

CONGREGATION SHIR HEHARIM

(Song of the Mountains)



The Brattleboro Area Jewish Community

JUNE 2008

SIVAN 5768

FROM YOUR SHALIACH TZIBUR

One of my favorite services this year was our Shabbat evening service in May, which commemorated Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day and its 60th birthday. At the service, we set up our seven-candle menorah, the most ancient Jewish symbol going back to the Temple in Jerusalem, and lit one candle for each of the principles of Israel's creation, reading a portion of Israel's Declaration of Independence as each candle was lit. These themes themselves sent shivers up my spine: the miracle of rebirth, the beauty of the land, the ingathering of exiles, a just society, the renewal of Jewish learning and language, hope and peace, and the courage of Israel's people.

The ceremony called to mind the enormous pride that many of us felt in 1947-48, and again following the Six Day War in 1967. Large numbers of Jews in the world who had been insecure in their Judaism regained a sense of belonging at both of these junctures. I personally will never forget my own family gathered around the radio, listening with such hope and anticipation to the 1947 U.N. vote that created the state of Israel, nor will I forget being at the Western Wall immediately following the 1967 war.

That sense of belonging and of pride was much in evidence at our May service, and particularly on the faces of Dalit's family, visitors from Israel who joined us for the service. Dalit's father, who was present in 1948 when David Ben-Gurion first read the Declaration of Independence, echoed that moment by reading in Hebrew the end of that Declaration as he lit the last candle. Dalit's family, along with the rest of us, absolutely *kvelled* as Brett spoke movingly about his life-changing "rebirth" experience in Israel.

Pride and hope were evident in all of us as we sang "Hatikvah" together.

The period since 1967 in Israel has been a more difficult story to tell. Indeed, even the Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration in Israel this year was a rather muted one. I've done more than my share of speaking and writing over the years about the challenges Israel has been facing, the misdirected departures from those founding principles, and the missed opportunities, while recognizing also the problems Israel has squarely and courageously faced. In the missed opportunities department, I've been yet more critical, as you know, as have my Palestinian professional colleagues, of Palestinian leaders whose actions often have had the effect of pulling the rug out from under peace advocates on both sides.

My hope, rekindled at our May service, is that the time will not be distant when the ideals of a new generation of Israelis and Palestinians, encouraged by American Jews and the rest of the world community, will move us from the present Middle East stalemate into a new vibrant era of peace and reconciliation and, in the process, assure a secure and healthy future for Israel and, indeed, for the entire region. This is *hatikvah* -- the hope-- that we so ardently hold.

B'Shalom,
Jim

Support Israel - Buy Israeli Products

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

This will be my last column written as President of the Brattleboro Area Jewish Community. Serving as President during these past three years has been a special part of my life, and I will carry with me always a sense of community and sharing that has been unique, rewarding, and uplifting. It has not been my practice in these columns to speak of contributions of time, effort and/or money by specifically named individuals, but I have observed and appreciated these efforts by virtually every member, in ways large and small. This spirit of volunteerism has created a unique congregation and a special community – forged by discussion (even argument) and differing needs and histories, yet held together by shared goals and common effort. As a community of volunteers, our efforts not only create links among ourselves, but they create a communal vision for the future. To each one of you I extend my personal thanks as well as the appreciation of the Board and the entire Brattleboro Area Jewish Community.

During the past several years, Congregation Shir HeHarim has transitioned from a part-time existence in rental space at West Village Meeting House to a permanent synagogue in West Brattleboro, open to the needs of the Jewish community in our region. It has been a difficult process, both conceptually and in execution. It has required our best thinking about who we are and what we want to be as a community. Not only did we purchase physical space and make it into sacred space, but also we renewed, rediscovered, and rededicated ourselves as Jews here in southern Vermont. The results are visible. We are becoming the Jewish center for southeast Vermont, where people can come to sing, to learn, to grieve, to celebrate, to meet with friends, to pray, and to feel a part of a larger whole. We have accomplished much and, most importantly, we have managed to move forward in a collegial way. Looking back, it seems impossible to remember that this change was neither ordained nor compelled

Much credit goes to our Board of Trustees. Its monthly meetings are the most visible part of what the Board does, but our Board members chair committees, work on other committees, and plan, host and participate in the wide variety of BAJC activities. They wrestle not only with the “vision thing,” but also with the practical and the mundane. When something needs to get done, usually it is someone from the Board who steps forward to assure that it will be done. We are similarly well

served by our spiritual leader, our administrator, and our school staff.

I wish to make special note at this time of our renewed and strengthened bond with our national organization – the Union for Reform Judaism. Just as most of us see our congregation as a little less formal and a little less bound by tradition than most, the Council for the Northeast Region appears to see itself in a similar vein. The Council has initiated a conversation about how best to move Reform Judaism forward, how best to connect synagogues divided by distance and size and by tradition and practice, and how best to make Judaism an important and meaningful part of our lives. These efforts have already increased the connections between the disparate small congregations in Northern New England, as leadership in Vermont and New Hampshire and Maine, together with Northern Massachusetts and New York get together for informal meals and sharing. Because BAJC is a small congregation in a rural area, we can be so isolated that at times it seems as if all of our efforts and vision are directed inward, but I see our growing involvement with regional synagogues and with the URJ as something that will greatly enrich BAJC in the years to come, the full measure of which can now only be dimly seen.

Yet, as we know, there is always a price to pay, even for success. When we conquer a challenge, we see the next one just beyond. Our recent successes make it necessary to address now the twin challenges of space and money. To accomplish what we want to do -- what our members want us to do-- requires more space. We have already reached the physical limits of what we can do in our present space. We want to hold larger life cycle events here at our synagogue, but cannot. Our Hebrew School cannot expand while keeping all classes meeting at the same time because we have reached the occupancy limit for our building. We have no space for a library. We have no space for offices for our spiritual leader and for a school director. We have no space for larger activities or events we'd like to share with neighboring faith communities. Sooner or later – and I believe it must be sooner– we must plan and finance an expansion where the present barns now stand. One barn is a clear and imminent danger and must be removed as soon as we have the necessary permits to do it, regardless of the cost. We will need to start a capital campaign and make it work, but we must first create a vision of what our enlarged space will look like and how it will address our needs. This is a large undertaking for a small community. It will only be successful to the extent that every member of the BAJC community contributes in some manner to its success.

Speaking of finances, we have also come to the realization that there is only a limited amount of money that BAJC can realistically raise from dues for its operating expenses. There is a need for capital funding, endowments, and more fundraising events to pay our overhead, make necessary repairs, and expand our offerings. Although we will never turn away people who can't pay full dues and/or tuition, we need people to keep BAJC as a priority in their budgets. For the first time that I can recall, we are not funding some programs this coming year, because we cannot afford to do so. For example, the Board voted to employ a much-needed school administrator who would supervise, lead, coordinate and nurture our education efforts at all levels, but the "bare bones" budget we are presenting this year could not support this position. The Board also had to give up its plans for a new-lighted sign for the lawn identifying our shul. I suppose it is better that our dreams are larger than our pockets, but it is painful to defer or deny worthwhile projects because the money to fund them is not there. We need to increase our ability to take advantage of grants, to fully support fundraisers such as our second Israeli Film Festival later this summer, and to successfully conduct a capital campaign. The need for space and money should not be a cause for discouragement--it is the price of our successes, our growth, our commitment to our children and future generations, and our desire to honor our parents and the generations of the past. As the Talmud says, "Where people truly wish to go, their feet will manage to take them." I believe our feet are moving in the right direction and together we should be able to make our wishes come true.

For all of the kindnesses and support sent my way over the past three years, I am truly grateful. You are all in my heart. Thank you for allowing me this special and rare opportunity.

B' Shalom,
Paul

FOURTH FRIDAYS, 5769

Our "Fourth Friday" Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 is a lay-led service. The Ritual Committee and the Board encourage congregation members to plan and lead these services, whether traditional or "creative." The only requirement is that you pick a date ahead of time and go over your plans for the service with Marty Cohn (Ritual Chair) and/or Jim Levinson in advance.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul Berch, Linda Heimerdinger, Marty Cohn, and Allen Ross have expressed their willingness to continue serving on the Board of Trustees for another term. Their names will be placed in nomination at the June 2nd annual membership meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Trustees continuing to serve until August 31, 2009 are Joe Rosen, Mary Copans, Sandy Brodsky, and Michael Knapp. Trustees whose terms do not expire until 2010 are Faith and Abe Schuster (sharing a seat), Randy Terk, Bobbe Ragouzeos, and Jeff Teitel. At its first organizational meeting after the annual membership meeting, the Board will elect officers for the coming year.

SUN, STUDY AND SHABBAT

What more could you want from a vacation? Join active lifelong learners for this year's Adult Study Retreat, July 9 - 13 on the beautiful Franklin Pierce College campus in Rindge, NH. Study with URJ's top scholars and leaders, honor Israel's 60th anniversary and relax with friends--new and old--across North America.

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

The Vermont Dept. of Health is providing clinics to administer the shingles vaccine FREE. This vaccine is recommended particularly for seniors who had chicken pox in the past, but it will be administered to anyone 60 or older, whether or not they have had chickenpox.

The district office in Brattleboro, located on the first floor of the State Office building next to the municipal building, is scheduling clinic appointments. Call them at 257-2880.

You need to bring proof of your age (driver's license, passport) and your insurance card if you have one. There is a 15-minute wait after the vaccine is administered, so bring a book.

For more information, contact your health care provider or the Vermont Dept. of Health Immunization Program at 863-7638 or 1-800-464-4343, ext. 7638, or visit the department's Web site at <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/chickenpox.aspx>

JUNE CALENDAR AND BEYOND

As you can see from the June calendar page (which we sincerely hope is correct this month, for a change!), we are not following our usual pattern of services. There is only one evening service followed by a community potluck and that one, celebrating Shavuot, is on a Monday night (June 9th), instead of the usual Friday night. This will be the only community potluck until September, but there will be lay-led "Fourth Friday" services on July 25th and August 22nd at 7:30.

Three Saturday morning services in June are all 10:00 b'nai mitzvah services: Sarah on the 14th and Daniel on the 28th at the West Village Meeting House, and Zoe on the 21st at the Chester Town Hall in Chester Depot. Please remember that the entire congregation is invited to b'nai mitzvah services to welcome these young people as adults in our community. During the summer, there will be one lay-led morning service at 10:00 each month, on July 12th and August 9th.

Other events in June are the **BAJC annual membership meeting** on Monday night, June 2nd, at 6:30 at our shul; Rosh Chodesh from four to six on the 29th; an adult ed class on two Sunday mornings, the 15th and 22nd, from ten until noon, taught by Rhonda Reiser and titled "Miracles, Mayhem, and Murder: the Talmud Your Rabbi Never Told You About." Please register in advance for this class online, leave a voice message on the adult ed line at 257-1959.

In addition, Johnny Lee Lenhart's class, "Dying, Death & Beyond: Jewish Perspectives & Practices" will meet from ten to noon on June 15th. Although the class has already met once, it is not too late for people to join as we explore some history, some halacha, Jewish practices around death and grieving, and hear what death teaches us about how to live. Advance registrations are appreciated. Register online at http://bajcvermont.org/programs/signup_shtml. For questions about the series or to register by phone, call (802) 254-4609.

July and August events will appear in a combined summer newsletter, but there will be frequent e-mail updates. If you don't have e-mail, please check the office message machine (257-1959) for updates.

G-d said to Moses, "Come up to Me, to the mountain, and remain there. I will give you the stone tablets, the Torah and the commandment that I have written for the people's instruction." - Exodus 24:12

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS

Our grounds are looking bright and beautiful, thanks to some very special people. Rosalie's family donated five azalea bushes and four other shrubs in memory of Rosalie. They were planted by Zev and Sharon in a "Rosalie Garden" near the road on the west side of the driveway. Jeff donated and planted two "twisty" evergreens, and Jackie brought many plants from her own garden which she, Zev, and the Hebrew school kids planted. Rashed's Nursery on Route 9 in West Brattleboro generously donated several flats of pansies and other annuals and perennials which were then planted by a crew of Hebrew school students, teachers, and parents, who looked like chalutzim working on a kibbutz! When you are purchasing plants for your own gardens, stop in at Rashed's Nursery and pass along a big thank-you for the beautiful donations he has made to our Jewish community.

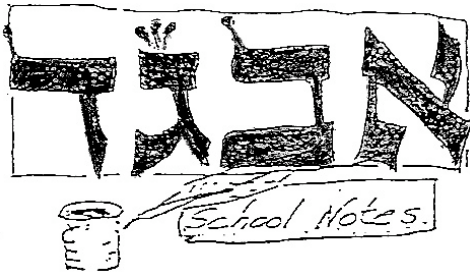
We also owe a big thank-you to Paul, Jeff, Allen, Deb, Joe, George, Len, Michael, Jacob, Benjamin, Sharon, Chris, Jackie, Zev, Abe and all the hard-working *shtarkas* who showed up on Mothers Day to rake, shovel, and do other clean-up jobs. Thanks too to Alan and David, Elizabeth and her kids, and Tammy and her kids, who stayed after Hebrew school to help Jackie plant and water. Jackie suggests that when you are thinning out your own garden you bring your excess perennials and plant them on the slope bordering the road (east side of the driveway). It will help prevent erosion and will also make our grounds look great.

PLAY AND/OR READ

If you'd like to learn to play the ancient Jewish (?) game of Mah Jongg or, if you already know how to play and would like to play a non-cutthroat, non-gambling version of the game, join the MJM (Mah Jongg Mavens) on Wednesday afternoons at the shul.

If you'd rather read than play games, join the SJBC (Significant Jewish Books Club). It meets once every two months to discuss—you guessed it—a significant Jewish book. The readers also share a potluck dinner and select the next book to read. SJBC meets either at members' houses or at the shul, usually on a Thursday evening. Our next meeting will be in July--date, place, and book selection to be announced.

Call Esther or Abe for more information about either of these groups or to sign up to play or read.



News from Kita Aleph: Did you know that the shretelekh (the Jewish "little people"/ elves/ fairies) have been with us all year? We made them sukkot in the fall and seder plates for Passover. We love to go down to the brook to look for evidence of them. We like singing the alphabet song with Hebrew letters and we play "pass the puppet" while we sing. We like our *Mitkadem* booklets, the self-paced Hebrew primers. We are collecting coins for *tzedakah* in Sam's *tzedakah* (charity/justice) box.

Kita Bet has been working hard on Hebrew letter recognition using flash cards and Bingo. We have also done some Hebrew alphabet Yoga poses as well as playing aleph-bet tag. We have read and talked about bible stories including: Creation, Noah's ark, Jacob and Esau, Jacob's ladder, and Joseph's journey to Egypt (and his special coat!). We had lots of fun preparing for the Purim shpiel and decorating goblets to use as Miriam's cups or Elijah's cups at our Passover seders at home. It's been a great year!

Kita Gimmel has been studying in depth the Prophets and Jewish heroes after Moses and the Exodus. We have discussed questions of why Jews have seemed to be outsiders, and what their lives were like; what it might be like to feel compelled to tell other people how to improve their lives and the lives of others and whether that would be easy. We have learned the stories of, to name just a few, Deborah, the judge and the power of listening well; Ruth and Naomi and choosing to be Jewish; Samuel whose mother gave him to the service of God; Kings Saul and David and the meaning of friendship and leadership and what it means to face a giant foe. We have learned about Elijah and Miriam and how Miriam brought her tambourine, even at a time of great stress and danger, hoping to have celebrations in the future. We continue to be inspired and to ask questions in the Jewish tradition of Torah study. In our Hebrew lessons we have infused the sounds and shapes of the letters in our bodies by playing tag games and learning Hebrew Yoga, and we are beginning to recognize prayer words and phrases as a result of our sometimes challenging, but always fun, study of our holy language!

Kita Dalet has worked with a challenging curriculum this year. Our Hebrew studies have moved from the primer and into the siddur, including the barchu, the v'ahavta and the chatzi kaddish. We have been working with *Modern Hebrew for Teens*, a text that teaches contemporary Hebrew while following four teen-agers on a summer trip to Israel. We have completed *Number the Stars* and have been reading and discussing *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Kita Hay: The students whose first year it is in this class have become more familiar with Hebrew letters and vowels and are transitioning from reading individual letters to recognizing whole words without having to sound out each letter. They can see that Hebrew words make recognizable phrases and patterns exist in individual prayers. We concentrated on Saturday morning prayers and songs. The second year students worked together with the larger group and individually with Rebecca, our Israeli Hebrew assistant, on more advanced prayers that they will be expected to know next year in the b'nai mitzvah class. Rebecca also taught the kids conversational Hebrew phrases and was an invaluable resource when we studied current Israeli culture and the way holidays are celebrated in Israel. I have enjoyed teaching this class.

HEBREW SCHOOL REGISTRATION

In order to plan staffing, scheduling, and curriculum for next year, it is important that we know how many students we will have in Hebrew school and their ages. Our occupancy permit allows only 50 people in the building at one time, so if school registration is over 45, we may have to schedule one or more classes on a different day. We must know this before school begins in the fall, so please fill out registration forms as soon as possible, but definitely by June 16, the last day of Hebrew school this year. If you include a check for full tuition with your registration form, the amount will be the same as it was this year (i.e., \$225 for one child; \$190 for each of his or her siblings). The budget for next year sets tuition for those who register and pay after June 16th at \$300 per child. We expect half the tuition to be paid on or before September 8th with the balance due by January, but arrangements can be made to pay weekly (only \$10 per child per week!) if that is easier. Registration forms are available at school on Mondays, or you can ask Faith to send you a form by e-mail or snail-mail.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 60TH BAJC-STYLE

On Friday, May 9th, BAJC celebrated Yom HaAzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) with a Shabbat service and family potluck. The service had many components that were extremely meaningful for those in attendance and worthy of recounting for those who weren't, along with commentary about it in other places in this newsletter.

First, seven individuals in turn lit seven candles and recited the Israeli Declaration of Independence. This was particularly moving since a visiting Israeli told us that he heard David Ben-Gurion read the Declaration on the steps of the Knesset in 1948!

Then, Brett told about his experience living in Israel in which he rediscovered his own Judaism and Elizabeth introduced a Jew-by-choice recommitment ceremony". After explaining her own journey, she invited other Jews by Choice to join her under a tallis to tell their story.

Finally, as we prepared to recite Kaddish, we learned about a woman who joined with us that night for the first time. Her son had passed away unexpectedly and she found that it was important for her to be a part of a Jewish community.

All in all, this was a service to remember.

Marty Cohn

SAVE THE DATE

2nd Annual Israeli Film and Food Festival

Saturday, August 16, 2008 — 7PM
Hooker Dunham Theater, Brattleboro

Sunday, August 17, 2008 — 1-4PM
Mountain Park Cinema, West Dover

JEW'S BY CHOICE

Part of the Friday night service on June 9th involved a commitment ceremony and some heartfelt discussion about choosing Judaism. The feeling of many people is that everyone who practices Judaism is, in a very real sense, a Jew by choice. The choice we all have, even those who were "born Jewish," is to practice Judaism or not, and we each make this choice consciously at some point in our life, each most likely for different reasons. Among others, Elizabeth generously shared her journey with the congregation at that service. These are her words.

This little ceremony came about, at least in part, because of a conversation that Jim and I had on a

dark Sunday evening back in February. We were discussing the challenge that those of us with Jewish fathers but non-Jewish mothers face in figuring out whether we are Jewish enough, whether we need to convert, and where we fit in. At first, I resisted the idea that without a conversion ceremony I was not Jewish enough, but then it occurred to me, (after reading Anita Diamant's wise words) that every member of the Reform community is a Jew-by-choice. We are not Jews simply because our parents were and we know nothing else. We are Jewish because every day we choose again to live according to our traditions. And so, it is fitting that every so often we stand up to re-affirm our choice, and rededicate ourselves to our beliefs. These then, are my reasons for being a Jew by choice:

When I was in college I heard for the first time the statement, "what Hitler failed to do with the holocaust, your generation will do with a kiss." This phrase is so well-used it has become cliché, but I had never heard it before, and to me it was earth-shattering. It simultaneously equated my parents with Nazis and expressed a helplessness counter to everything I know to be true about our people.

I chose to be Jewish to prove this statement wrong. I don't believe that the people who wandered for forty years in the desert, who built and re-built Jerusalem, who have affixed mezuzot to their doorposts in China and India, in Ethiopia and Iran, in Mississippi and Mexico, and who had the audacity to survive the Shoah can be stopped by intermarriage. Not if I have anything to do with it.

I was raised in Wyoming, the closest synagogue was 140 miles away—we never went, instead celebrating holidays in nearly complete isolation. Nevertheless, when I attended high holy days services here for the first time last fall, it felt like coming home. At last. What I discovered attending services was that I choose Judaism because it is part of who I am. Denying it had cut off some fundamental part of me. I am Jewish because the blood of my grandmother and great-grandmothers runs through my veins, but I choose to practice Judaism because my values are Jewish values—tzedakah and tikkun olam are my mission: to paraphrase Tevye, these traditions gives me a framework for defining who I am and what I hope to accomplish in the world.

LET US KNOW

Please call the BAJC office (257-1959) to let us know of illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths, births, engagements, weddings, college graduations, other simchas and sorrows.

SHAVUOT AND SHAVUOT YISOR

Shavuot, which means "weeks," is a major festival in the Jewish calendar occurring exactly seven weeks after Passover. It celebrates the harvesting of the first fruits and commemorates our receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai, three thousand three hundred and twenty years ago--an event so important that the world would be an entirely different place had it not happened. For some unknown reason, Shavuot has come to be associated with the eating of dairy products, blintzes and cheesecake in particular being extremely well received! On a more serious note, the holiday involves Torah study, with many communities hosting all-night or late-night study sessions, and congregations standing to hear the Ten Commandments read from the Torah the next morning in a synagogue decorated with flowers, fruits, and greens. Shavuot is also the time for the fourth and last Yizkor memorial service of the Jewish year, a solemn service of remembrance. Even if you cannot attend Yizkor, it is traditional to make donations to charity and to light a yahrzeit candle in memory of loved ones at this time.

Erev Shavuot this year is on Sunday evening, June 8th, with candle-lighting time a few minutes after eight. BAJC will be celebrating Shavuot in its own special fashion on Monday evening, June 9th, beginning promptly at six o'clock with ma'ariv and Yizkor services and concluding with a dairy potluck supper. Please make an effort to attend to celebrate this holiday that is both solemn and festive. It is our only potluck gathering this month--the perfect time to share your best dairy recipes, including both substantial main dishes and, of course, cheesecake.

BOTTLES AND CANS AND CARTRIDGES

Our newest ongoing fundraising project is collecting deposit bottles and cans for cash refund. Please leave your rinsed deposit bottles and cans in the two large labeled containers in the little shed next to the red barn on our shul property. You can drop them off anytime, even if no one is there. (Note: this is not a recycling project, so please do not bring any non-deposit plastic bottles or cans.) The collection of printer cartridges continues as a fundraising project. You can leave cartridges in a box in the shed also. Please remember to latch the shed door as you leave.

Please share our joy as our daughter

Sarah

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

Saturday June 14, 2008

at 10:00 a.m.

West Village Meeting House

Robin and Marvin

Mara and Michael

would be pleased to have you

join with them when their daughter

Zoe

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

on Saturday, the 21st of June at 10:00

in the Chester Town Hall

in Chester Depot, VT

George and Judy

Invite you to join us as their son

Daniel

Is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

on Saturday, June 28th at 10:00 a.m.

at the West Village Meeting House

and at the Kiddush following the service

The Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot. Several reasons are given for this practice: (1) The entire Torah is lovingkindness, and this Book consists of lovingkindness, therefore it is written on the day of the giving of the Torah (Midrash Rabbah). (2) The act of Ruth's conversion took place during the harvest season, from the beginning of the barley harvest to the conclusion of the wheat harvest. (3) King David was the grandson of Ruth (thereby making her the mother of the royal lineage), and he was born on Shavuot and died on Shavuot.

BAJC MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide a context and structure for people to be Jewish together in a rural environment. This community fosters Jewish pride and identity by participating together in religious, spiritual, educational, social and cultural experiences. We welcome anyone interested in participating and learning.

BAJC DIRECTORY

Spiritual leader: James Levinson

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NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

This online copy of our newsletter is a much-reduced version of the real thing! The print version includes Honorable Menschen, Yahrzeits, and other individual member news. If you are not a member but would like to receive the newsletter, we ask that you contribute \$36 to BAJC for a subscription for the year 5768. Your subscription will include frequent e-mail updates. (If you want the newsletter but do not want to receive e-mails, please let Faith know.)