

## Who Runs Israel: A CEEW Adult Education Program with Milwaukee's Shaliach

By Adrian Richfield

What is a Shlichut? Every three years the Milwaukee Jewish Federation brings a new Shaliach (cultural emissary) to live and work in our community. The program here is the oldest continuous shlichut program in the United States and presently hosts Uria Roth.

Uria was born and raised in Kriyat Atta, a small town outside of Haifa. When he was 15, he went to a boarding yeshiva outside Hadera in Kfar HaRoeh. In the army, he served in a human relations unit in addition to continuing his yeshiva studies. Afterward, he started working for the Jewish Agency for Israel on a shlichut in Azerbaijan working for the Jewish community in Baku. His second shlichut was in Rome, Italy and then he traveled in India and Southeast Asia.



Shaliach Uria Roth holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He married his wife, Moria, in 2008 and in 2010 Moria and their one year old son went on another shlichut in Los Angeles where they had their second child. They returned to Jerusalem in 2013, and Uria and Moria had their third child. In his free time he loves theatre, music, movies, traveling and is a huge sports fan.

Uria is excited to meet our congregation in person. He is an engaging speaker and will answer questions about his job in the Milwaukee area, as well as all things Israeli. Light refreshments will be served before the program, which will be followed by a question and answer session. ★

### What?

April 6 Adult Education Program

### Who?

Milwaukee Shaliach Uria Roth

### Times!

Meet & greet	6:45 pm
Program	7:00 pm
Q&A	8:00 pm



**The Dining Group will reconvene in May. Contact Elly Kraines (ellyanna340@gmail.com) if you would like to be on the email list.**

## April 30: Two Cantors and a Concert

I am thrilled to announce that on the weekend of April 29-30 I will be welcoming my dear friend and colleague Rabbi-Cantor Robbi Sherwin to Waukesha. During the service on Friday April 29, I will be officially installed as the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Emanu-El. On Saturday evening, April 30, Robbi and I will be presenting a concert of some of our favorite tunes! I hope that you will be able to join us for this exciting weekend!

Here's Robbi's brief bio:

Recently relocated from Austin, Texas to paradise, a.k.a. Colorado,



Rockin' Rabbi Robbi (R<sup>3</sup>) Sherwin grew up all over the United States in small towns as an Air Force "brat," which is probably responsible for her wanderlust today.

Pre-pandemic Robbi traveled constantly as a Rabbi/Cantor, composer, scholar-in-residence, performer and teacher. She is one-third of the award-winning Jewish band, Sababa, with Scott Leader and Steve Brodsky; she has written and published over 100 Jewish songs along with five award-winning published albums and number six on the way.

Sung from Tulsa to Tel Aviv, Robbi's spirited Jewish song-crafting and rock, pop, folk and "Jewgrass" song stylings are known for their accessibility, energy, and memorable melodies.

She serves as the spiritual leader of the Wood River Jewish Community in Sun Valley/Ketchum Idaho, where she enjoys the "Rocky Mountain Chai-life" connecting others to Judaism through "outside the bimah"

### Cantor's Column

**By Cantor Martin Levson, CEEW Sole/Soul Spiritual Leader**



Robbi Sherwin and Cantor Levson met in 1997 at URJ's Greene Family Camp in beautiful Bruceville, Texas and have been close friends and colleagues ever since.

Jewish experiences with an attitude of high-altitude gratitude.

Robbi is the immediate past president of the Women Cantor's Network (woo-hoo!), a Storahtelling™ Maven, and a consultant to congregations; she has been on the forefront of the contemporary music worship scene as she was one of the first women featured on Jewish Rock Radio. She has served Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and independent communities as a spiritual leader. ✨





**Save the date for CEEW's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) program on May 1.**

## Jewish Educators: Members of the Family

**M**arch was a busy month for the religious school. I want to wish a mazel tov to Ann Meyers for receiving the Coalition for Jewish Learning Teacher impact award for her devotion to the continuation of our youth's Jewish identity beyond their bar/bat mitzvah with her teaching of our Jewish adulting class. Also, mazel tov to Mark Levy for receiving the school support award for his devotion to the betterment of our temple's technology. Without Mark we would not have a multiplatform school or synagogue.

### School News

**From Carrie Barbakoff, Education Director**

Monday night, February 28, was an experience that I have not felt in a long time...I got on a plane and landed in a new city. I went to Baltimore for the ARJE (Association for Reform Jewish Educators) Annual Gathering for 2022. I was one of the 88 people who participated in-person.

Thank you to CEEW for validating my role as the Education Director. I was surrounded by almost 100 people who experience the same types of things I do, day in and day out. The focus of many of the sessions that I participated in was the value of family education.

The school is a part of a family's whole life cycle of Jewish life. We as a congregation can play a role in this cycle by attending inter-generational programming, celebrating baby naming ceremonies, brit milah, B'Mitzvah, weddings and being there for one another during funerals. The conference was a reminder of why I do what I do and what it means to put Judaism into our family's lives and the life of the congregation.

Another thing I gleaned from the

conference was putting proper intention to all of the activities we do. For example, it is not just having snack, it is taking the time to say the proper bracha (blessing) over our food and drink. It is creating lessons and experiences that make us think more about the topic that was addressed.

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate Purim with the Cantor and me. Thank you to everyone who watched our Purimshpiel that was beautifully scripted by Cantor Levson (and Rabbi Mark Dov Shapiro, z"l and Shari Levson) and acted out by Mark Levy, Cindy Levy, Tabb Patz, Ava Koszarek, Julia Christian, Ann Meyers, Beth Ann Waite, Mari-Claire Zimmerman, Garrett Waite, Cantor Levson and myself. The excitement in the building during the carnival and shpiel was exactly what Purim is all about: the celebration of joy of the survival of the Jewish people.

Join us this month for our model seder program on April 10 at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to come and get a head start on their celebration of Passover. ✨

Carrie Barbakoff and Beth Ann Waite perform in the Pirate Purimshpiel (but Carrie doesn't sing). Photo by Marsha Fensin.





**"To be a person of truth, be swayed neither by approval nor disapproval. Work at not needing approval from anyone and you will be free to be who you really are."  
— Rabbe Nachman of Breslov**

# Bar Mitzvah of Torin Ecker

The CEEW family welcomed Torin Ecker as a bar mitzvah on Saturday, March 5, 2022.  
Photos by Laurie Schwartz.







**The temple's Personnel Committee is looking for one more member. See page 12 for more details.**

## CEEW News Briefs

### Baseball and a Movie

We're planning a special event for this July that combines baseball, a cookout, and an Israeli movie. The 2018 movie "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel" tells the story of Israel's national baseball team's first competition in the World Baseball Classic.

### Jewish Trivia Night is Coming!

Start reviewing your reference books now; Jewish Trivia Night, originally scheduled for 2020, is finally coming in June. Who will you want to have on your team?

### Dining Group on Hiatus

The CEEW Dining Group will not meet during the month of April due to the Passover holiday. The next outing is in May.

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

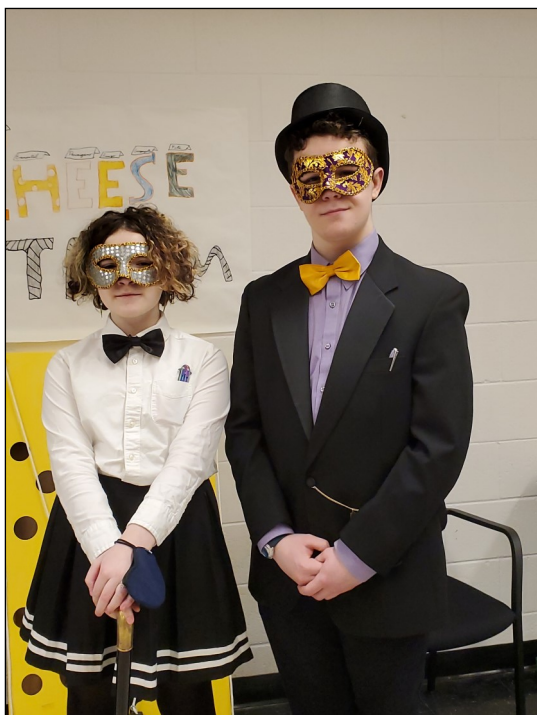
### Save the Date: May 13 Special Shabbat

Don't miss the May Special Shabbat on Friday, May 13. Karen Levy and Peter Lee will present a travelogue about the Jews of Puglia. This region of Italy is

known as "the heel of the Italian Boot." Watch your email and next month's issue of the Bulletin for more details.

### What's a *Subbotnik*?

Check out Deb Hacker's "Letter from...Israel," starting on page 17, to find out.



### Purim Pics

This year's Purimshpiel was a blast — literally!

Thanks to everyone who set up the temple with decorations and games, stepped up to participate in the shpiel, and cleaned up confetti.

Look for more Purim-related photos on pages 3, 6, 7, and 11. Photos on this page by Marsha Fensin (left) and Adrian Richfield (right).







Question: Who led the Jewish people across a semi-permeable membrane?



Arrr ye ready for some  
Purrim? Marrsha  
Fensin captured these  
pictures during the  
Purim carrrnival!







**“Days are scrolls: Write on them only what you want remembered.”**  
— Bahya ibn Paquda, 11th century philosopher



Let the Pirate Purimshpiel begin! Clockwise from upper left, the traditional Megillah reading, the shpiel in “pirate,” Garrett and parrot, confetti cannon aftermath, King Ahasuerus asks Esther for help with his crossword puzzle, and Dot Gilson watches the whole spectacle. Photos contributed by Marsha Fensin and Adrian Richfield.







**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).**

## Reflections on Ukraine

By Sydney Small

**S**unflowers – now known the world over as the national flower of Ukraine – graced the Babyn Yar commemoration ceremony in September 2021. The event marked 80 years since the initial WWII massacre of more than 33,000 Jews by the German forces occupying Kyiv. Another 70,000 people – including Roma, people with mental illness, prisoners of war, and additional civilians – were killed before the Russian liberation in 1943.

The term Babyn Yar means “Old Woman’s Ravine” in both Ukrainian and Russian. This once naturally-scenic spot became the site of one of the “...largest mass killings at a single location during WWII” according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Holocaust Encyclopedia.

Before World War II, Ukraine’s capital city was a strong economic and cultural hub for Jews in the Russian empire, even during the multiple pogroms that besieged the Jewish population. A variety of enterprises including hospitals, universities, schools, and movie theaters prospered through funding from Jewish business owners in the



earliest periods of Jewish life in Ukraine. Repeated expulsions from the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries negatively impacted city commerce and contributed to the readmittance of Jews to the area.

As Jewish people continued to stake a claim to Kyiv in the face of continuing opposition, Yiddish culture flourished in the form of many clubs, newspapers, and theaters. A Jewish cemetery also rested near the infamous ravine.

On that terrible day in 1941, groups of Jews were forced to leave their clothes, valuables, and documents behind. They were compelled to enter the ravine, where they were shot and killed.

Numerous attempts by both the Soviets and the Germans to eradicate evidence of the slaughter did not diminish the resolve of various people to remember. One such individual was Siberian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko, born in 1932. His anti-totalitarian stance was embodied in the Babyn Yar-inspired poem that begins: “No monument stands over Babi Yar. A drop sheer as a crude gravestone.....”

Yevtushenko may have been surprised and perhaps pleased with later gatherings to memorialize the site, beginning with the return of local Holocaust survivors to the region immediately following the war. More formal efforts by authorities in the late 60s and 70s entailed a small monument and Soviet-centered plaque, respectively. The plaque did not reference any of the Jewish victims of the war. Further commemorative events still did not specify Jews.

It was not until 1991 that a separate menorah monument was erected to illuminate the anti-Semitic nature of the atrocities. In later years additional displays were

Continued on page 9





**CEEW's celebration of Israel's independence day, Yom HaAtzmaut, will be May 8.**

## Reflections on Ukraine

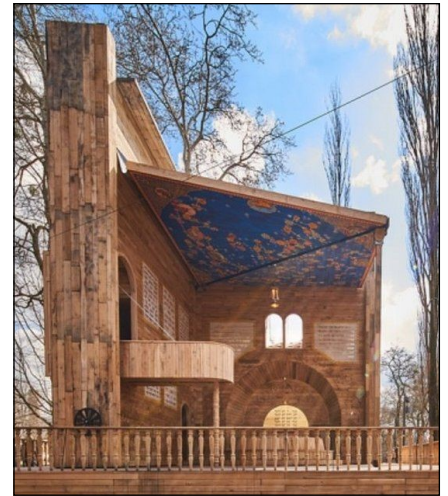
Continued from page 8

assembled at the location. The Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center currently in development is a multi-component project that will support museums and a research center, as well as a shul (synagogue) and a church. It is scheduled to be completed in 2026.

Recent bombing in the area by Russian forces did damage a building

that the Center hopes to use as part of the campus. However, the complex history of the region and the ongoing resilience of the Ukrainian people show that plans for the site will not be easily foiled.

Like the sunflowers draped over stone at the 1991 ceremony, hope and new life persist. Babyn Yar is no longer lost. Am Yisrael Chai! ✨



This image shows the architectural concept of the synagogue at the Babyn Yar site (illustration by Manuel Herz Architekten). Above, a side view of the completed synagogue shows how it opens like a book (photo from the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center).



**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

### CEEW Sisterhood Tikkun Olam Project

From the Desk of Sandy Villa

On behalf of CEEW Sisterhood, I am grateful to report that our Period Project of collecting menstrual supplies as a part of a WRJ Midwest annual project, has proven to be a success. The Waukesha Food Pantry has proven to be a reliable resource to handle distribution. Once our barrel was decorated and placed in the CEEW lobby, donations filled it up in a two-week period. Those donations were delivered and the barrel is ready to be filled again!



### SISTERHOOD

#### CO-PRESIDENTS

**DEB HACKER**  
and  
**DENISE STODOLA**

I want to thank all of you who once again provided generous donations of product and money. If you prefer a monetary donation, please send a check to:

CEEW SISTERHOOD  
P.O. BOX 332  
WAUKESHA, WI 53187

Some big thank-yous go to Marsha Fensin, Carol O'Neil, and Mari-Claire Zimmerman for their help in promoting this project, and to CEEW Sisterhood for a generous monetary donation.

If you have any questions, you can call Sandy at 262-424-2263 or email [sandravilla724@gmail.com](mailto:sandravilla724@gmail.com).

### April Sisterhood Program: Jewish Music

On Tuesday, April 19, Cantor Levson will present a second installment of his series on the history of Jewish liturgical music.

The program, which will be in the form of a talk and not a concert, will start at 7 p.m. and the format should be hybrid.

Come join the Sisterhood to hear more about why Jewish liturgical music sounds the way it does. The program takes

place during Passover, so we might learn about special music for Passover and even get some Passover treats!

### May URJ Summit: Leading Change

Registration is now open for the Union for Reform Judaism's three-day virtual leadership training event, "Leading Change."

Fatima Goss Graves, Jeremy Heimans, and Rev. Cameron Trimble will serve as the keynote speakers, and workshops will focus on congregational leadership, social justice, Israel and the URJ North American Board. The conference will also feature discussion groups, virtual networking, and affinity groups to help attendees meet and communicate.

The event will be held May 1-3, and the registration deadline is April 30. Click [here](#) to learn more about the conference and to register. Scholarships are available. ✨





Answer: Osmoses.

# Pirate Portraits



Left to right: Cindy and Mark Levy (Marsha Fensin), Mari-Claire Zimmerman, and Ann Myers (Adrian Richfield).

## IN APPRECIATION

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

### IN MEMORY OF

- **Susan Brandner**  
*Donations from Mark and Cindy Levy, Carol O'Neil, and Laurie Schwartz*
- **Lois Thalman Bruni, mother of Jan Lowell**  
*Donation from Bill and Jan Lowell*
- **Rhoda Frank**  
*Donations from Mark and Cindy Levy*
- **Sol Gellman, grandfather of Bill Lowell**  
*Donation from Bill and Jan Lowell*
- **Clara Levin, grandmother of Bill Lowell**  
*Donation from Bill and Jan Lowell*

- **Max Levin, grandfather of Bill Lowell**  
*Donation from Bill and Jan Lowell*
- **Ben Lowell, father of Bill Lowell**  
*Donation from Bill and Jan Lowell*
- **Gary Lustig, grandfather of Jan Lowell**  
*Donation from Bill and Jan Lowell*
- **James Thalman, father of Jan Lowell**  
*Donation from Bill and Jan Lowell*

### IN HONOR OF

**Adam Segal's Bar Mitzvah**  
*Donation from Gretchen and Adam Segal*



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).



### ANNIVERSARY

**Arlene and Peter Shelley** celebrate their wedding anniversary on April 2.

**Mike and Nancy Cummins** celebrate their wedding anniversary on April 27.

### BIRTHDAY

**Cantor Emeritus Deborah Martin** celebrates a birthday on April 26.

## The Temple Personnel Committee is Looking for You!

The Temple Personnel Committee is responsible for our employees' contracts, employee evaluations, hiring staff, and any staffing issues. Our membership currently consists of chairperson Mike Kotkin and members Elaine Goldberg and Adrian Richfield. We would like to add one more person — will it be you?

Sometimes we are very busy, but usually we meet only a few times a year. Experience with human resources or legal matters is helpful but not necessary. Please consider joining us. If you are interested, you may contact any committee member for more information.





**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** **Adar II / Nisan (April)**



**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.

**Benne Alter:** April 10, Nisan 9  
*Father of Ann (Alan) Meyers*

**Bella Cohen:** April 14  
*Observed by the Congregation*

**Charlotte Cohen:** April 25, Nisan 24  
*Mother of Ed Cohen (Carol Vandenberg)*

**Dorothy Goff Frisch:** April 5, Nisan 4  
*Observed by the Congregation*

**Merle E. Goldstone:** April 15, Nisan 14  
*Father of Michael Goldstone (Susan Vetrosky)*

**Samuel Hafner:** April 15  
*Father of Sandra (Marvin) Small; grandfather of Sydney Small*

**Clinton Knee:** April 6, Nisan 5  
*Grandfather of Sara (Doug) Anson*

**Losif Krasnik:** April 17, Nisan 16  
*Grandfather of Irene (Robert) Elkin*

**Lev Krasnik:** April 24, Nisan 23  
*Uncle of Irene (Robert) Elkin*

**Kathe "Kay" Kurz:** April 15, Nisan 14  
*Observed by the Congregation*

**Martin Levin:** April 1, Adar-II 29  
*Uncle of Mark (Cindy) Levy*

**Sheldon D. Miller:** April 14, Nisan 13  
*Stepfather of Michael Goldstone (Susan Vetrosky)*

**Marcy Rudoy:** April 20  
*Mother of Marcy (James) Hotz*

**Senta Strauss:** April 22, Nisan 21  
*Grandmother of Claude Scher*

**F. Herbert Venango:** April 15  
*Father of Arlene (Peter) Shelley*

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





**"I would rather think of life as a good book. The further you get into it, the more it begins to come together and make sense."  
— Rabbi Harold Kushner**

## The Poetry Corner

This month the Poetry Corner features the lyrics of a song about the transition from Purim to Pesach. 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)).

### Pesah ala Mano By Flory Jagoda

#### Ladino

Purim, Purim, Purim lano,  
Pesah, Pesah ala mano;  
Las Matsas si stan faziendo,  
Los japrakis si stan koziendo.

[chorus] Aman, aman, aman, aman  
Il Diyo Bendicho mos da mazal,  
Il Diyo Bendicho mos da mazal.

Purim, Purim, Purim lano,  
Pesah, Pesah ala mano;  
La Nona sta diziendo a los nyetos,  
Alimpiya il puelvo, kantones I loz techos.

Aman...

Purim, Purim, Purim lano,  
Pesah, Pesah ala mano;  
Il Sinyor Rubi disho a las tiyas  
No kumer il pan ocho dias.

Aman...

#### English

Purim, Purim, Purim is over,  
Passover is at hand;  
Matzot are being made,  
The stuffed grapeleaves are being baked.

[chorus] Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen  
Almighty G-d gives us good fortune.  
Almighty G-d gives us good fortune.

Purim, Purim, Purim is over,  
Passover is at hand;  
The grandmother tells the grandchildren,  
Clean the dust, the corners and ceilings.

Amen...

Purim, Purim, Purim is over,  
Passover is at hand;  
The Rabbi tells the aunts  
Not to eat bread for eight days.

Amen...



**About the Poet:** Flory Jagoda, z"l, may be best known for her timeless-sounding song "Ocho Kandelikas," which she composed in 1983. She will be the focus of "Adio, Kerida: A Tribute to Flory Jagoda" on May 1, and the recently produced video "La Nona Kanta: The Remarkable Life of Flory Jagoda," premiering on June 15 (click [here](#) for more information about these upcoming events). To hear Jagoda perform "Pesah ala Mano," click [here](#).





Pre-order “Cooking all Giudia: A Celebration of the Jewish Food of Italy” through Amazon Smile and benefit CEEW. This cookbook by Benedetta Jasmine Guette will be published on April 12.

## BOOK CLUB REPORT

Adrian Richfield Reviews: *The Night Portrait*

Author Laura Morelli is an art historian whose interests in art have led her to the writing of this novel. The novel centers around one of Leonardo da Vinci’s most famous paintings: *Lady with an Ermine*. Often called the first modern portrait, it is the focal point of the book connecting its subject, Cecilia Gallerani, and Munich museum curator Edith Becker, albeit 500 years apart.



While in Munich, a modest museum conservator risks her life to save and recover that portrait with the help of an American soldier.



*The Lady with the Ermine* is truly a painting that brings a story from fact to fiction in this engaging novel. According to the author “Leonardo da Vinci’s portrait of Cecilia Gallerani is interesting on many levels but particularly because it was an object of desire both in the fifteenth and the twentieth centuries. Getting into the mindset of characters spanning 500 years was such an interesting prospect.”

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

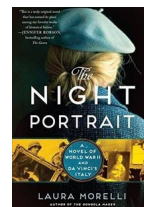


Laura  
**MORELLI**

This book has two timelines and several points of view focusing on the woman who fought to save the painting from Nazi destruction during WWII. From 1492 to wartime Munich, the story is based in part on true events of how the painting was stolen and then found. Also part of the story is an American soldier who was part of the Monuments Men team who strove to find and protect all forms of art that were stolen by the Nazis.

The novel is about history, art and love with a tantalizing dual timeline and a painting that connects the destinies of two women and a symbol of hope. In Milan a sixteen-year-old beauty becomes the mistress of the Duke of Milan and finds herself the focal point of the painting’s story.

### CEEW Book Club



**What:** Discussion of *The Night Portrait*  
**Date:** Wednesday, Apr. 6  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Leader:** Elaine Goldberg



**SAVE THE DATE: Cantor Levson will present another program on the history of Jewish music. This Sisterhood program will be Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m.**

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>APRIL 1</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Cantor-led Special Shabbat service</b>
<b>APRIL 8</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>MCRC Shabbat (Zoom)</b>
<b>APRIL 22</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Member-led service</b>
<b>APRIL 29</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Cantor installation 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,

These are my last 10 days in Israel. As you know, most of my days here have been dedicated to my family. It's been a privilege to witness my grandson's first steps as well as celebrate his first birthday. However, every few weeks I have travelled for several days with a professional Israeli tour guide to historical, archeological and religious sites. The itineraries were devised as a product of my research, my "Israel bucket list", the weather, and my guide's knowledge. (This is another shameless pitch to support and use Israeli tour guides for your travel in Israel.)

As spring has come to Israel, my last few trips have included some wonderful hiking at National Nature Reserve parks which often combine beautiful scenery, wildflowers and archeology — a perfect combination.

One trip a few weeks ago to the Hula Valley of the western Galilee region, I encountered the unique history of the "First Aliyah" movement (pre-state pioneering) in Israel. I visited an historic home called the Dubrovin farm, pictured at right, near Yesod HaMa'ala.

Yesod HaMa'ala is a *moshav*, an agricultural settlement, that was built in 1883 among a series of Jewish agricultural settlements. In 1884, many Jews of Brisk and Mezerich, Poland, immigrated to Israel to begin farming in Yesod HaMa'ala. Unfortunately, they had little knowledge or experience in farming skills.

Enter the Dubrovins, experienced and successful farmers from Solodniki, Russia. Originally they were also "Subbotnicks", devout Russian Christians who kept the Jewish Sabbath. (Subbota is the Russian word meaning "sabbath".) Legend has it that an Abraham Kurakin, the town church bell ringer, had a divine message telling him to adopt the Jewish faith. Over time, many families joined them, but they left in 1876 due to Russian persecution. Eventually they and 37 other families (over 100 people) underwent an arduous process of conversion in Kovno, Lithuania, led by Rabbi Yitzhak Spektor. After three years of study and adherence to the mitzvot, the men were circumcised as the last step in the conversion process.

Stanislaw (later Yoav) Dubrovin at age 70, his wife, Rachel, and their 13 children immigrated to Israel and eventually bought a farm near Yesod HaMa'ala in 1909. Their desire was to live a fully Jewish life. The Dubrovins were righteous converts, *gerei tzedek*, who helped "fill the knowledge gap" for the early Zionist farmers. They raised bulls, cows, horses, and chickens and cultivated grains, wheat, and fruit. Yoav Dubrovin even made a return trip to Russia to bring back needed farm equipment. Although they were successful, the family's life was tragically affected by malaria. This deadly disease continued to be a health problem until the Hula Lake and marshy swamps were drained in the 1950s.



The Dubrovin Farm exterior (above) and kitchen (below).





**“Travel makes you speechless, then it turns you into a storyteller.”**

**— 14th century Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta**

## A Letter From... Israel (continued)

Yoav lived to 104; one son continued living at the farm into the 1960s. The farm was bequeathed to the JNF and restoration of the buildings, home, and orchards commenced. The site was opened to the visitors in the 1980s and contains a glimpse into the life of these hard working farmers. It reminded me a bit of Old World Wisconsin, and I was able to have a guided tour, albeit in Hebrew. In the humble home were many family portraits and even a certificate from an agricultural show winning an honorable mention for chickpea cultivation. Old photos portrayed many of the villagers harvesting the papyrus from the swamps for weaving and showed their happy life along the shallow Hula Lake, which was a fun swimming spot for the children.

Continuing this heritage theme, we visited at the Moshav Ilaniya /AKA Segera where I met Esther Stepman-Schmueli, who was my guide's teacher at college and an experienced tour guide and teacher herself. She is a great- great granddaughter of the one of the Subbotniks, Sergei Protopopov. (He later Herbraized his name to Eliyahu Shmeuli.) Esther has developed her home and its courtyards as well as the former dairy barn as a heritage site in Israel. She gave us an hourlong presentation about her Subbotnick family including some entertaining role-playing as her great-grandmother Miriam. She explained that four Subbotnick families arrived in Segera in 1902 and helped mentor the struggling Jewish farmers. “The most successful farmers were the converts... everything grew beautifully.” With the help of Zionist activists such as Meir Dizengoff and others, most of the Subbotniks came to the eastern Galilee. The Yishuv pre-state Jewish community saw them as the “New Jews,” but they were also envied and called derogatory names by their neighbors.

Although documentation does not exist of their conversion, she has her great grandparents' passports. Much of their family history was not transmitted from generation to generation. One of her relatives chastized her to “maintain the wall of silence” because of the fear “that people will start looking into their conversions again.” However, Esther and fellow Subbotnick descendant, Eitan Kurakin, travelled with 25 descendants to Russia to “see where it all began.” A second smaller trip occurred in 2018. She is currently organizing a family reunion of all the Subbotniks at the Dubrovin farm for this year.



Tour guide Esther Stepman-Schmueli roleplays as her great-grandmother Miriam.



Family photos of the Protopopov Subbotniks.

How did I learn about Subbotniks? On an outing last year, I climbed a rocky hilltop overlooking the fertile Jezreel valley and viewed the huge statue of the hero, Alexander Zaid. I read that he was a founder of the Kibbutz Kfar Giladi in the Galilee and the *Hashomer*, a Jewish defense organization to safeguard pre-state Jewish agricultural settlements in the Galilee. His mother was a Subbotnick. Going down the history rabbit hole is something I enjoy. This lead me to reading about the Dubrovin Farm. The genius of my guide, Edan Geva, who indulges my endless curiosity about Israel, arranged this unusual visit to a newer historical Subbotnick site in Segera. What an amazing country this is!

From Israel,  
Deb Hacker





## SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES:

April 1, 7:01 pm; April 8, 7:09 pm; April 15, 7:17 pm;  
April 22, 7:25 pm; April 29, 7:33 pm

5782 2022		APRIL		ADAR II / NISAN		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Adar II 29  Cantor-led special Shabbat service, 7 p.m.  Shabbat program with Ellyn Lem, 8 p.m.	2 Nisan 1  Rosh Chodesh Nisan   Tazria
3 Nisan 2  Religious school, 9 a.m.  Adult Passover program, 10 a.m.	4 Nisan 3	5 Nisan 4	6 Nisan 5  Midrash Class, 10:30 a.m.  Book Club, 1:30 p.m.  Adult Education Program: Uria Roth, 6:45 p.m.	7 Nisan 6	8 Nisan 7  MCRC Shabbat, 7:30 p.m. (check your email for Zoom link)	9 Nisan 8   Metzora
10 Nisan 9  Religious school — model seder, 9 a.m.  May Bulletin content deadline	11 Nisan 10  Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.	12 Nisan 11	13 Nisan 12  Midrash Class, 10:30 a.m.	14 Nisan 13	15 Nisan 14  Erev Pesach  No Shabbat service	16 Nisan 15  Pesach 1  Community Seder, Chenequa Country Club, 6 p.m.
17 Nisan 16  Pesach 2  No religious school — Passover break	18 Nisan 17  Pesach 3	19 Nisan 18  Pesach 4  Sisterhood program: History of Jewish Liturgical Music with Cantor Levson, 7 p.m.	20 Nisan 19  Pesach 5  Midrash Class, 10:30 a.m.	21 Nisan 20  Pesach 6  Yizkor service for end of Passover, 7 p.m.	22 Nisan 21  Pesach 7  Member-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	23 Nisan 22
24 Nisan 23  Religious school, 9 a.m.	25 Nisan 24	26 Nisan 25	27 Nisan 26  Midrash Class, 10:30 a.m.	28 Nisan 27	29 Nisan 28  Cantor installation service, 7 p.m.	30 Nisan 29  Cantor installation concert, 7 p.m.   Achrei Mot

The content deadline for the May 2022 bulletin is **Sunday, April 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.