our link. In contrast, shopping through smile.amazon.com and selecting Dor Hadash as your qualifying charity, only 0.5% of qualifying purchases help to support Dor Hadash. That's a big difference!

Bottom line—shopping amazon.com through the links on our website, a greater portion of your purchases help to support Dor Hadash—at no additional cost to you!

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR iGIVE



Please sign up for iGive.com. It is **totally free**. Sign up online and select Congregation Dor Hadash as your favorite charity.

Congregation Dor Hadash earns up to 26% of the cost of your purchase at each store. Many of these contributions may even be considered tax-deductible. CDH also earns a penny per search even if you don't buy anything.

iGive.com has the largest online network of shoppers, 1,000+ online stores, and **free** membership. You get access to free shipping deals, coupons, and great deals through the entire network of stores. There are over 1800 stores participating in iGive including Pottery Barn, REI, Staples, Petco, Expedia, Best Buy, Apple, QVC and many more. Try iGive.com and enjoy free, easy fundraising. <http://www.iGive.com/CongregationDorHadash>

eScrip Program: Register your credit and/or debit card(s) with eScrip and earn funds for Dor Hadash when shopping at the escrip online mall or dining in restaurants. See escrip.com for more information.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

MightyNest for Schools is an internet shopping fundraiser. Shop at your convenience for healthy everyday items and 15% of your purchase price will go to Gesher School.

<http://schools.mightynest.com/faqs>

type in 92130 and Gesher School



ANNUAL LGBT PRIDE PARADE

Join the *Tikkun Olam* committee, the *madrihim*, and members of Dor Hadash to walk in the annual LGBT PRIDE Parade in Hillcrest on Saturday, July 15, 11:00 a.m. The *madrihim* will be decorating Char Katz's lovely convertible before the parade and all are invited to support this annual *mitzvah* and give our congregation a strong presence.

Contact Ros Goldstein, goldsiegel@gmail.com, if interested in participating in the fun. More details to follow in the weekly *shmeers*.



INTERESTING ONLINE JEWISH RESOURCES

Congregation Dor Hadash member, Betsy Chessler, has a blog—Betsy's Limud Torah. Check it out!

<http://betsyslimudtorah.blogspot.com/>

Jewish Reconstructionist Communities — jewishrecon.org
Reconstructionism Today — <http://www.jewishrecon.org/resources/303>
Ritualwell Tradition and Innovation — ritualwell.org
Jewniverse — thejewniverse.com

Some interesting recent articles from Jewniverse:

<http://thejewniverse.com/2017/the-jewish-astronomer-behind-vasco-da-gamas-maiden-voyage/>

<http://thejewniverse.com/2017/holocaust-survivors-portraits-and-notes-in-an-emotional-photo-book/>

<http://thejewniverse.com/2017/these-photographs-of-1901-yemeni-jews-were-taken-by-a-german-jewish-adventurer/>

SAN DIEGO JEWISH COMMUNITY

There's a lot going on in the coming months in the local San Diego Jewish Community.

Find out more at <http://jewishinsandiego.org>

Jewish Family Service — www.jfssd.org

San Diego Jewish World — www.sdjewishworld.com



JEWISH ROCK RADIO

LET'S KVELL!



Mark is a 7th grader at Muirlands Middle School in La Jolla. His favorite things to do include mathematics and problem solving, musical theater, and running. He is on the school MathCounts team and can often be seen on the JCC stage. He plans to be an environmental engineer when he grows up. Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Mark retains his East Coast sports allegiances and roots for the Red Sox.



Ezra Bisom-Rapp will be attending UC Berkeley next fall and will be majoring in Biology with a possible minor in Public Health. He hopes to study the impact that health and well-being have on social justice and social mobility. Ezra is grateful for the wonderful home the Dor Hadash community has provided over the years and will continue to provide in the years to come.

Parashat Shemini: Leviticus 9:11–11:47

D'var Torah by Tovah Shapiro presented on April 8, 2017



Parashat Shemini, the portion of the Torah that my *maftir* is in, contains two central narratives that I could have chosen to speak about. One of them is the laws of *kashrut*, AKA what is kosher, or “fit” for Jews to eat and what is not. The other narrative is the story of Nadav and Abihu, Aaron’s kids who were “consumed by fire” after giving an offering to God that God had “not enjoined upon them.” I, being the person that I am, chose the one about people getting burned to death but not really because they weren’t burned, they were *internally consumed by heavenly fire*. Confused yet? So was I.

The story of Aaron’s sons Nadav and Abihu was pretty hard for me to interpret by myself. One of the reasons why it’s hard is that the Torah says nothing about why they were killed, just that they brought “strange fire,” and like generations of interpreters before me, it wasn’t so simple. Unlike those rabbis before me, at least I had their interpretations to go off of. I kept looking at different *midrashim* until I found one that I liked, and made sense to me. Creatively, that *midrash*, by Ellen Danin, states that God didn’t burn Nadav and Abihu as punishment, but as a way to *bless* them. I was still confused, even though something about this interpretation made sense to me.

Then, I thought more about it. As I read over the text again, I asked myself, “Well, dang. Why was Aaron silent when he saw his sons’ bodies? Wouldn’t a father’s reaction be more emotional?” Then I thought that maybe Aaron had been standing there wondering what they had done to be consumed in this way.

He could have also been standing there in confusion. Whenever I don’t know what to do, I usually just stand there until either I’m told what to do, or I figure out what the heck it is I’m supposed to be doing. So maybe that’s what Aaron was doing, just standing there until he figured out what he should do.

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

The story could be about having faith in God, even when the thing you thought was going to happen doesn't happen. For example, sometimes when a person prays to God, or any other divine entity, they expect one thing to happen. And if that thing doesn't happen, that person might lose faith in that entity. Aaron, as evidenced in later *parshiot*, did not lose his faith in God. So, the lesson of this tale is to be like Aaron, your faith unwavering, despite experiencing great loss.

This then ties back to the first *midrash* I liked because when you pray, you usually pray for blessings and miracles and other happy stuff like that. And, maybe bringing the fire *was* a blessing in disguise, even though the text is clear that something about it wasn't right. Maybe God wanted to reward them in some way, so God blessed them with making their souls closer to God. I'll admit, when I first hear of someone getting killed by heavenly fire, I don't immediately think, "Oh, they're being blessed by God," I think, "Oh, they're being punished by God for something they did wrong." However, after both reading the *midrash* and thinking more about it, I started to question my initial response, because I wondered if there was something positive to take away from this troubling story.

I then realized that I could tie this back to fencing. When I fence, I fence to have fun, but I also fence to win. And when I lose a bout, I don't stop fencing, I still fence. This is like having unwavering faith. When something doesn't go the way you want it to, you shouldn't lose all hope just because of one bad result, you should keep going and keep believing. Talking about this makes me think of the mindset I have in tournaments. If I lose one bout, and I think, "I'm going to keep losing; I'm the worst person here; I'm going to suck so badly," that is what usually happens. But if I think, "I lost one, what do I do now? What can I learn from my loss? How can I continue to fence with confidence?" The possibilities for me to move forward are greater. It's all about your mindset.

So, in conclusion, Nadav and Abihu's deaths were tragic, and it is doubtful that Aaron really thought that it was a blessing to lose two of his sons. But Aaron was able to move on from his children dying, something that obviously takes a great deal of strength and even courage, and Aaron is ultimately remembered as a very important figure in Jewish history. So it could be he understood that his faith had staying power, despite his losses. Having faith in ourselves and in others can be a blessing because our hardships, too, might gift us with learning and forward movement that we never thought possible.

Shabbat Shalom.

* * * * *

Parshat Tzav Leviticus 6:1–8:36

D'var Torah by Duncan Gerlt presented on April 22, 2017



The opening text of *Parshat Tzav*, this week's portion, it begins with God's telling Moses to command Aaron and his sons, the priests, to perform ritual sacrifices. *Tzav* literally means "to command." This *parsha* tells of the exact methods (and I do mean EXACT!) in which the Israelites were to bring offerings or sacrifices to Aaron to worship and to feel closer to God. This was a pretty gross portion; lots of blood and specifics about animal slaughtering. The various sacrifices that were performed by the Israelites and the emphasis on blood made me think of all the things I'm learning in life science this year, and also that blood is the source of life since God gives life by allowing blood to flow through our bodies. So we're thankful to God for giving us life and sustaining us. So you can imagine that there is more to this book than just the cover (or more to this Torah portion than just the blood and entrails).

In my study, despite the aversion to the offering of animals on an altar, I understand that the people needed a way to communicate with God. Even though we obviously don't make animal sacrifices anymore, the reasons for sacrifice in the Bible mirror our modern reasons for prayer today.

(continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

The Torah portion outlines a number of different sacrifices for different occasions in the life of the ancient Israelites. The *olah* was the burnt offering. This involved the sacrificial animal and the rituals surrounding the freewill offering to god as an expression of worship. The interesting thing about this sacrifice was about the fire on the altar, because it was supposed to burn on the altar all night until the morning and kept burning by the priests. This reminded me of the eternal flame that synagogues today have hanging above the ark.

The *mincha* offering was the meal offering, another freewill offering, made special because it could be given by anyone, especially the poor who may not have had animals to offer to God. Made up of flour, olive oil and frankincense, these items were available to everyone so that the poor people were not excluded from worship. Aaron (the high priest) would also bring his offering to show how much of a gift this really was, making everyone proud of their offering. Part of the offering was burned and part of the offering was eaten by the priests. This reminded me that even today we should never exclude less wealthy people from participating in community. Everyone should be treated equally whether the person is financially well off or not. When it comes to worship, everyone should be included.

The *zevach shlamim* or offering of well being was shared by the people who brought it as a kind of “thank you” gift to God. When offered for thanksgiving, a person would bring unleavened cakes along with the animal sacrifice. It’s clear to me that ever since the Bible, prayer has not *just* been about needing something, but as an act of gratitude.

Finally, the *hataf* and *asham* offerings were the unintentional guilt and sin offerings. These were required to make atonement for sins committed unintentionally by a person. The people made these sacrifices as a way to come to terms with their guilt and hopefully gain forgiveness from God. These offerings were considered the most holy because of what they represented—a person’s wrongdoings and their attempt to make amends.

All of this made me think of when people pray for things, or they wish for good things to happen, they use prayer to say thanks or I’m sorry. Like me...I pray that I get good grades on my math tests, that my family is healthy, and that when I make mistakes, my friends will forgive me. I think it helps calm me and I feel just a little more confident and that God might be helping me out a little bit.

But I also have the feeling that my Papa who passed away almost 5 years ago, my Papa Angel/spirit is looking out for me and helping me as well. I guess I’m sort of praying even though I know that studying and preparing for a test is really what will give me confidence that I need; that if my family takes care of themselves, hopefully they will remain healthy, and that when I hurt someone, I’ll be able to acknowledge what I did and ask for forgiveness.

When bad things happen, I don’t blame God, I recognize what I might have been able to do differently, and what I have no control over. A person’s sacrifice depends on their heart and whether they *want* to give thanks, or genuinely ask for forgiveness. To me asking for forgiveness is really the ultimate sacrifice. The point of all of these sacrifices in the Bible was for the people to have a way to feel closer to God. In fact, the Hebrew word for sacrifice is *korban*—the root of which is *k-r-v* which means to draw close. When I think about my Jewish ritual life, I think about being with family and happy times. It also means celebrating *Shabbat*, lighting candles, and eating *challah*. Prayer and coming to *Shabbat* services means celebrating the end of the week, slowing down, relaxing, renewing our spirits and not working or going to school. So, even when I’m not really into it, I know that prayer serves a greater purpose. After all my years in Gesher School and coming to services, the prayers are familiar to me, and I do feel closer to Jewish tradition and the traditions of my family.

Becoming a *Bar Mitzvah* means in part that now I have the opportunity to put all that knowledge to use. This process has been a lot of work for me, but it’s been meaningful, too. What all of this has taught me is that life isn’t always easy. Sometimes you have to push yourself to uncomfortable places in order to find the rewards. But now I really understand that if you want something badly enough, you need to be prepared to work hard and maybe even sacrifice some things to get there.

Shabbat Shalom.



Yom Huledet Sameah

Happy Birthday — May

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|------|
| Gali Laska | May 2 | 15th |
| Holly Baumann | May 3 | |
| Sheldon Deckelbaum | May 3 | |
| Daniel Michaels | May 3 | |
| Ilona Canestrelli | May 5 | |
| Eva Olken | May 11 | |
| Daisy Chen | May 13 | 9th |
| Ros Goldstein | May 13 | |
| Leo Hauptschein | May 15 | 14th |
| Andrea Glasser | May 17 | |
| Rebecca Lewison | May 19 | |
| John Ciancio | May 21 | |
| Ayala Ben-Tall | May 28 | |
| Serena Nnambi | May 28 | 21st |
| Shirley Chervin | May 29 | |
| Jeffrey Pressman | May 30 | |



Yom Huledet Sameah

Happy Birthday — June

| | | |
|------------------|---------|------|
| Avery Whitman | June 1 | 9th |
| Charlotte Durst | June 2 | 15th |
| Rina Laska | June 2 | 10th |
| Susan Matthews | June 2 | |
| Steven Florman | June 3 | |
| Elijah Chandler | June 4 | 19th |
| Dena Rifkin | June 4 | |
| Ethyl Slayen | June 4 | |
| Mindy Nnambi | June 5 | |
| Adam Whitman | June 5 | |
| Leah Chandler | June 6 | 19th |
| Steven Chessler | June 12 | |
| Lee Goldberg | June 13 | |
| Betsy Chessler | June 16 | |
| Catherine Clancy | June 16 | |
| Leah Ollman | June 16 | |
| James Finucan | June 18 | |
| Jack Fishman | June 21 | 13th |
| Theresa Lyons | June 21 | |
| Marlene Zagon | June 21 | |
| Susan Levine | June 22 | |
| Elliot Kanter | June 24 | |
| Naomi Sobo | June 25 | |
| Raphael Delgado | June 27 | 11th |
| Lois Ingber | June 27 | |
| Jessica Attiyeh | June 29 | |



Yom Nissuin Sameah

Happy Anniversary — May and June

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------|
| Ros Goldstein and Bob Siegel | May 1 | 41st |
| Jamie and Brian Stahl | May 2 | 14th |
| Shari and John Ciancio | May 27 | 45th |
| Erica and Matthew Brower | May 29 | 13th |
| Barbara and Jerry Chancy | June 3 | 32nd |
| Ellen Margolis and Lawrence Cahn | June 12 | 18th |
| Patti and Mark Nussbaum | June 12 | 41st |
| Sheila and Sheldon Jurist | June 14 | 53rd |
| Lois and Jonathan Ingber | June 16 | 21st |
| Ronnee Schreiber and John Evans | June 18 | 23rd |
| Laurie and Mark Spiegler | June 18 | 45th |
| Susan and Charles Bisom-Rapp | June 26 | 34th |
| Cynthia and Hoppy Sistek-Chandler | June 27 | 24th |



Mi Shebeirah

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Stan Burney | Su-Yen Kuhn |
| Grace Carr | Bleema Moss |
| Steve Forney | Serena Nnambi |
| Judy Hante | Barbara Rose |
| Sybil Ingber | Jill Schwartz |
| Char Katz | James Sistek |
| Terry Keister | Muriel Sobelman-Jencks |
| Rachel King | Sarah Stone |

If we've missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the office know so we can acknowledge your special day in the next issue!

YAHREZITS —May and June 2017

| In remembrance of | Remembered by | Relationship | Date | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-------------|---------|
| Doris Raffée | Wes Wessel | Lona's mother | May 1 | Iyar 5 |
| Alice Baumoeel | Helene Goodman | Helene's mother | May 4 | Iyar 8 |
| Lillian Green | Barbara and Jerry Chancy | Barbara's grandmother | May 4 | Iyar 8 |
| Lillian Michaels | Dr. Daniel Michaels and Sue Coles | Dan's mother and Sage's grandmother | May 5 | Iyar 9 |
| Joseph Rabin | Jeffrey Rabin and Ilona Canestrelli | Jeffrey's father | May 5 | Iyar 9 |
| Leonard Luttbeg | Mark and Laurie Spiegler | Laurie's father | May 9 | Iyar 13 |
| William Siegel | Ros Goldstein and Bob Siegel | Bob's father | May 9 | Iyar 13 |
| Henry Irwin | Betsy and David Schneider | Betsy's grandfather | May 10 | Iyar 14 |
| Morris Durst | Ilene Durst and Charlotte Durst | Ilene's father, Charlotte's grandfather | May 12 | Iyar 16 |
| Ginger Greenberg | Alex Green and Genell Greenberg | Genell's sister | May 12 | Iyar 16 |
| Sally Goldman | Leah Ollman | Leah's grandmother | May 14 | Iyar 18 |
| Nancy Savage | Gayle Weller | Gayle's mother | May 14 | Iyar 18 |
| Helen Yargotah Gotterer Baer | Dijana and Steven Florman | Steven's grandmother | May 15 | Iyar 19 |
| Tatiana Falikman | Jessica Attiyeh | Jessica's cousin | May 16 | Iyar 20 |
| Jessie Gaynor | Lynda Gaynor | Lynda's mother | May 16 | Iyar 20 |
| Phyllis Mann Pincus | Judy Hante, Steve Forney and Naomi Jensen | Judy and Naomi's mother | May 18 | Iyar 22 |
| Mark Kanter | Sally Jacobson and Elliot Kanter | Elliot's father | May 19 | Iyar 23 |
| Lee Kronenberg | Evan Enowitz and Susan Bernstein Enowitz | Susan's cousin | May 19 | Iyar 23 |
| Larry Levine | Helene Rotto, Gary Rotto and Kelila Rotto | Helene's brother, Gary's uncle, Kelila's great-uncle | May 19 | Iyar 23 |
| Ida Mae Soll | Shirley Chervin | Shirley's mother | May 21 | Iyar 25 |
| Jared Wessel | Wes Wessel | Wes's son | May 21 | Iyar 25 |
| Steve Kollisch | Nancy Kollisch and Jeffrey Pressman | Nancy's father | May 22 | Iyar 26 |
| Ruth Duskin Feldman | Heidi Feldman and Kevin Delgado | Heidi's mother | May 25 | Iyar 29 |
| May Berman | Ellen Berman | Ellen's mother | May 25 | Sivan 3 |
| William T. Richardson | Mark and Patti Nussbaum | Patti's father | May 28 | Sivan 3 |

YAHREZEITS —May and June 2017

| In remembrance of | Remembered by | Relationship | Date | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|
| Harry Soll | Shirley Chervin | Shirley's father | June 2 | Sivan 8 |
| Abe Kamper | David Kamper and Joanna Brooks | David's grandfather | June 3 | Sivan 9 |
| Annette Irwin | Betsy and David Schneider | Betsy's grandmother | June 5 | Sivan 11 |
| Marcelle Biderman-Pam | Lee and Julian Lichter | Lee's sister | June 6 | Sivan 12 |
| Max Hausner | Ilene Durst and Charlotte Durst | Ilene's uncle, Charlotte's great-uncle | June 6 | Sivan 12 |
| Shirley Victor | Marilyn Scheininger | Marilyn's aunt | June 8 | Sivan 14 |
| Sam Herscovitz | Dr. Dennis Cook and DeDe Herst Cook | DeDe's father | June 9 | Sivan 15 |
| Samson Ament | Marlene Bellamy and Don Maescher | Marlene's grandfather | June 10 | Sivan 16 |
| Evalyn H. Arenberg | Betsey Gibbs | Betsey's mother | June 10 | Sivan 16 |
| Pauline Falikman | Jessica Attiyeh | Jessica's mother | June 11 | Sivan 17 |
| Conrad Gaster | Marilyn Scheininger | Marilyn's grandfather | June 11 | Sivan 17 |
| Sheree Swetin | Peter and Sarah Bonavich | Peter's wife, Sarah's mother | June 11 | Sivan 17 |
| Robert Forchheimer | Renee Barnow | Renee's uncle | June 12 | Sivan 18 |
| Allan Scheininger | Marilyn Scheininger | Marilyn's father | June 15 | Sivan 21 |
| Fannie Kamper | David Kamper and Joanna Brooks | David's grandmother | June 16 | Sivan 22 |
| Ernestine Yeomans | Carol Yeomans | Carol's mother | June 16 | Sivan 22 |
| George Godfein | David Kamper and Joanna Brooks | David's grandfather | June 17 | Sivan 23 |
| David Sterneck | Joanna and Joshua Gerlt | Joanna's father | June 17 | Sivan 23 |
| Rebecca Belikoff | Marlene Bellamy and Don Maescher | Marlene's grandmother | June 18 | Sivan 24 |
| Ruvim Falikman | Jessica Attiyeh | Jessica's cousin | June 18 | Sivan 24 |
| Elizabeth Tilles | Richard Tilles | Richard's wife | June 19 | Sivan 25 |
| Norman Cook | Dr. Dennis Cook and DeDe Herst Cook | Dennis's father | June 21 | Sivan 27 |
| Shirley Cook | Dr. Dennis Cook and DeDe Herst Cook | Dennis's mother | June 22 | Sivan 28 |
| Lillian (Val) Siegel | Ros Goldstein and Bob Siegel | Bob's mother | June 25 | Tammuz 1 |
| Rosalie Dow | Michael and Beth Shapiro | Michael's mother | June 26 | Tammuz 2 |
| Max Freedman | Elizabeth Freedman | Ely's father | June 26 | Tammuz 2 |
| Max Green | Alex Green and Genell Greenberg | Alex's father | June 26 | Tammuz 2 |
| Donna Yeomans | Carol Yeomans | Carol's sister | June 26 | Tammuz 2 |
| Manny Rose | Char Katz and Barbara Rose | Barbara's father | June 29 | Tammuz 5 |
| Henry R. Arenberg | Betsey Gibbs | Betsey's father | June 30 | Tammuz 6 |



Save The Date! Reconstructionist Convention November 15–18, 2018 • Philadelphia, PA

Join with other Reconstructionists to sing, pray, learn, eat and be together. Strengthen our networks and deepen our connections. Celebrate the movement and 50 years of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Coming Soon: *New Reconstructionist Camp*

Camp JRF recently announced plans to open a film and arts-based specialty camp in Southern California. The Foundation for Jewish Camp, as part of its Specialty Camps Incubator, is awarding up to \$1.4 million over four years to Camp JRF in order to open a Jewish specialty camp in the Los Angeles area. The camp is slated to open in 2018, with the goal of providing high-level arts programming within the Jewish, values-based community for which Camp JRF is known.

To learn more, please visit www.rrc.edu/news-media/news/coming-soon-new-reconstructionist-camp.

Podcasts

Minute Lessons

Get your three-minute Torah fix any time with the latest podcast by rabbinical student Sandra Lawson. Check out *Minute Lessons From the Torah* [online](#), [iTunes](#), [Google Play](#), or [Stitcher](#).

Kaddish: A Podcast on Death and Mourning

RRC student Ariana Katz is in her 20s, an age when most people aren't pondering their own mortality. But in her work as a student rabbi, she has promoted honest and open discussion of death, believing that confronting mortality can help people live more meaningful lives. Now, she's taken her work to a whole new audience with her podcast, Its tagline is "Sometimes Your Shiva Minyan is Digital." Learn more and listen here: <https://www.rrc.edu/news-media/news/student-launches-new-podcast>.

Jewish social justice gap year in Portland, Oregon

Tivnu Gap Year participants discover the Pacific Northwest, connect Jewish life and social justice through individualized internships, and live together in beautiful Portland, Oregon. Develop confidence, purpose, and skills farming, teaching, building, and advocating. Build a

caring home, a compassionate city, a country in which all are included. Learn more: tivnu.org, info@tivnu.org or call 503.232.1864. *Tivnu*: tools to build a better world.

Connect!

Join members of other Reconstructionist congregations on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for wisdom, news and special announcements.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RRCcommunity>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/rrccommunity>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reconstructionistjudaism>

Reconstructionism Today!

We hope you're enjoying the recently relaunched monthly e-mag *Reconstructionism Today*, with news and ideas from the Reconstructionist movement. If you aren't receiving it, sign up at <http://bit.ly/ReconEmail>.

Hevreh 3 • July 19-23, 2017 • Waynesboro, PA

Hevreh is back for a third summer for adults seeking to broaden their Jewish experience through study, prayer, spiritual renewal and growth with leading Jewish scholars, including Rabbi David Teutsch, Ph.D. and Rabbi Jacob Staub, Ph.D.

Participants will study with master teachers of Judaica; reflect and rejuvenate; pray, sing and dance, reconnect with friends and make new ones; encounter nature; and celebrate *Shabbat!*

For more information, please visit *Hevreh's* website: www.hevreh.net.

New Resources from Ritualwell

This year, counting the *Omer* at Ritualwell means sharing new songs, poems, prayers, blog posts, and meditations each week. Peruse the latest *Omer* material here: www.ritualwell.org/counting-omer/.

Discover new rituals here: www.ritualwell.org/tisha-bav-minor-fast-days

To stay informed on all that is happening in the Reconstructionist Communities, please subscribe to the movement's emails and newsletters. Click [here](#) or <http://bit.ly/ReconEmail> to sign up.

MAY 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|--|---|
| | 1 OFFICE CLOSED | 2 4:30 Gesher School | 3 | 4 | 5 7:00 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat led by 3rd-6th Gesher students</i> | 6 10:00 Torah Study |
| 7 9:00 Gesher School | 8 OFFICE CLOSED | 9 4:30 Gesher School | 10 | 11 | 12 7:00 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> | 13 9:00 Gesher <i>Shabbat</i> 5:30 Legacy Society (Endowment) Dinner (invitation) |
| 14 NO GESHER SCHOOL HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY  | 15 OFFICE CLOSED | 16 4:30 Gesher School | 17 | 18 | 19 7:00 <i>Lev Hadash Kabbalat Shabbat with Marshall Voit</i> | 20 |
| 21 9:00 Gesher School 10:00 Taste of Gesher 10:30 Gesher Open House 2:30 Community Israel Fest | 22 OFFICE CLOSED | 23 4:30 Gesher School | 24 | 25 | 26 <i>Shabbat at Home</i> | 27 |
| 28 NO GESHER SCHOOL | 29 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY  | 30 <i>Erev Shavuot</i> | 31 <i>Shavuot</i> | | | |

JUNE 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 7:00 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> | 3 10 Torah Study |
| 4 9:00 Last Day of Gesher 9:00-9:30 Pre-meeting Breakfast hosted by Board 9:30-11:15 Annual Meeting | 5 OFFICE CLOSED | 6 6:30 Ritual Committee Meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 7:00 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> and <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> of Mark Rifkin | 10 10:00 <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> of Mark Rifkin |
| 11 | 12 OFFICE CLOSED | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 6:30 <i>Kabbalat Shabbat/Lev Hadash</i> at the Bay | 17 |
| 18 | 19 OFFICE CLOSED | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 <i>Shabbat</i> at Home | 24 |
| RABBI ON VACATION • RABBI ON VACATION • RABBI ON VACATION • RABBI ON VACATION | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 OFFICE CLOSED | 27 6:30 Board of Trustees Meeting | 28 | 29 | 30 <i>Shabbat</i> at Home | |
| RABBI ON VACATION • RABBI ON VACATION • RABBI ON VACATION • RABBI ON VACATION | | | | | | |

The mission of Dor Hadash is to create a caring Jewish community
in accordance with the values of Reconstructionist Judaism

Congregation Dor Hadash is affiliated with the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities in association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College www.jewishrecon.org

HaKeshet (The Communication)

Editor: Susan Levine

Proofreader:

Holly Gail Baumann

Dor Hadash Board of Trustees

Judy Hante, President

David Kamper, 1st VP

Cynthia Sistik-Chandler, 2nd VP

John Ciano, Treasurer

Patti Nussbaum, Secretary

Ezra Bisom Rapp, student

Betsy Chessler

Lee Goldberg

Jack Reingold

Elizabeth Schultz

Gary Rotto, Immediate Past President

Yael Ridberg, Rabbi

Betsy Schneider, Education Director

Valentina Sharabi, Congregation

Administrator

HaKeshet, Congregation Dor Hadash's newsletter, is published monthly by the Board of Trustees except there is a combined June/July issue. Although the newsletter is supported through membership dues, contributions towards its publication are appreciated. All submissions are accepted at the discretion of the Officers and Board of Trustees of Congregation Dor Hadash and the editor. Due to space limitations, submissions may be used in future issues and are subject to editing. Submissions for consideration should be factual and concise. Contact names and addresses as well as the author's name and address should be included. Submissions in electronic form are preferred. Email submissions to hakesher1@dorhadash.org

Deadline: All submissions including advertisements, reports, and updates should be dropped off, emailed, or faxed by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Advertising rates per month: \$18/business card; \$36/quarter page; \$54 half page; \$72 full page

Address:

on the campus of San Diego Jewish Academy
11860 Carmel Creek Road
San Diego, CA 92130
858-268-3674 • 858-704-3850 (fax)

CONGREGATION DOR HADASH

11860 Carmel Creek Road

San Diego, CA 92130