

SONS OF JACOB BULLETIN



Upcoming Services with Rabbi Kushner

Purim
Celebration

Wednesday
March 8th



Office hours:

11:00am-3:00pm

Mon, Wed, & Thur

As we begin the secular year 2023, we have a busy time ahead.

Board members have been looking at properties to rent for our future home. They are working to schedule an opportunity for congregants to view potential sites. We would like to get the feedback from the group after a tour is completed. Please watch for future announcements.

Also note if you have any questions or concerns regarding the pending sale please contact board members for the facts.

As of January 1st, 2023:

Due to a change in Erin Miller's other job, she will no longer be working regular office hours at SOJ. She will be helping with various projects throughout the synagogue, so you may still see her around.

Please note our current SOJ office hours to the left.

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

**COHEN, Jay - Donation to Endowment Fund
In memory of Judith Cohen**

HAHN, Lori- Donation to the General Fund

HANSON, Phil - Donation to the General Fund

**KOHN, Joyce Lemson - In memory of father, James Lemson
In memory of grandmother, Esther Klein Jacobs**

**LEDERMAN, Dan - In memory of father, Meyer Sidney Lederman
In memory of grandfather, Joseph Lederman**

**LEDERMAN, David & Family - In memory of father, Meyer Sidney Lederman
In memory of grandfather, Joseph Lederman**

**LEDERMAN, Jacob & Family - In memory of father, Meyer Sidney Lederman
In memory of grandfather, Joseph Lederman**

**LEDERMAN, Josh - In memory of father, Meyer Sidney Lederman
In memory of grandfather, Joseph Lederman**

LEDERMAN, Ted, Renee & Debbie - In memory of grandfather, Joseph Lederman

LINICK, Rochelle - In memory of mother, Bess D. Cohn

**MACLACHLAN, Nancy & Robert - In memory of mother, Rosemary Greenberg
In memory of grandmother, Sheva Sophia Katz**

MARGULIS, Jay & Greta - In memory of parents, Alex & Mary Margulis

**NASHEL, Susan - In memory of father, Harry Blindman
In memory of grandfather, David Gershovitz**

**STROM, Bruce - Donation to the General Fund
In memory of father, Harry Strom
In memory of grandfather, Morris Strom**

**VIDIS, Arnold & Mary Kay - Donation to the Cemetery Fund
In memory of mother, Ethel McGlaughlin**

Todah Rabah

Yahrzeits

The yahrzeits of these beloved, departed relatives listed below should be observed on the Friday and Saturday of the week listed.

January 1 - 7:

Irving Becker
Allan Cutler
Alice Rose
Helen Green
Leo P. Gradinger
Abe Lemberger
Frank Rubin
Judithe Gordesky
Cohen
Elmer Cohn
David Gershovitz
Meyer Epstein
Leslie Wolfe
Louis Feinberg
Adele Lazar
Emil Brady

January 8 - 14:

Fannie Rothschild
Charlotte Steinberg
Chae Edes Walner
Ida Barg
Harry Cohn
Dale Wolf
Chuck Meyers
Rose Becker
Philip Fein
Ben Gradinger

January 15 -21:

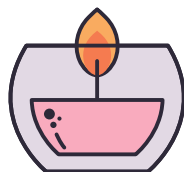
David Deutchman
Sidney Guralnik
Adele Goldstein
Minnie Slavin
Abraham Aba
Siegel
Eva Kronberg
Eli Becker
Elsie Levine
Clara Pallant
Jacqueline Means

January 22 - 28:

Harry Strom
Fanny Bookatz
Clara Oberndorfer
Ted Fratrik
Doloris Dwyer
David Greenfield
Ada Slivken
Ruben Zeiger

Jan 29 - Feb 4:

Lorry Hankin
Pearl Bernstein
Sol Goldstein
Max Pallant
David Bernstein
Paula Strom
Ida Glazer
Jacob Rosen
Morris Strom
Wilma Schmidt
Esther Harris
Ruth Zeiger
Paul Diamond
Minnie Massel
Daniel Power



Steps into the New Secular Year

It seems strange to me to hear people wishing each other a "Happy New Year" when our Jewish calendar already made this transition several months ago. Just looking back a moment: in the past weeks, we have almost finished reading through the first book of our Bible, called "Bereshit" (Genesis). This Hebrew word breaks down into two parts: Be-Reshit, "Be" meaning "in" and "Reshit" comes from the more familiar word "Rosh," meaning "the head - or the beginning - of." Rosh ha-Shanah means literally "the head of the year." January 1st has no particular significance in a Jewish context. Nevertheless, we live surrounded by conventional secular culture, and thus can't easily avoid its influence. I'm thinking for example of all the beautiful calendars that are sent out every year from various organizations, some with art, some with spectacular photography. All have however one thing in common: twelve empty pages free to fill out as we choose.

Viewing a new calendar with empty pages has something tremendously relaxing. It gives me the tempting illusion of having so much unscheduled time in front of me! Alas, the empty pages very quickly get scribbled full of appointments and deadlines, birthday reminders and travel plans. It sometimes seems that all this unscheduled time disappears and fills itself out even before I have had a chance to live it. The advertising industry knows what to do to with these pages, offering every year something different yet also predictably similar: in January there are sales for exercise equipment. In February you see offers for large-screen TV's, Valentines' Day chocolates, gardening equipment and so on throughout the year. This both amuses and irks me: must we really allow secular mercantile sources dictate with what we fill our days or mark down on our calendar squares?

Our Sages advise us in Pirkei Avot (The Ethics of the Fathers): "Ponder three things and you will avoid falling into the clutches of sin: Keep in mind what is above you: An Eye that sees, an Ear that hears, and a Book in which all your deeds are recorded."

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI KUSHNER

"As every flower fades and as all youth
Departs, so life at every stage,
So every virtue, so our grasp of truth
Blooms in its day and may not last forever.
Since life may summon us at every age
Be ready, heart, for parting, new endeavor,
Be ready bravely and without remorse
To find new light that old ties cannot give.
In all beginnings dwells a magic force
For guarding us and helping us to live."

(From the poem "Steps" by the German poet Hermann Hesse)

Stepping into the new secular year, this "magic force of all beginning" is an inspiration to fill our calendar pages with deep spiritual responsibility. I wish us all a year of being aware of how well we listen to others and what we choose to see in them. That also means: a year of learning, treasured relationships, and of communal caring!

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Rebecca



JEWISH CONNECTIONS BOOK CLUB



The Jewish Connections Book Club meets once a month.
Please call or email the SOJ office if you are interested in joining.

SELECTED BOOKS FOR JANUARY 2023 - JUNE 2023:

January 2023:

Fear No Evil

By Natan Sharansky; Translated by Stefani Hoffman
1988, Random House

February 2023:

Davita's Harp

By Chaim Potok
1985, Random House/Ballantine; Reprinted 1996

March 2023:

A Little Girl is Dead

By Harry Golden
1965, Avon

April 2023: (Holocaust Selection)

The Warsaw Orphan: A WWII Novel

By Kelly Rimmer
2021, Graydon House

May 2023:

The Book of Sarah

By Sarah Lightman
2019, Myriad Editions New Internationalist

June 2023:

To Repair a Broken World: The Life of Henrietta Szold, Founder of Hadassah

By Dvora Hacoheh
2021, Harvard University Press