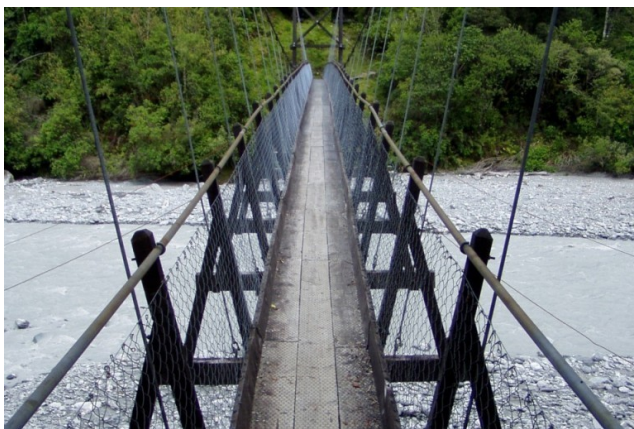


# Keeping our Balance on the Narrow Bridge

By Cantor Martin Levson

"All of the world is like a very narrow bridge. The most important thing is not to be afraid." — Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav



This world seems like a scary place right now. The Omicron variant of the Covid virus is still surging, and yes, while it seems to be a less lethal mutation (especially if you are vaccinated and boosted), it's still extremely transmissible, and it's something you *don't* want to get. And, God forbid, you have some other health issue that would require a surgery or a visit to the ER right now. As I write this article, the United States, NATO, and Russia are rattling their sabers over the Ukraine. And

then, of course, if you are Jewish, there's the fear of gathering in our own sanctuaries for worship, and the concern that performing the quintessentially Jewish *mitzvah* of "welcoming the stranger" might lead to a hostage situation. The bridge that is this world feels extremely narrow right now.

The truth is, of course, that life is always scary. Any one of the activities we engage in every day comes with risks; we just don't usually think about them. Get in the car and drive to the store? Go to work at your office? Go to classes at school? We don't often consider this, but there's no guarantee that any of us are going to come back home safe and sound from any of those mundane, everyday activities. But we can't live our lives in that state of paralyzing fear.

I lived in Vienna for 3 months back in 1986. It was a charming little anti-Semitic town. (I have stories.) But in the wake of Colleyville, a memory came back to me this past week. Sheri came to visit me while I was living there, and one day we went to visit the synagogue in the inner ring of the city. We were both shocked and amazed at the level of security we found there; the guards armed with machine guns. It seemed so al-



**Coco's of Oconomowoc: the January meeting has been rescheduled. Contact Elly Kraines (ellyanna340@gmail.com) to join the CEEW Dining Group for a lovely brunch on February 6.**

## ...on the Narrow Bridge, continued

ien, so strange to see a Jewish house of worship with such restricted access; it was so different than our experiences of synagogues in America were at that time.

As I have mentioned, I have been finding resonance this year in the stories of Exodus. And what has struck me this year was that two of the fundamental, defining stories of our people, the crossing of the Sea of Reeds, and the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, were both moments filled with extreme fear.

At every morning and evening worship service, we Jews recall our redemption from

Egyptian slavery with the words of the *Mi Chamocha* prayer. Like our ancestors, we sing that God is *norah t'hilot*, “awesome in praises!” We have a slightly skewed version of the translation of the word “awesome” in contemporary English thanks to surfing slang, but the word originally meant both amazing AND terrifying. At Mount Sinai, we got quite a pyrotechnic display of sound and light. Curiously, the Hebrew text describes a condition of synesthesia; that the people “saw the thunder” (Exodus 20:15) in that dramatic moment. It was so intense that our senses were scrambled by the incredible nature of this event. We read in Exodus 19:16, “On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn, and all the people who were in the camp trembled.”

And so in thinking back on the events in Colleyville, Texas, and our sense of dread on that Shabbat afternoon and evening, I've taken comfort in the words of Torah and the stories

of Exodus, and I realize that our people have always been dealing with terror, even at our peak, most mythic moments. We have always been on a very narrow bridge, and in Reb Nachman's brilliant words, the important thing is not to be afraid.

Now, healthy fear is a good and reasonable thing, and I'm not saying to ignore blatant threats. But we need to do what we can to minimize them, and to then live our lives. You recently received an email about some new security initiatives for CEEW. These were already in the works; they are not a direct reaction to the events in Colleyville. We know that one of the prices we pay to live in an open society is that we have to be vigilant. We must be aware of possible threats and do what we can to minimize them, but while doing so we need to ensure that we stay true to who we are as a people, and to stay true to the teachings that we read in our Torah and that we have passed down from generation to generation. And yes, one of those teachings is to “welcome the stranger.” ★

### It's Time to Re-Key!

Over time, exterior door keys become lost or are not returned after being lent for events. It's time to do this again, so the security committee has arranged to change the locks on the building's exterior doors.

New keys will be issued to a more limited number of individuals. However, if a key is needed for a particular short-term use, a member may sign out a key by arrangement with the administrator.

Do you have a key? Contact Laurie Schwartz at (303) 888-5137 to make arrangements to turn it in.



**"To be spiritual is to be amazed."**

**— Abraham Joshua Heschel**

# Tu B'Shevat Seder: The Four Worlds

**A**midst the challenges of life these days, the Sunday school had a Zoom experience with Cantor Levson, Carrie Barbakoff, Eileen Jacquet and Marie Loeffler on Sunday, January 16, 2022. With a variety of prayers, readings and songs, all were presented with information about this Jewish holiday.

Going back more than 500 years and beginning with 16th century Kabbalists, the Tu B'Shevat Seder was then forgotten for a long time. But thanks to records of material it was remembered and brought back to help celebrate the wonders of the natural world. The seder follows many of the more know Passover seder and consists of the notion of the four worlds:

## **Assiyah**

Earth (physical things) fruits with hard shells

## **Yetzirah**

Water (emotional and formational ideas) fruits with pits

## **Briyah**

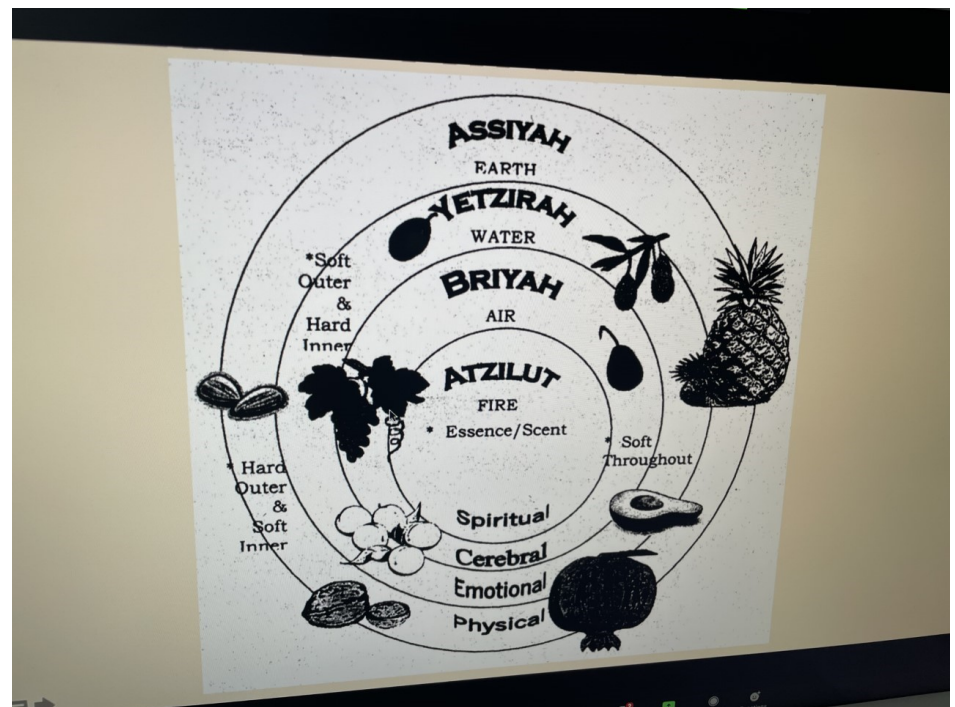
Air (intellectual and language) fruits that are entirely edible

## **Atzilut**

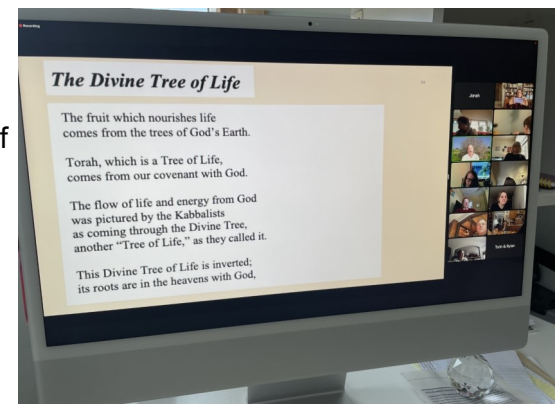
Fire (spiritual world and connecting with G-d) fruits with no edible form (smells like a spice box)

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

**From and About our Sunday School Students**



As mentioned above, this Jewish holiday was reborn about 100 years ago to help Jews celebrate the miracles of nature, especially the gift of planting trees. Actually, one can say this holiday celebrates the gifts of the living earth itself. We should all be reminded to help sustain this important goal forever. ✨







**JOIN CARING COMMITTEE:** If you are interested in joining CEEW's Caring Committee, please contact chair Marsha Fensin at [mfsings@wi.rr.com](mailto:mfsings@wi.rr.com).

## CEEW News Briefs

### Continuing this Winter: Saturday Services

On December 18th we held the first of a planned series of monthly Saturday morning services at 10:30 a.m. [Unfortunately, due to the resurgence of COVID, the January 22 Saturday service was cancelled. —Ed.]

The next Saturday service will be on February 19, if conditions are safe for us to gather,

Hopefully this will be well attended so we can develop a new tradition at CEEW.

— Laurie Schwartz

### Dining Group: Coco Re-redux

The CEEW Dining Group will meet at 11 a.m. on **Sunday, February 6** for brunch at Coco's Restaurant in Oconomowoc. The January date was rescheduled after the latest surge in COVID cases.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Elly Kraines by emailing her at [ellyanna340@gmail.com](mailto:ellyanna340@gmail.com).

### CEEW Virtual Book Fair 2021

This year 12 people participated in our annual book fair, order-

ing 48 books. CEEW received a check for \$194.69, which was 20% of the total sales. Lisa Baudoin, owner of Books & Company, has been a wonderful partner with CEEW and we hope that our members continue to support her book store when they are buying books to read or as gifts.

There will be a discussion of how to spend this money for the library, technology, or CEEW programming for the remainder of this year. Much thanks to those who participated in the virtual book fair for this year!

And, "next year in the library"!

— Adrian Richfield

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Purim is in mid-March this year and will be here before you know it. Cantor Levson is looking for singers and actors to participate in the Purim Spiel. Don't be shy! If you're interested, email him at [spiritualleader@waukeshatemple.org](mailto:spiritualleader@waukeshatemple.org).

Temple President Laurie Schwartz is looking for persons who can help to plan our community Seder and continue the much appreciated work of Elly Kraines and Mary Schuman. If you can help, email Laurie at [president@waukeshatemple.org](mailto:president@waukeshatemple.org). Thank you!





**Question: What do you call steaks ordered by ten Jews?**

# New Year for the Trees

By Sydney Small

**M**ost people have heard of the annual environmental awareness celebration known as Earth Day. The Jewish community also has a day that some have come to call the “Jewish Earth Day” or “Jewish Arbor Day”, which is officially termed Tu B’Shevat. The celebration typically occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January or February, and is based on the Israeli agricultural calendar.

It may also be called the “new year or birthday of the trees.” According to the Women of Reform Judaism, the day “.... was originally believed to represent the end of the fiscal year for fruit-bearing trees.” The holiday also heralded the oncoming growth of spring.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, Kabbalists created a Seder in which participants enjoyed sweet treats like fruit and wine, as well as various nuts. Taken from reformjudaism.org’s section on Jewish holidays, we learn that the current Tu B’Shevat Seder features three categories of fruits or nuts, which “....are said to represent different seasons and/or ways of being in the world, often following Kabbalistic categories.”

Some meals have as their focus



To have a tree planted in Israel, to celebrate Tu B’Shevat or any life cycle event, go to <https://usa.jnf.org/jnf-tree-planting-center/>.

the “seven species” associated with Israel in the Torah, which include the well-known grains of barley and wheat. Various types of nuts and dates may be paired with that most unique tiny-seeded fruit, the pomegranate.

What started as an agricultural festival has become a day on which it is common for Jews the world over to plant trees in hopes of preserving the earth for future generations. This ceremony is also a way for people to renew their commitment to Israel and remember cher-

ished loved ones by purchasing and planting trees in their names.

Whether you purchase trees for Israel, grow a small window garden in your apartment or have a multifaceted Seder with those delectable dates and fresh figs, there are many ways to recognize the value of trees and other plants and the interconnection we have to our fragile planet. May we all appreciate the fruits and other wonders of our precious earth so future generations in Israel and around the globe have a place to call home. ☆



Volunteers are needed for the member-led Friday night Shabbat services. Contact Mari-Claire Zimmerman ([wzimmerman1@wi.rr.com](mailto:wzimmerman1@wi.rr.com)) for more information.

## Sisterhood Happenings

# Scholarships for Summer Camps

By Carol O'Neil

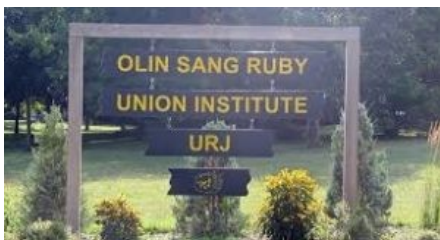
Each year the CEEW Sisterhood offers the opportunity children and grandchildren of CEEW members to earn a scholarship to a Jewish summer camp. This camp may be an overnight camp or a day camp. Jewish camps offer a sense of belonging and help strengthen ties to the worldwide Jewish community.

The diversity that campers experience at camp also helps them to see all Jews members of their family. Camp in general enables the camper to:

- develop lifelong skills
- gain independence
- make time for play
- learn teamwork
- grow resiliency
- enjoy fun screen-free activities
- connect to nature
- foster growth

There are several Jewish overnight camps in our local area.

OSRUI, located on Lac La Belle just outside of Oconomowoc, is the oldest of the Union of Reform Judaism Camps. <https://osrui.org/>



Camp Beber, a B'nai Brith camp, is located in rural Mukwonago. <https://www.bebercamp.com/>



The JCC in Milwaukee has a number of day camps and overnight camp options to explore at <https://www.jccmilwaukee.org/programs/camps/>



To apply for the CEEW Sisterhood Summer 2022 grants, please send an email to [caroljo@tds.net](mailto:caroljo@tds.net) (Carol O'Neil). To be considered for a scholarship please complete application and return to the Sisterhood by March 31, 2022.

In addition to the CEEW Sisterhood scholarships, other grants are available. The Milwaukee Jewish Federation and the Foundation

for Jewish Camp offer grants up to \$1000 for first-time campers at Jewish overnight camps.

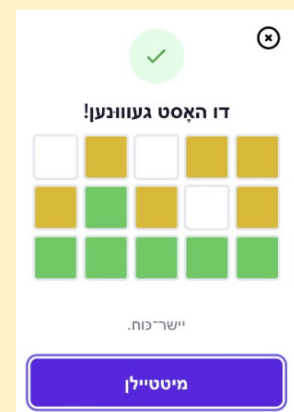
For more information go to [www.MilwaukeeJewish.org/OneHappyCamper](http://www.MilwaukeeJewish.org/OneHappyCamper). ★

### Hooked on Wordle? Meet Vertl and Meduyeket!

The word-guessing game Wordle has become immensely popular, and now versions are available in other languages — including Yiddish ([Vertl](#)) and Hebrew ([Meduyeket](#), which means “exactly”).

If you are already familiar with how Wordle works you should be able to dive right in. The games do not require a social media account or an application download.

*B'chatzlacha!* (Good luck!)





Answer: Filet minyan!

## Sisterhood Event

# The History of Jewish Music (Part One)

By Mari-Claire Zimmerman

On January 11, the Sisterhood and Cantor Martin Levson presented a seminar on the history of Jewish music. Cantor Levson felt that this was an ideal time to make a presentation relating to the weekly Parsha concerning the Israelites, who crossed the Sea of Reeds. Upon emerging from the sea, the community broke into song. Jewish music dates back to our beginnings.

What we consider as Jewish music can have many definitions, most of which often — but not always — describe Jewish music. It may be words from the liturgy, the minor chords often associated with Jewish melodies or a choir of voices in the style of the 1800's. It could be a musical style of current pop music, it may be written by a Jewish composer or sung by a Jewish singer.

Jewish music could also reflect and describe the Jewish experiences of many differing times in history including instruments used in the times of King David or perhaps instruments used today. Our music may be about our holidays, as in the Adam Sandler "Chanukah song." It may be in Hebrew, Aramaic, Yiddish, or any

modern language. It may describe Israel or our faith. It may be written by cantors who were once camp counselors or by Debbie Friedman. The music may have been written in 4/4 time or in 3/4 time. Different holidays have music that is special for each occasion.

The oldest form of Jewish music since the giving of the Torah is the cantillations, or Trope, of the Torah itself. We know that Psalms in the time of King David were sung, but we don't know what the melodies were, how they sounded, or even if instruments were played to accompany the words. What does the word "selah" actually mean?

Some songs which we consider "traditional" were actually added to our prayer services fairly recently. For example, "Mi Sheberach" was added to Reform services in the 1900s.

Some music is considered traditional music and is of Ashkenazi tradition. Other melodies may be Sephardic or Yemeni. Each of

these has its own trope, even though the cantillation marks of the liturgy may look the same. Torah trope is different from Haftarah trope, and the trope used on the High Holidays may be different still. The music reflects the culture of the composer and may



have changed according to the time period of those cultures. Some melodies are so well known to us that they have become "traditional" such as the Sh'mah, Kol Nidre, or Maoz Tzur.

Our cantor sees himself as a "gatekeeper" of Jewish music, bringing a variety of music to our congregation. He has taught adult education classes regarding Jewish music and would like to be able to do so again. We look forward to another session on this topic. ✨





Share with the congregation all the wonderful things happening in your family!  
Send birthday and anniversary information to: [bulletin@waukeshatemple.org](mailto:bulletin@waukeshatemple.org).

# Mazel Tov

## מזל טוב

### ANNIVERSARY

**Barbara and Gregory Zacher** celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on February 26.



### BIRTHDAYS

**Mark Levy** celebrates a birthday on February 9.

**Elly Kraines** celebrates a birthday on February 10.

**Karen Levy** celebrates a birthday on February 19.

**Cole Huskey** turns 19 on February 28. Cole is the son of Ellyn Lem and Trevor Huskey, and the grandson of Joanne Wagner.

## IN APPRECIATION

of generous contributions to Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha

December donations, submitted by CEEW Treasurer **Alan Meyers**

### IN MEMORY OF

- **Rhoda Frank**  
Donation from Alice Lambie
- **Emanuel Jacobs**  
Donation from Howard Jacobs
- **Stanley Jacobs**  
Donation from Howard Jacobs
- **Tillie Kulakow**  
Donation from June Kulakow
- **Richard Steinberg**  
Donation from Rick Steinberg

### GENERAL FUND

Donations from Mark Helgert, Karen Levy, John Remmers, Morrie Rudberg, and Laurie Schwartz;

from Kathryn Nova to support the congregation and its work to support Jewish culture and build bonds within the community;

from Elaine Tobias in gratitude for the congregation's welcome of her attendance at Rosh Hashanah services





**Contact temple administrator Brigitte Alexander prior to a service, to add a name of a relative or friend to the recent list of those who have died.**

## *May Their Memories Be for a Blessing*

### **Yahrzeiten** **Shevat / Adar I (February)**



**PLEASE NOTE:** Some of the listings don't have a Hebrew date; that is because we have been changing the database and offering English / Gregorian dates to those who prefer them. In such cases, only the English / Gregorian dates will be listed.

**Arthur Cohen:** February 18; Adar-I 17  
*Observed by the Congregation*

**Jerome Cohen:** February 28; Adar-I 27  
*Father of Ed (Carol) Vandenberg*

**Dorothy Cummins:** February 27  
*Mother of Dr. Michael (Nancy) Cummins*

**Leonard Edelstein:** February 21; Adar-I 20  
*Father of Jeff (Maggie) Edelstein*

**Cyd Wendy Fishman Lash:** February 14; Adar-I 13  
*Observed by the Congregation*

**June Freeman:** February 1; Shevat 30  
*Observed by the Congregation*

**Hannah S. Frisch:** February 17; Adar-I 16  
*Observed by the Congregation*

**Leon Gelbart:** February 2  
*Uncle of Marsha (Lee) Fensin*

**Sol Gellman:** February 22  
*Grandfather of Bill (Jan) Lowell*

**Joseph Kramer:** February 27  
*Son of Sara (Doug) Anson*

**Clara Levin:** February 19  
*Grandmother of Bill (Jan) Lowell*

**Max Levin:** February 19  
*Grandfather of Bill (Jan) Lowell*

**Aaron Levy:** February 16  
*Father of Karen (Peter Lee) Levy*

**Louis Small:** February 1  
*Father of Marvin (Sandra) Small;  
Grandfather of Sydney Small*

**Patrick Sprosty:** February 11  
*Fiance of Jennifer Ecker*

**Lois Thalman-Bruni:** February 17  
*Mother of Jan (Bill) Lowell*

**Lucien Van Minden:** February 9; Adar-I 8  
*Grandfather of Claude Scher*

**Sophie Venango:** February 28  
*Mother of Arlene (Peter) Shelley*

*May G-d comfort you  
among all the mourners  
of Zion and Jerusalem.*





**“She is a tree of life to them that grasp her, and all who hold on to her are happy.”  
— Proverbs 3:18**

## The Poetry Corner

### When I Grow Up: A Poem for Haftarah Vayeilech

By Rick Lupert

When I grow up I want to be a rose  
I want them to compare my roots to  
trees.

My branches too. I'll be on the cover  
of all the magazines. Pages with  
just the word *blossom*.

When I grow up, I want the shade  
I provide to shield everyone from  
the harshness of mid-day light.  
I want nostrils to open wide in  
anticipation of my arrival.

When I grow up, I'll never  
run out of fruit. The hungry and  
the righteous will walk in my circles.  
The rebellious too. Though their ac-  
tions  
will make them stumble.

When I grow up, anger will be  
only temporary. Love, forever.  
My foibles will be considered texture.  
My sins, tossed into the ocean.  
When I grow up, if I grow up  
It'll be like Woodstock again.

This month the Poetry Corner features poems on the theme of trees. Suggest a favorite poem, or submit your own work, to Adrian Richfield ([susu78@aol.com](mailto:susu78@aol.com)) or Sydney Small ([rottiesrock@wi.rr.com](mailto:rottiesrock@wi.rr.com)).

### from “Birches”

By Robert Frost

I'd like to get away from earth awhile  
And then come back to it and begin  
over.

May no fate willfully misunderstand  
me

And half grant what I wish and  
snatch me away  
Not to return. Earth's the right place  
for love:

I don't know where it's likely to go  
better.

I'd like to go by climbing a birch tree,  
And climb black branches up a snow-  
white trunk

Toward heaven, till the tree could  
bear no more,

But dipped its top and set me down  
again.

That would be good both going and  
coming back.

One could do worse than be a swing-  
er of birches.





**COMING SOON: *The Books of Jacob* by Nobel Prize winning author Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft, will be released in hardcover on February 1. Order this book through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and support our congregation!**

## BOOK CLUB REPORT

### Adrian Richfield Reviews: *Apples from the Desert*

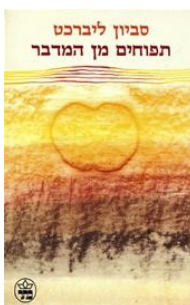
"Liebrecht has perfect pitch for certain hyper alert, abrasive patterns of Jewish speech....Finely wrought stories of private lives shed light on a terrifying political conflict." — *New York Times*

*Apples from the Desert* is a collection of 12 stories that were first published in Israel in this first English translation of popular author Savyon Liebrecht. The book brings together her vivid and affecting



Savyon  
**LIEBRECHT**

work with a very complex story line present in her native Israel. Liebrecht studied philosophy and literature at Tel Aviv University, and has published novels and short stories as well as plays and television scripts. Her stories are often linked by a common theme of two people caught up in a conflict which seems to pervade generations. The stories are personal but also exhibit fierce pleas for understanding and often justice. The stories are somber with difficult marriages, Holocaust stories and reminders, and, of



course, the problems between Israelis and Arabs. The stories paint a portrait of contemporary Israel, but their truths linger forever. Her stories of private lives shed light on all things Israeli including the past.

Liebrecht's parents were death camp survivors who immigrated to Israel when she was a year old (she was born in Munich in

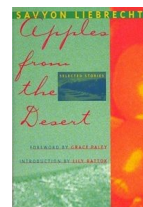
1948). Their silences lingered from childhood to adulthood and reflect her skill as a story teller that has healing power.

In the title story, an Orthodox girl runs away to live with her boyfriend on a secular kibbutz and her mother sets out to bring her wayward daughter home. On the bus into the desert, she eats an apple with a rotten core. We find out that the boyfriend nurtures apples in the desert. Further horticultural details, along with biblical allusions, turn this story upside down.

Contact Diana Stroshine ([dstroshine@hotmail.com](mailto:dstroshine@hotmail.com)) to sign up for the meeting. ✨



### CEEW Book Club



**What:** Discussion of *Apples from the Desert*  
**Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 2  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Leader:** Judy Schneider





**SAVE THE DATE: Torin Ecker's bar mitzvah is currently scheduled for Saturday, March 5. Watch your email for more information.**

CEEW's Membership Committee is open to all members who are interested in making a difference. Please contact Ellyn Lem for more information: [leme@uwm.edu](mailto:leme@uwm.edu). We're waiting to hear from you!



## SHABBAT SERVICES

<b>FEBRUARY 4</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Cantor-led service</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 11</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Member-led service</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 18</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Cantor-led service (Zoom only)</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 19</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning service</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 25</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Religious school service</b>

These services may be available online, in person, or both. Watch your email for updates on the mode of any temple event.

See the Temple website for updates and instructions on how to view events online.

## CEEW TEMPLE LEADERSHIP

**SPIRITUAL LEADER**  
**EDUCATION DIRECTOR**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**ADMINISTRATOR**

Cantor Martin Levson  
Carrie Barbakoff  
Laurie Schwartz  
Mark Levy  
Brigette Alexander

[spiritualleader@waukeshatemple.org](mailto:spiritualleader@waukeshatemple.org)  
[eddirector@waukeshatemple.org](mailto:eddirector@waukeshatemple.org)  
[president@waukeshatemple.org](mailto:president@waukeshatemple.org)  
[markallanlevy@yahoo.com](mailto:markallanlevy@yahoo.com)  
[administrator@waukeshatemple.org](mailto:administrator@waukeshatemple.org)



**Did you get away? Send us your travel stories and pictures, old or new, and share those memories with all of us. Contact Adrian Richfield at [susu78@aol.com](mailto:susu78@aol.com) or Sydney Small at [rottiesrock@wi.rr.com](mailto:rottiesrock@wi.rr.com) for guidelines.**

## A Letter From... Israel

Dear CEEW family,

I do believe life is about timing. I was able to fly nonstop to Israel before the USA turned red. At the time of this writing, I am unable to return to the US since it continues to be red. But life is so dynamic here in Israel that policies are always changing. I have an app in English that gives me daily updates!

My quarantine this time was only three days. I had my PCR test before I flew, then a second one at the Ben-Gurion airport and a third one at a drive-through three days later. This time I was able to obtain my “green pass” without difficulty since Israel now recognizes foreign immunizations. The green pass allows you to enter stores, malls, and other indoor group sites.

I have spent most of my time at our daughter and son-in law’s new condo in Kfar Yonah which is east of Netanya. I can see the West Bank from their *mirpesset* (balcony). I have my own bedroom with bathroom. My room is also the *mamad*, the safe reinforced room in case of rocket attack. And so I don’t hear the baby cry at night. The neighborhood is largely under construction and often the drilling, pounding, banging and beeping (of trucks backing up) is disconcerting when it’s nonstop. Often I long for the quiet woods of Mukwonago, Wisconsin. Living in this newer but still urban environment has been an adjustment for me. Fortunately, in this neighborhood there are plenty of green spaces and parks, *markolets* (small markets), and fun stores to buy the things we need in small nearby *moshavim* (small settlements) without going into congested Netanya.

A day after I arrived, my son in law’s 94-year-old grandmother passed away, so the family spent a lot of time at shiva — a full seven days. A traditional Iraqi/Yemenite meal was cooked after shiva and served in the large shiva tent. Jachnun was served which is a Yemenite pastry baked over 24 hours in a special jachnun pan. It tasted like soggy dough to me and I would have much preferred a good noodle kugel with raisins! The shiva did allow me to see the extended family which I was not able to do on my last visit.



My lack of day-to-day Hebrew continues to pose issues for me. I have signed up for Hebrew *Ulpan* (language training) online which will start soon. For example, while grocery shopping, I thought I bought grape juice. After all, it had a picture of grapes on the bottle. What else could it be? I didn’t see *meets*, the word for juice. It turned out to be some grape-flavored syrup — yuck! Most people, however, are very helpful and they usually find someone who can speak English to help me.

I love Shabbat here, and it is my break from all the construction noise. While I haven’t found a congregation to attend, we usually spend Shabbat with our daughter’s in-laws. Christmas Day was like any other day here, except it was Shabbat. There are no Christmas decorations in this town although I did see some decorations for the Russian “Novy God” (New Year) holiday.

In contrast to my apartment life, I was able to take a trip “up North” to the Galilee



**“As a Jew, I need Israel. More precisely: I can live as a Jew outside Israel but not without Israel.”**

**— Elie Wiesel**

## A Letter From... Israel

region. My licensed private guide and native of the Galilee, Edan Geva, proposed a two-day itinerary that encompassed both Jewish and Christian sites in the region.

(Edan has been working hard to support his family at minimum wage jobs since Covid restrictions have destroyed his private tour business. When he wasn't working at manual labor doing site restoration during Covid, he participated in demonstrations to bring the issue of unemployed guides to the forefront. We plan another two-day trip next week where we will travel to the Golan before he takes a minimum wage job at the City of David park in Jerusalem.)

There is so much to see and learn in this green space of the country full of both Jewish and Christian history. One of my favorites was the ancient Jewish city of Magdala/Migdal which is .3 miles north of Tiberius. The Catholic Franciscans have owned the property since 1912 and excavations began there in the 1970s. Archeologists discovered a first-century synagogue (oldest in the Galilee) in 2009. The elaborate synagogue, complete with beautiful mosaics, contained a large rectangular stone decorated on one side with relief of rosettes flanked by palm trees, and on the other side a menorah flanked by urns of oil. It is unclear if this stone was decorative or used for other purposes.

I was in Magdala in 2014 when it was just a construction/archeological site and now it contained a church, hotel, and conference center — all empty. Christians believe Jesus preached here and that this was the home of Mary Magdalene.

Magdala was a prosperous fishing village where vats are seen carved into the stone to hold fish from the Galilee.



The fish were then salted for preservation and traded across the world. The town contains four *mikvaot*, one of which still fills with fresh water. One can see that synagogue stones were removed and used for city wall reinforcement, but despite this, Jewish rebels lost against the legions of Vespasian led by Titus. The people were massacred and the town covered over in 67 CE (and ironically preserved). The Jerusalem Post recently reported a second synagogue was discovered nearby across the road, and we were able to get a few glimpses of the work before we were sent away (top secret!).

The Galilee is a region beautiful, historical, and filled with uplifting vistas and trails that I could easily spend a lifetime exploring.

I am hoping my husband, Rich, can travel here in February. I plan to be back in the states by March or early April, but sooner if Rich is not allowed to come due to travel restrictions. No non-citizens are able to fly here except for a few exceptions which keep changing all the time.




From Israel,  
Deb Hacker





## SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES:

February 4, 4:51 pm; February 11, 5:01 pm;  
February 18, 5:10 pm; January 25, 5:19 pm

5782 2022	FEBRUARY					SH'VAT / ADAR I
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Sh'vat 30 Rosh Chodesh Adar I	2 Adar I 1 Midrash group, 10:30 a.m.	3 Adar I 2	4 Adar I 3 Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	5 Adar I 4  Terumah
6 Adar I 5 Religious school, 9 a.m. Dining group, 11 a.m., Coco's	7 Adar I 6	8 Adar I 7	9 Adar I 8 Midrash group, 10:30 a.m.	10 Adar I 9 March Bulletin content deadline	11 Adar I 10 Member-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	12 Adar I 11  Tetzaveh
13 Adar I 12 Religious school, 9 a.m.— 6th and 7th grade retreat	14 Adar I 13 Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.	15 Adar I 14	16 Adar I 15 Midrash group, 10:30 a.m.	17 Adar I 16 Volunteer food distribution, 9:30--11 a.m.	18 Adar I 17 Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	19 Adar I 18 Saturday Morning service, 10:30 a.m.  Ki Tisa
20 Adar I 19 Religious school, 9 a.m.	21 Adar I 20	22 Adar I 21	23 Adar I 22 Midrash group, 10:30 a.m.	24 Adar I 23	25 Adar I 24 Religious school service, 7 p.m.	26 Adar I 25  Vayakhel
27 Adar I 26 Religious school, 9 a.m.	28 Adar I 27					
The content deadline for the March 2022 bulletin is Thursday, February 10.						

Calendar dates and candle lighting times from [hebc.com](http://hebc.com). Check the CEEW calendar for the most current information. Most events are held online via Zoom, as well as in person if possible.



**“Do not say, ‘When I have leisure I shall study’; perhaps you will never have leisure.”  
— Rabbi Hillel**

## FUNDS to which you can donate to help our synagogue

There are many ways to help the synagogue, among them donating to the various funds available at CEEW. Please circle the fund to which you would like your donation to go. Make checks payable to CEEW. Return form with check to:

**Treasurer**  
**Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha**  
**830 W. Moreland Blvd.**  
**Waukesha, WI. 53188**

.....  
**General Fund:** All donations not otherwise designated.

**Endowment Fund:** A fund that is invested to serve as a continual source of stability and income for the synagogue.

**Mensch Fund:** Some of our members are not able to afford fees to attend synagogue events. The fund is used to help defray these costs.

**Education Fund:** Tuition does not cover the full cost of the Religious School. This helps support school expenses.

**Library Fund:** Used to purchase books and supplies.

**Torah Fund:** Used to repair our current scrolls or, perhaps, to buy a new Torah some day.

**Bill and Riva Merkow Endowment Fund:** The intent is to grow this fund so that the income will fund a significant portion of the synagogue's yearly expenses. Our first goal is to fund the spiritual leader full time.

**Goldblatt / Adams Memorial Fund:** Supports the development of teachers' skills that will benefit the synagogue, and helps young people attend Jewish summer camps, Israel programs or youth activities and/or conventions.

**Spiritual Leader's Discretionary Fund:** The spiritual leader can use this fund as needed as long as it meets the tax guidelines.

**Lapham Reserve Fund:** The Board controls this fund. It is used to meet unexpected expenditures.

Enclosed is a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution.

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send acknowledgement card to:**

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**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_