

 222 North Main
 Street, Greensburg, PA. 15601
 NISAN - IYAR
 5780
 APRIL 2020

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 www.ceigreensburg.org

 The Mission of Congregation Emanu-El Israel is: To support Judaism and the welfare of our community.

From the desk of Rabbí Leonard Sarko

The importance of holidays, between and betwixt religions, can be confusing and misinterpreted. As a Jew immersed in an American Christian world, their religious holidays have no choice but to impinge on our lives. This is not a statement of good or bad, only a reflection of our reality. Spring envelops us all in a bevy of holidays – Jewish and Christian. How do Jews view the Christian holidays celebrated at this season?

Most Jews believe that Christmas is the most important Christian holiday. This might be an unavoidable conclusion based on the expansive hold of secular commercialism. Yet from a religious point of view, it is in fact Easter that ranks as number one in the Christian mind.

The times leading up to Easter can be quite fascinating to a Jewish onlooker. We see Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday, and marvel at the expanse of the celebrations, with its parades, dancing and abundance of foods. We Jews tend to think of it in terms of an audacious party. In Christian terms this celebration actually begins in January and is connected to the three kings story. Although the celebration had its historical origins in the Middle Ages in Europe, the connection to New Orleans can be traced to the explorer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville who on March 2, 1699 landed in the area of New Orleans. When his men realized it was the eve of the festive holiday, they celebrated America's very first Mardi Gras and established a tradition that took root in this locale and expanded over the years.

This time of celebration leads to Ash Wednesday. Again, Jewish people sit back in amazement. People walk around with ashes on their forehead. If I walked into my home with ashes on my forehead, I would have been greeted by my mother with a slap in the face with a wet washcloth and an exclamation of, "how can you walk around with such a dirty face?" But for Christians it is the beginning of Lent, a season devoted to repentance. In an act of atonement, they give up something for the season, analogous to Jews giving up food for Yom Kippur.

All of this eventually lead to the holiday of Easter. Jewish people see the proliferation of church services, expansive family meals and a stop in the normal operations of our society – not to mention a whole lot of bunnies. For Christians it is a time they celebrate their understanding of the death and what they believe is the resurrection of Jesus – a concept very foreign and unacceptable to Jews.

As peculiar as the perspective of Jews to these Christian holidays must be, I have to imagine the same would hold for Christians, at this same time of year, in their understanding of Purim and Passover. Without an understanding of the concepts of these holidays, an outsider would see Purim as a chance to have a wild costume party, and Passover with its weird foods and our conduction of an expansive family meal to be just as confusing. The Christian world looks on eating of matzah for a full week as a form of punishment and wonders why Jews put up with such a practice.

Perhaps this year would be a good time to approach our Christian neighbors and have a nice long talk about their holidays, so we can have a better understanding of why they celebrate as they do and for us to take the time to explain our traditions to them – even if we need to do this at least six feet apart... We can only foster peace through understanding. May you have a wonderful holiday season.

From the President: Irene C. Rothschild

Over this past weekend, 3/14 and 3/15, I obsessed over whether or not to close the building during this Covid19 Crisis. After hearing from some of you that it should be closed and in consultation with Rabbi Lenny, we made the decision, rather than to wait until the scheduled board meeting to close the building for 30 days. All of the board members were in agreement. Once the decision was made and messages were sent out to make everyone aware of the decision, it was like a great load was lifted from my shoulders.

Yesterday, 3/16, I was watching the news...what else is there to do? Anyway, a friend of my son's appeared on KDKA News speaking about how he will <u>not</u> be closing his small business during this crisis. He owns the Greensburg Newsstand. I imagine that he cannot afford to close and that made me feel sad for him. During the same newscast, I also saw the owner of the Café Barista when she said that she could not afford to close her small business and that made me feel even sadder. So, please during this difficult time, try to remember the small businesses that you usually patronize and continue to do that, if it is possible.

If you are interested in attending services remotely, I urge you to go to the CEI website: **www.ceigreensburg.org** to find the instructions as to how to sign in to the system. Rabbi Lenny and Karen will be manning the system for our convenience and safety.

The office will remain open, so that the business of the Congregation will continue. Rabbi Lenny will be keeping office hours, but they may be abbreviated; however, he is always available via his cell phone. Scott will be working all this week (week of 3/16/20) to sanitize the building as much as possible. Every week thereafter during the close down, he will be there Fridays to clean the offices, the restrooms, prepare the sanctuary for services and to take out the garbage.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we very much appreciate your cooperation during the close down. After the initial 30 days are up, around April 15th, we will re-evaluate the situation and make a decision as to whether to continue the close down or not. Much of that decision will depend on the recommendations from the CDC.

Once again, there will be no meetings, classes or services until April 15, 2020, at the earliest. Please stay healthy and safe!

Irene

CHATTER

Happy Birthday wishes *to*: Autumn Blozowich, Ruben Rothschild, Wally Caplan, Richard Virshup, Herb Kramer and Francois Gau.

Happy Anniversary to: Joyce & Jim Schenck.

CEI Yad Program - a video conference experience. CEI is pleased to announce the start of video conferencing of Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm. We would love for you to come and celebrate with us at the synagogue, but if you cannot and wish to experience services, you can now do it at home. Please go to our website <u>www.ceigreensburg.org</u> for instructions on how to log into the meeting and for the meeting code. If you have any questions, please call and talk with Rabbi Lenny and he will walk you through the process. Songs for service will be available on the website. The Mishkan T'filah (prayer books) used in the service may be borrowed for use online. <u>Please sign them out through the office</u>.

This month's CEI Riddle. Below you will find a riddle. The answer can be found somewhere in this bulletin!



How do you cook a crocodile?

SISTERHOOD NEWS from Marion Slone

Sisterhood is selling Spring flower baskets. Order forms are in the Bulletin or in the CEI lobby. Help Sisterhood raise money by ordering flowers. The orders are due by April 11th to Marion Slone or CEI. Pick up is April 25th at CEI parking lot between 10 AM and noon.

Due to the virus, CEI is cancelling all its activities. Thank you to all who volunteered to participate in the Sisterhood Shabbat Service. Due to circumstances, it could not happen, but thank you for the support. We will also be cancelling the Passover Seder on April 15th.

ALFRED RATNER LIBRARY NEWS by Shirley Shpargel

Book purchased with money from the Alfred Ratner Library Fund: <u>On Division: A Novel</u>, by Goldie Goldbloom (fiction).

<u>White Bird</u> by R.J.Palacio was selected to receive the Sydney Taylor 2020 Award for older readers, grades 4 thru 8. Palacio's visual graphic novel takes place in France during World War II, and is a fictional though historically based story told through the eyes of Sara, a hidden Jewish child. Present day, Julian asks his grandmother to tell him more about her experience as a Jewish child, (Sara), in France during the war. Grandmother tells the story to her grandson, Julian, of how the boy Julian who is impacted by polio, helped her to hide from Nazi soldiers when they invaded their school. Cruelly teased by classmates, Julian becomes Sara's protector, when Sara's once charmed life gives way to an existence of survival. The book includes themes of empathy, bullying and who belongs in society.

The Sydney Taylor 2020 Award for teen readers was <u>Someday We Will Fly</u> by Rachel DeWoskin. The year is 1940, in Warsaw, Poland: Lillia is fifteen when her mother disappears and her father flees with Lillia and her younger sister, Naomi to Shanghai, one of the few places that will accept Jews at this time. DeWoskin relates the story of Shanghai's Jewish refugees during WWII, when Shanghai was under Japanese occupation. Lillia's family have escaped with no money, and they depend on Lillia's talents she inherited from her circus performer parents to save them from starvation and illness. The story captures the destruction of war and occupation, and the resilience communities can have through cross-cultural friendships and acts of kindness. This book is for grades 8 thru 12.

<u>White Bird</u> and <u>Someday We Will Fly</u> can be checked out from the Ratner Library. The Library has many Passover Haggahs available for checking out.

Blackburn Center, Walk a Mile 2020 scheduled for April 18 has been cancelled. Yom HaShoah Community Service scheduled for April 26 has been cancelled. The JFilm showing at Seton Hill University scheduled for April 29 has been cancelled.

USED INK CARTRIDGES! We continue to collect used printer ink cartridges (any brand) to help defray the cost of office supplies. A box is on the desk in the office for the collection of ink cartridges. We appreciate everyone's help with this program.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Remember a loved one by purchasing a plaque for the sanctuary Memorial Boards. For more details, please contact the CEI office at 724-834-0560.



Judaism and the Coronavirus

The world is gripped by the coronavirus and understandably, rampant emotions include fear and anxiety. Jewish leaders suggest this is also a time for traditional values like chesed v'rachamim – kindness and compassion – can also shine through.

People's lives are so disrupted. And certainly our minds never divert from thinking about and praying for our friends who have been exposed or are fragile in their health and the danger this virus poses for them. I tell myself we will work things out. ... And I pray.

A crisis can bring out the best in people. This circumstance certainly gives us the opportunity to think. Our attention turns to mortality and our vulnerability. We sometimes find ourselves victims of life's fragility and tentativeness. This is one of those times. It can help us to reorient our ultimate goals in life.

In this tough time we must remember that Jewish resilience has always been our community: We've always lived among our fellow Jews and looked out for one another's well being. We've long recognized that we're strongest when we stand together, helping and supporting each other. Please stay in touch with each other in our Congregation. Call them, email them, communicate with them – let us support each other in this time of need.

I would not be Rabbi Lenny if I did not search for some humor in this situation. I ran across this and wanted to share:

You know what should be flying off the shelves? Matzah!!!!

That stuff takes years to expire; keeps you full and most important of all, lends itself to a kind of constipation that requires very little toilet paper.

Be safe out there, and if you ever have the need of a rabbi or some application of our religion in your situation please do not hesitate to contact me. Kol Hakavod, *Rabbi Lenny*

Tree of Life Share your joy! Inscribe a leaf our Tree of Life. Leaf -- \$180 ea. (Price includes engraving)

The golden leaves may be inscribed to commemorate joyous events such as births, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, etc. Share your joy by inscribing simchas on our Tree of Life..... an everlasting remembrance of the meaningful happy events that touch life.

LEGACY

If you are planning to initiate or change your will or estate plan, please remember to include Congregation Emanu-El Israel (CEI) as part of your legacy. The monies can be used for a specific purpose as designated by you, or added to an Endowment Fund already set up to assure the ability to continue providing a full-service Congregation to serve the Jewish people of the area.

This legacy can be accomplished by a simple bequest in your will, by one of the allowable charitable trusts where you get an immediate tax advantage, or through life insurance.

PLEASE DO IT NOW! Please check with your attorney or insurance agent. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Jerry Pavloff (724-593-6513) or Gary Moidel (724-468-0005).



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTFUL GIFTS



PULPIT FLOWERS. In Memory of:

- Feb. 28: William Davis by Phyllis Davis, Marilyn & Jim Davis, Linda & Jeffrey Reisner and Larry Brodell.
- March 6: Michael Arbetter by Marilyn & Jim Davis. Francine Lipowitz by Linda & Richard Liebman and Renee Silverman.
- March 13: Joanne Brodell Alpern by Larry Brodell, Linda & Jeffrey Reisner, Phyllis Davis, Marilyn and Jim Davis.

ALFRED RATNER LIBRARY FUND: Supports library facilities, books, & equipment.

ARCHIVE FUND: Helps to defray the cost of archiving the CEI material sent to the Rauh Jewish archives.

BOB & PHYLLIS DAVIS FAMILY FUND: Youth scholarships & enrichment.

CARING FUND: Supports congregants who are experiencing sickness, bereavement & other personal difficulties.

CEI CAPITAL FUND: For approved building structure repairs & replacements.

CEI ENDOWMENT FUND: Provides for the continuity of the congregation by subsidizing future operating expenses.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL CEMETERY FUND: For beautification and upkeep of the Temple Emanu-El Cemetery.

COMPUTER FUND: Provides a means to continually upgrade & maintain CEI's computer system/software.

COPIER FUND: Provides a means to maintain a copier for the CEI office.

CONGREGATION GENERAL FUND: CEI operating expenses. **In Honor of:** Marilyn & Jim Davis by Mr. & Mrs. Evan Segal. The 90th Birthday of Madeline Rossen by Linda & Jeffrey Reisner, The Landman Family, Jack & Debera Millstein and Myra & Mort Friedman. The Birthday of Carol Ratner by Linda & Jeffrey Reisner.

CONGREGATION YAHRZEIT FUND: In Memory of: Samuel E. Weiner, William Weiner & Norman Weiner by Terri & Stan Katzman. Michael Arbetter by Francine Arbetter & Family. Anita Boaz by Donald Gold. Pauline Liebman & Francine Llpowitz by Linda & Richard Liebman. Sara Schulman Metz by Jerold & Shirley Shpargel. Seymour Farber by Jeffrey & Cathy Feryus. Sarah Goldstein Davis, Harry Levine & Israel Samuels by Phyllis Davis.

IVAN B. YOUNG EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT FUND: Supports the advancement of Jewish education.

LIBRARY BOOK FUND: Provides for the purchase of books and other resource material for the library.

NEW SHABBAT PRAYER BOOKS: Provides for the purchase of new Mishkan T'filah.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: Helps individuals and/or org. in need.

REMEMBRANCE FUND: A special donation to Sisterhood to honor or celebrate an event or person. Terri Katzman (724-837-8275) or Virginia Lieberman (724-668-2442). **In Honor of:** Moving to a new house for Marianne & Ron Aaron by Irene Rothschild. Thinking of the Krokosky Family by Irene Rothschild.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND: Supports projects that benefit our community.





Congregation Emanu-El Israel Sisterhood will be selling Beautiful Spring Hanging Baskets From Linda Brown's Floral in Donegal! The cost for each Hanging Basket is \$16.50!

Each Hanging Basket will generate a profit of \$3.00 to be donated to this fundraising event. Orders should be turned in by Saturday April 11th. Hanging baskets will be delivered to Congregation Emanu-El Israel on Saturday April 25th at 10am.

Choices for Hanging Baskets are:

Non-Stop Begonia – New Guinea Impatiens – Million Bells – Wave Petunias and Geraniums (Color Selection cannot be guaranteed and will be on a first come first serve basis)

NAME	Non Stop Begonia	NewGuinea Impatiens	Million Bells	Wave Petunia	Geranium	Total Baskets	Total \$
							12
							_

Orders need to be pre-paid. Checks are written to CEI Sisterhood.



CONGREGATION EMANU-EL ISRAEL 222 North Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601 Phone (724) 834-0560 office@cei-greensburg.org

Rabbi Leonard Sarko

Rabbi Sara Rae Perman, Emerita

April 5, 2020

Dear Congregation Member,

Elections will be held from May 8 – June 8, 2020 to elect three Board members for two-year terms. The election will be conducted by e-mail and mail.

The following people have one more year to serve on the Board. They may be up for re-election next year.

Julie GoldsteinJoel LastMary Ellen KaneVirginia Lieberman

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the By-Laws, a Nominating Committee has been appointed to nominate one person to fill each of the three vacancies. The Nominating committee has nominated the following people to run for Board Membership.

Terri Katzman Irene Rothschild Jamie Kaufer

Any other members in good standing who desire to run for the Board of Directors may do so by presenting to the Nominating Committee a nominating petition signed by twenty (20) congregation members in good standing. Any such petition must reach the CEI office by noon on Friday, May 1, 2020. For your convenience, attached is a template of a nominating petition.

Elections will be held by returning a ballot, which you will receive at a later date. <u>The ballots</u> should be returned to the Congregation office in person, by mail, or by e-mail between May 8 and June 8, 2020.

Nominating Committee: Virginia Lieberman, Chairman Mary Ellen Kane Amy Karelitz Shirley Shpargel ב״ה



Congregation Emanu-El Israel NOMINATING PETITION for the Board of Directors

We, the undersigned, nominate _______ to run for the Board of Directors of Congregation Emanu-El Israel.

1	11
2	12
3	13
4	14
5	15
6	16
7	17
8	18
9	19
10	20

This form must be returned to:

Congregation Emanu-El Israel 222 North Main Street Greensburg, PA. 15601

by Monday, May 1, 2020 at 12:00 noon



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND SERVICES NISAN - IYAR 5780

NO Board MeetingNO Board Meeting7:30 m Shabbat Service ONLINE ONLYHanging Baskets from Sisterhood12 Pesach IV NO Religious School13 Pesach V14 Pesach VI15 Pesach VII 15 Pesach VII16 Pesach VIII CEI is Closed 8th day of Passover1718 Shmini19 NO Religious School (#2)2021 Yom HaShoah222324 Rosh Chodesh25 Tazria-Metzora Rosh Chodesh26 9:00am Religious School (#1) TBD 10:90am Mitzvah Day: Meals on Wheels & Urania Ave Clean-up TBD2728 Yom HaZikaron29 Yom HaZikaron301 MAY Shabbat Service (ONLINE ONLY TBD)2 Achrei Mor- Kedoshim26 9:00am Religious Ave Clean-up TBD2728 Yom HaZikaron29 Yom HaZikaron301 MAY Shabbat Service (ONLINE ONLY TBD)2 Achrei Mor- Kedoshim26 9:00am Nitzvah Day: Meals on Yom HaShoah29 Yom HaZikaron301 MAY Shabbat Service (Birthday celebrations for May, June, July (ONLINE ONLY2 Achrei Mor- Kedoshim	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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Please Note: All times & events subject to change.	Yom HaShoah					May, June, July (<u>ONLINE ONLY</u> <u>TBD</u>)	

DATES TO SAI

Sisterhood Closing Dinner.

Tues., May 25 Tues., May 26 Fri., May 29 Sat., May 30 CEI is Closed. Shabbat Service @ 7:30 PM.

Yizkor Service @ 7:30 PM.

Sun., June 14 CEI Annual Meeting & Congregation Picnic @ 4:00 PM.

The CEI Riddle Answer:

In a crock-pot!



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Rabbi Leonard Sarko. Sara Rae Perman, Rabbi Emerita. CEI Officers: President: Irene C. Rothschild. 1st Vice President: Terri Katzman. Treasurer: Julie Goldstein. Recording Secretary: Virginia Lieberman. Sisterhood President: Marion Slone, Men's Club President: Gary Moidel. Bulletin Editors: Mary Ellen Kane & Bea Harrison.



<u>April 3</u>: Ben David Barnhart, *Benjamin Berkofsky, *Louis Bleiberg, Frances Brodell, Steve Brown, *Goldie Cohen, Louise Davidson, *Elliot Farber, Sara Broida Friedberg, Jacob Gelman, Clara Sedel Greenberg, *Burrel Hochberg, *B. Jacob Levine, Sara Schulman Metz, *Darlene Robinowitz, *Seth Sadock, *Israel Samuels, *Maxene Rita Segal, *Ida Sine, *David L. Slone, Nettie Tannenbaum and *William Zakowitz.

April 10: Dr. Boyd Button, Saul Farber, Edgar Goldman, *Saralouise Hirshberg, Helen Kirkpatrick, *Lillian Kogut, Charles Koral, *Michael Magadof, Joan Mendler, *Joseph Miller, Celia Naumoff, Anna Pavloff, *Isaac Pomerantz, *Alfred W. Ratner, *Rolf Rothschild, Norma Shapiro, *Sol Shpargel, William Virshup and *Mordecai W. Wolf.

April 17: *Divine Joy Bayer, Jeny Bergstein, Morris Bergstein, *Morris Bolner, *Bette Buchman, *Joseph Callet, *Goldie Cohen, Barbara Eckstein, *Meyer Farber, Mollie Drexler Goodman, *Celia Grossman, Joseph Israel, *Eva Kahanowitz, Paula Last, *Dorothy C. Miller, Louis Naumoff, *Max Pretter, *Catherine Ratner, *Gertrude "Tootsie" Ratner, *Wolf Shoag, *Esther Wolinsky, Mayer Wolinsky, *Bessie Ziff, *Pearl Y. Ziff and *Joseph Ziskind.

April 24: *Sara Altman, Harry Bernstein, Fred Bray, Jr., *Sheldon Cohen, Joseph Conroy, *Ida Diamond, *Samuel J. Friedland, Norma Gespass, Isabel Glantz, *Alyce Hochberg, Anita Koral, *Thelma Levin, *Sylvia R. Naumoff, *Dr. Samuel Pittler, *Yetta Sandson, Ruth Shapiro, Albert Silverberg, *Noah Wood Toig and *Mary Whiteman.

<u>May 1</u>: Sol Buckstein, *Sadie B. Daniels-Adler, *Nathan Dates, *Bennett Davis, *Max Harris, *J. Levin, Melvin Levin, Libby Louis, Goldye Pittler, Mireille Rousseau, Harry Sandson, *Sarah K. Silverman, *Jennie Soltz, *Ethel Stalin, *Louis Wilder, Dr. Thomas Warren Wilson, *Rose Witaskis and *Louis I. Zakon.



* A light will be lit on the Memorial Board

