



## Monthly Bulletin

July/August 2018/5778

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### Shabbat by the Sea at Lynch Park – Friday nights 6 PM through the summer

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#### From the Rabbi

Simcha Bunem of Peshiskah, a Hasidic rebbe of 19th-century Poland, once asked why redemption arrived for the Children of Israel at the precise moment when it did. Why were the slaves not liberated a generation earlier or a generation later? His answer was that that God realized that the people no longer felt the sting of their suffering and no longer saw it as remarkable. Accustomed only to pain, they felt that brutality was the natural way of the world. And this, God tells Moses, is the most dangerous of all possible situations. This was the moment when God could wait no longer, and so God sends a messenger to get the people out, taking them on a journey from Africa to Israel, a small, battered family of refugees looking for a better life elsewhere.

As 21st-century American Jews we are living through a moment very much like the one that Simcha Bunem imagined, a moment when brutality has become normalized to such an extent that a mere seventy-five years after the liberation of Auschwitz we find ourselves living comfortably in a country in which parents hear from government agents that their children are going to take a bath, only to discover that their children do not return.

And if our tradition is coming to tell us one thing it is coming to tell us, in no uncertain terms, that the brutality being perpetrated at our borders is not normal. Half a century ago, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, “I would say about individuals, an individual dies when he ceases to be surprised. I am surprised every morning that I see the sunshine again. When I see an act of evil, I’m not accommodated. I don’t accommodate myself to the violence that goes on everywhere; I’m still surprised. That’s why I’m against it, why I can hope against it. We must learn how to be surprised. Not to adjust ourselves. I am the most maladjusted person in society.” His words, unfortunately, remain urgently relevant.

Throughout history, pious Jews have adopted a wide range of political postures according to their priorities and their consciences, as, indeed, one would expect from the inheritors of a tradition as broad-minded and as multivalent as ours. May it always be so. But as the heirs of Abraham and Sara, of Moses and Miriam, of Hillel and Akiva, there are times when we are called to look beyond politics and, in our capacity as a light unto the nations, speak and enact higher

and deeper truths. When it comes to our practice of separating immigrant families—and holding children hostage as we fumble through our own political machinations—we must speak clearly and without equivocation. This is a grave moral sin, one that runs counter to the values we hold dear, both as Jews and as Americans. We must not only know better—we must be better. And while we are hopeful that the recent executive order allowing families to remain together as they navigate the labyrinthine process of seeking asylum will alleviate some pain, we continue to mourn for those families that have already been torn apart. And we commit ourselves to continued vigilance, knowing full well, particularly in light of Jewish history, that if it happens once it can certainly happen again.

Judaism by no means advocates a world that is border-free. In fact, the Tanakh describes the specific boundaries of the Land of Israel in great detail, both with respect to the far reaches of the Land itself and with respect to the parcels belonging to the various Israelite tribes. And yet, in the context of the Tanakh’s concern with boundaries, we must never lose sight of why the Torah delineates borders in the first place. Consider a famous passage from Deuteronomy, which commands us as follows: “Do not return a slave to his master who has sought refuge with you from his master. He shall live with you in a place where you choose, in one of your gates for his own benefit. Do not oppress him.” (23:16-17) Commenting on this verse, Rashi, the great medieval exegete, offers an important gloss. “This refers even to a non-Jewish slave, who fled from his Jewish master, from outside the Land of Israel to the Land of Israel.” In the context of a tradition that, for better and for worse, is very often focused on the primacy of tribe and kin, this comment is startlingly radical. The quintessential outsider—the non-Jewish slave who, according to Biblical law, does not go free even in the jubilee year—must never be restored to her abusive master, even when her master is one of us. When she reaches our lands we are to lighten her burden and grant her peace. When it comes to borders, the message is clear: Whoever you are, and wherever you come from, if you are running from danger, if you are fleeing from the presence of those who would cut you down, arriving in God’s country means that you are safe at last. The borders of a holy land are not walls, but thresholds. They are erected not to keep

the others out; rather, they are established specifically in order to welcome others in, to offer them shelter from the storms raging beyond. This is a message that we Jews must carry with us always, sharing with the world wherever we go.

Indeed, for most of our history, we Jews have been crossing borders, sometimes legally and sometimes illegally, sometimes of our own free will, but mostly as frightened refugees, looking only for somewhere to rest and hang our hats, until we're forced to leave again. We are Hebrews in the truest sense of that eternal and sacred word, which comes an ancient root that means "to cross over a river." As

Jews it is our destiny, and our sacred mission, to enforce a new kind of border, a border that ensures safety and dignity for all those who have the courage and the good fortune to cross. We therefore call upon all of our leaders to act now. We call upon the president, members of congress, senators and all who enforce the law to put aside politics in favor of compassionate and visionary governance. This is the promise of Zion and it was once the promise of America. May we never forget.

Rabbi Benjamin J. Resnick  
Congregation Ahavas Achim  
Newburyport, Massachusetts

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### From the President

Now that beach (and pool) season is officially, and irrevocably here, I thought a little summer reading is in order. Therefore, I present to you some random thoughts in no particular order.

As if we needed another reason to join the Temple B'nai community, a study recently published by researchers at the University of Ohio shows that religious people live 4 years longer than non-religious people. While the exact reasons for this are unknown the authors suggest the difference in life expectancy between practicing worshippers and those who were not part of a religious group could be due to a mix of social support, stress-relieving practices and abstaining from unhealthy habits. I'm not sure about that last one, but the first two seem reasonable.

I was disgusted to read recently that one high-ranking member of the administration quoted a bible verse to support the separation of children from their parents who are seeking legal asylum in the US. The quote from Romans 13 says to "obey the laws of the government because God has ordained the government for his purposes." This bible verse has been used elsewhere in American history including in the 1840s and 1850s by defenders of slavery. But what got me steamed up was that one of the central themes in the Hebrew Bible is to love our neighbors and strangers among us. Politicians using the Bible to support their opinions is nothing new but wouldn't it be great if they would quote it to support inclusion, human rights, and common decency?

Recently, UN Ambassador Nikki Haley gave an impassioned, well argued, and well delivered speech in support of an amendment condemning the terrorist group Hamas' role in the destruction of Gaza. Video of Ambassador Haley's speech is available on-line and I encourage you to spend a few minutes watching it. By the way, the amendment failed to get the required 2/3 of the votes.

On a happier note, our annual gala honoring Marty and Deb Greenstein was a phenomenal success. The pre-show reception was a blast and even though I'm not a musical theater maven, I loved the show. Many months and hundreds of hours went into this evening and everything was perfect. What an amazing time. Mazel Tov Marty and Deb!

Last Friday's community supper was unbelievable. 80 people came together to share a Michelin 4-star meal prepared by Larry Strauss, Eli Davidian, Dina Davidian, Ruth Helman, and Mike Stern. I want to thank Larry for sponsoring the evening in addition to providing his excellent culinary expertise. As usual, the conversation was spirited, and laughter filled the social hall. This is what it's all about, folks.

Friday July 6 begins our Shabbat by the Sea at Lynch Park. We want to continue our tradition of pre-services pizza and we are looking for Pizza Sponsors. If you would like to sponsor pizza for one evening, please call Deb in the office. Shabbat by the Sea is a popular way for prospective members to come and see what TBA is all about. I encourage all of you to bring your families, friends, and even your dog to welcome Shabbat at Lynch park.

Lastly, I read this morning about the sudden death of Dr. David Ariel. David taught several me'ah courses at TBA and I was fortunate to take two of them. In fact, he taught a me'ah class at TBA a few days before his passing. David was one of the smartest, most interesting people I've ever met. His accomplishments in Jewish scholarship are unparalleled. I strongly encourage you to buy his book "What do Jews Believe?" or his book on Kabbalah. He will be missed by the thousands of students who he touched over his extraordinary career.

**Ken Hartman**  
**President, Temple B'nai Abraham**

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### Learning in Honor of David Ariel, z"l Beloved Me'ah Teacher Wednesday, July 11, 7:00 PM at TBA

David Ariel was a beloved and popular teacher around the world, and in our North Shore Jewish community. He taught 3 semesters of Hebrew College Me'ah classes at Temple B'nai Abraham, including a class on Hassidism this past spring. He passed away suddenly at age 67. He was President of Ariel Learning, a global Jewish learning organization, served as President of Hebrew and Judaic studies at the University of Oxford, and was the author of many books. Whether or not you have taken Me'ah, please join us to honor him - as is the Jewish custom when students lose a teacher - by doing some learning in his memory.

# Shabbat by the Sea at Lynch Park



**Starting Friday July 6**  
**and**  
**Continuing Friday nights through**  
**the summer**

Pizza at 6  
Services at 7

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## Pe'ah Garden at TBA



EVERY Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M.

We could use your help!  
Please join us every to help in the garden  
and meet some other TBA volunteers.

It's a fabulous way  
to contribute and to connect.

# ECCO Boat Cruise!

You are invited to ECCO's annual  
Boat Cruise Fundraiser  
the best social justice  
dance party  
of the summer!



Join us for an evening of  
schmoozing  
DJ and dancing, and  
cash bar/light refreshments with  
ECCO's vibrant and diverse community.

**When:** Sunday, August 19 - 7-9pm.  
Arrive by 6:45 pm to get on the boat!  
Rain date: August 26th, 7 to 9 pm  
**Where to meet:** 63 Rodgers St., Gloucester,

**RSVP:**

<https://tinyurl.com/eccoboatcruise18>  
We hope to see you there!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cardboard Box City

Hosted by  
Family Promise North Shore Boston  
Saturday, August 11 at 6 PM to  
Sunday, August 12 at 8 AM

Patton Park Bay Road  
South Hamilton MA 01982

## The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Ruth Helman to Jayne and Joel Gordon in honor of the engagement of Phil Gordon  
Ruth Helman to Donna and Alan Pierce in loving memory of Donna's father  
Ruth Helman to Deb and Marty Greenstein mazel tov on this wonderful honor

### GENERAL FUND

Toby Karlyn to Donna Pierce in memory of your father  
Jerry & Elaine Adler to Susan Wolper in memory of Jerry Wolper  
James & Wendy Cohen to Donna Pierce, condolences on the loss of your father  
Robert Freedman to Bonnie Delp, congratulations on earning your Associates Degree & your acceptance to Nursing School  
Robert Freedman to Taylor Delp, congratulations on earning your Bachelor's Degree  
Bonnie and Arnie Goldsmith to Linda and Dan Maglnick, mazel tov on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!  
Jacob and Melody Kriteiman to Larry Stauss, in memory of Myra Strauss  
Tom and Susie Cheatham to Dan and Linda Magalnick in honor of your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### KITCHEN FUND

Mike & Paige Katzenstein to Donna Pierce, so sorry about Leonard's passing  
Susan Wolper to Deb and Marty Greenstein, for all you do at the Temple, thank you!  
Ruth, Elisa, & Joshua Helman to Larry and Benjamin Strauss, in memory of Myra Straus-loving wife and mother  
Valerie Agathos to Larry Strauss in memory of Myra Strauss  
Mardee Goldberg to Marty and Deb Greenstein, congratulations on your being honored by TBA

### ONEG AND KIDDUSH SPONSOR

Kevin Tsukroff in memory of his brother, Ian Tsukroff

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anita Pitsas to the Ziglebaum Family in memory of Joel Zigelbaum  
Jessica and Bernard Newman to Gary & Bonnie Ziglebaum in memory of Joel  
Sandra Zigelbaum to Rabbi Adler, thank you for the kindness and respect shown to Joel and our family  
Stephen Arrington in honor of your 10<sup>th</sup> year ordination  
Jane and Paul Cohen to Rabbi Adler, thank you for helping make our anniversary extra special  
Carol Perlmutter to Mr and Mrs Ira Zigelbaum in memory of Joel Zigelbaum  
Pearl and Alan Siegel to Sandra Zigelbaum in memory of Joel Zigelbaum  
Congregation Ahavas Achim to Rabbi Adler, thank you for leading the Sefer Torah  
Tom and Susie Cheatham in honor of TBA Pride Float  
James and Wendy Cohen in honor of TBA Pride Float  
Linda and Dan Maglnick to Rabbi Adler, in honor of the ten year anniversary of your ordination  
Eli and Dina Davidyan to Larry and Ben Strauss, in memory of Myra Strauss

### STERMAN ISENBERG FUND

Diane Isenberg in honor of the birth of Edward Isenberg

### STEPHEN HELMAN MONDAY NIGHT SUPPER FUND

Stephen Arrington to Deb Willwerth, best wishes and good health

### YAHRZEIT FUND

Judith Murray in memory of her mother, Sylvia Ferro  
Bonnie Levine in memory of her mother, Shirley Spar  
Judith Dawson in memory of her father, Solomon Freedman  
LindaLee Adler in memory of her father, Milton Levin  
Louis Tanzer in memory of his mother, Rose Tanzer  
Elain Israelsohn on memory of her brother, Spencer Gelin  
Susan Ostrer in memory of her father, Harold Racow  
Linda Maglnick in memory of her father, Aaron Sager

Please excuse any omissions or errors

**Thank you for your donations**

