



Shevat / Adar I 5784

February 2024

You May Read a Winner!

The winners of the 73rd Annual Jewish Book Award were announced on January 24; over 100 judges reviewed more than 650 submissions. The in-person ceremony will be held on Tuesday, March 26, at 6 p.m. Eastern time (5 p.m. Central).

A complete list of the winners and finalists can be found <u>here</u>.

The Jewish Book Council reports:

"James McBride wins his first two National Jewish Book Awards, the JJ Greenberg Memorial Award for Fiction, and The Miller Family Book Club Award in Memory of Helen Dunn Weinstein and June Keit Miller, for his novel *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* (Riverhead Books, a division of Penguin Random House).



Ruth Madievsky wins the Goldberg Prize for Debut Fiction with her novel *All-Night Pharmacy* (Catapult). The Hebrew Fiction in Translation Jane Weitzman Award goes to Yariv Inbar for his book *Operation Bethlehem* (Genera

Ventures Ltd), translated by Dalit Shmueli. The Sephardic Culture Mimi S. Frank Award in Memory of Becky Levy is awarded to *Kantika* by Elizabeth Graver (Metropolitan Books)."

Savvy readers can add these award-winning titles now to their wishlists at Books and Company, and buy them during the 2024 CEEW Book Fair so that a portion of the purchase will benefit Congregation Emanu-El. *

— Elizabeth Lamb, Editor

FEBRUARY ARTICLE INDEX

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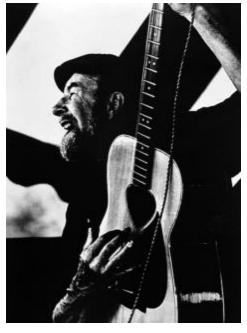
Mazel tov! Mazel tov! Jonah Sulman's bar mitzvah will be held on Saturday, March 2.

Shabbat Seeger?

On Friday, January 26, our own "Peter, Paul and Karen" trio (along with Cantor Levson) performed some of Pete Seeger's songs. Seeger, an American folk singer known for his social activism and a fixture in the music world during the 1940's and 50's, re-emerged in the 60's as a protest singer. Cantor Levson shared that Shabbat Shirah, "the Shabbat of song," coincided with Seeger's 9th yahrzeit and he wanted to make note of that with some special music. It was indeed a special Shabbat!

— By Adrian Richfield







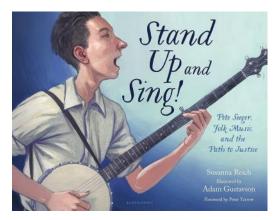


Photo by David Bernz



"Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks. That means don't do it just for yourself. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having — Ruth Bader Ginsberg

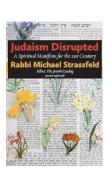
CEEW News Briefs

Midrash Class

There is an active group of members who regularly participate in our Wednesday morning Midrash study group led by Cantor Levson. The class is in person and also on Zoom. Currently we are reading and discussing the book *Judaism Disrupted- A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st Century* by Rabbi Michael Strassfeld.

As part of our discussion recently, Rabbi Strassfeld asks: "Why do you belong to a synagogue? Why would you attend on a regular basis?" Here is his answer and I thought it might resonate with our CEEW membership. How do you answer his two questions?

"Because it is one of the most important things in my life. I join with a community of others to explore the critical issues of my life: Who am I? Who do I want to be? Where do I find or create meaning in my life? What is it all about? In the synagogue, one of



the few refuges from cell phones, I have the ability to disconnect form the distractions of the world in order to renew the connections to the deepest places within myself that some call the soul. While I acknowledge that my time here on earth is the equivalent of a blink of the eye in the timeline of the universe, I connect to a tradition that

precedes me and will continue long after I'm gone. I engage with the texts of that tradition and am inspired by its ancient insights and the contemporary insights of my fellow congregants. I sit here with no other agenda than to be present in the moment, to explore and reflect on the spiritual qualities that I strive for, to remind myself of the challenges of this broken world and commit myself to engage in acts of

tikkun, of repair. Wouldn't you want to be part of that experience?"

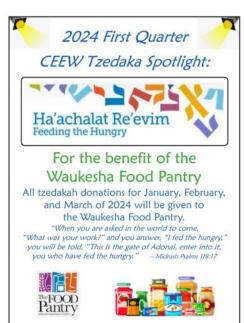
- Adrian Richfield

Mitzvah Rides

There are times when many of us need help getting to and from medical appointments, the drugstore, or even temple. With that in mind, we are launching a new mitzvah program to aid those in need of a ride.

If you are willing to provide a ride, please let Phil Schuman know. Phil may be contacted by email at philschuman@prodigy.net or by phone at 262-367-6719. Once we have a list of volunteers, you may call Phil at least three days before your appointment to request a ride.

We cannot guarantee assistance, but Phil will do what he can to accommodate your request. Contact CEEW President Laurie Schwartz at president@ waukeshatemple.org with any questions about the program. *





Mazel tov! Mazel tov! Julia Christian will celebrate her bat mitzvah on Saturday, March 16.

January 9, 2024

Dear CEEW Community,

For the past 2 1/2 years we have been blessed with the wisdom and beautiful voice of Cantor Martin Levson. His current contract ends July 1, 2024 but we are very gratified to report that he has agreed to remain at CEEW as our Spiritual Leader.

Cantor Levson joined us during the pandemic, at a time when in-person worship was impossible and making personal connections was difficult. Even so, he has become an integral part of our community and of the religious school. He has also made numerous, strong connections in the wider Jewish community and Waukesha County faith community on our behalf. Our temple is respected because of Cantor Levson's cantorial skills and personal strengths. We have added some new members and attracted more families and individuals who are interested in becoming part of the CEEW community and the Jewish people thanks to our Spiritual Leader.

Negotiations between Cantor Levson and the temple's personnel committee will soon begin. Therefore, the amount of increase and the terms and length of the contract are still to be negotiated. But we must have the resources to retain our dynamic clergy-leader.

Thankfully, an anonymous donor has come forward with a \$30,000 matching donation to enable us to keep Cantor Levson with us! Any money raised will be kept in a separate fund designated for the spiritual leader's salary and benefits.

To begin negotiations, we need to know the scope of funding we'll have for negotiating. We hope that everyone will be able to participate in this crucial fundraiser. As is our custom at CEEW, any amount of donation is respected and welcome in helping us achieve our goal. Please designate money donated for this fundraiser to the Spiritual Leader Fund.

Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. With your help, CEEW can grow and look forward to having Cantor Levson with us for many years to come. With his leadership we know can grow and thrive.

L'Shalom,

Laurie

Laurie Schwartz
President
Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha
830 W. Moreland Blvd
Waukesha, WI 53188



"The people of Israel compose a single soul. Only the bodies are separate." — Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi

CEEW Board Meeting: January 2024

By Pati Allen Brickman

D'var Torah and Spiritual Leader's Report by Cantor Levson: The upcoming holiday of Tu BiShvat, coming on January 25, is considered the 'new year' or birthday of trees, originally for taxation purposes. On this date all trees get a year older.

Another interesting phenomenon happening this year is that Purim will not occur until the end of March and Pesach will not be until the end of April – very late. The Hebrew calendar is a combination the lunar and solar calendar. The problem with the lunar calendar is that the lunar month is 29.5 days. So, as we need to keep the holidays reasonably related to their seasons, 7 out of 19 years we add an extra month of Adar. This year we have Adar Shani or Adar II and we will be celebrating Purim on Sunday March 24, Adar II.

This coming Friday, marking the start of MLK weekend (Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday Jan 15), we will emphasize the Jewish involvement in the civil rights movement. PFLAG has invited clergy of different faiths to Waukesha Library on Thursday January 18 at 6:30 to share how they approach LBGTQ+ issues. Cantor will discuss how our congregation and the Reform Movement at large address the needs and concerns of LBGTQ+ folks. January 26 is Shabbat Shira, Shabbat of Song, with the Torah portion of crossing of the Sea of Reeds. Also, Jan 27th is the 9th Yahrzeit of Pete Seger and so it will include songs with Karen Levy, Peter Lee, Debi Schwid, and Paul Smith performing. The songs will all have a connection to Jewish ideals. Rabbi Jeff Salkin is doing a 2-part session on January 10th and 17th as a test run of a larger project he is plan-

ning to run nationally. If you would like to join these sessions, email Cantor Levson.



Education Director Report by Carrie Barbakoff: Carrie participated in ARJE's Hanukkat HaNefesh program focusing on values, burnout, and boundaries. Our students have wrapped up their lessons on *gevurot/strength* and are moving on to *achrayut/responsibility* which we will tie into our Tu BiShvat celebration. We are focusing on mental health among other topics related to Israel and the environment.

On February 25th at 4:30 at the JCC the CJL will salute Jewish educators. This year we will recognize two contributors to the religious school, Andi Patz for her art program, and Deb Hacker for helping with the cooking at the Hannukah program and last year's Yom HaAtzmaut program. A Band 'n All Hope will be there, so come and support. In the past, CEEW has placed a small ad in the CJL program; if you want to do this again, let us know. The JNL tree drive supporting Israel and our school is taking place now in honor of Tu BiShvat.

President's Report by Laurie Schwartz:

Personnel report: An anonymous donor has offered to match donations to the Spiritual Leader Fund up to \$30,000. A letter introducing the fund raiser for Spiritual Leader will be sent to the congregation soon. The Board has set up a restricted fund to receive the donations.



The Sisterhood Shabbat has been scheduled for Saturday, February 17. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by Kiddush and lunch.

CEEW January Board Meeting, continued

Treasurer/Financial Report by Alan Meyers: (See report for details) Alan continues to work on the new accounting program and will keep refining the details. Ask Alan if you have any questions.

Sisterhood Report by Denise Stodola: The CEEW Sisterhood Shabbat is scheduled for Saturday February 17 with a Kiddush lunch to follow. There are parts of all types available, and we would love to see everyone in the Sisterhood participate in the service or just attend to support us. Send an email to ceewsisterhood@yahoo.com or call Cindy Levy at 262-879-0832 to volunteer to RSVP, to participate or with any questions. The Tikkun Olam food drive for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County is under way during January and February. There are paper bags in the cloak room and flyers with the Big 8 to Donate.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Security by Bernie Sandler: The sheriff has the entire temple schedule through June 2024. Bernie is working with Mark to get closure on the ongoing security work.

New Business - Laurie Schwartz:

Tzedakah box: We have a beautiful tzedakah box and we want to encourage people to use it. We could use the money to contribute to the food pantry and other charities. It would be nice to include the students in making decisions about where the money should go. We will decide quarterly who gets the money; this quarter the funds will go to the Waukesha food pantry, and in the second quarter the students will make the decision.

Mitzvah List Leader: Marcy Hotz brought up that some members are having trouble getting to their doctor appointments and could use some help. Phil Schuman will head this up. He will try to match volunteers and congregants in need. People will need to call 3 days in advance. Laurie Schwartz will publish something about this soon so people can sign up.

85th Anniversary Celebration/Archives: Laurie Schwartz and Cindy Levy are working on planning events. We would like to use the old gift shop to display some of our archives. Sharon Levy has found a lot of photos and suggests that members may be able to identify the people in the photos. We might consider doing this on a Sunday with lunch and include members and students. Sharon could also give a lesson on how to maintain your own archives.

We might have an opening for the archives themselves when they are housed in the gift shop. No date has been decided upon yet. Laurie is cleaning out the gift shop and if anyone wants to help, please contact her. She will put out some of the items at the movie to sell. Sharon has found some valuable pieces of art that need more research and perhaps professional valuation. If anyone has any ideas for events to celebrate our anniversary, please let Laurie know.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Pati Allen Brickman, Secretary to the Board.

Full reports are available from each committee chair.

The next board meeting will be held Monday, February

12, at 6:30 p.m.



Sisterhood News

Join Sisterhood for a Joyous Shabbat Morning Service! From the desk of Ann Meyers

All Sisterhood members are called on to participate in this lively service with an English reading, Hebrew part, or by adding a voice from the congregation! We will mark this year's Sisterhood Shabbat on Saturday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Those who wish to participate by doing an English or Hebrew part in the service should email Cindy Levy at ceew_sisterhood@yahoo.com. Please direct questions to Ann Meyers at annsmeyers@gmail.com. All temple members and friends are of course welcome to attend the service.

The Sisterhood is offering a delicious dairy kiddush lunch after the service by reservation. All are welcome! You needn't be a Sisterhood member, and your gender or age are no factor. Bring the children! A donation will be appreciated for the lunch.

Please reserve for the lunch at ceew_sisterhood@yahoo.com by February 10 so Carol can ensure there are enough blintzes for everyone!

Sisterhood Beading ProgramFrom the desk of Barb Zacher

Due to the weather the CEEW Sisterhood had to postpone the beading program. Please stay tuned for a re-scheduled date when the weather will be more cooperative. If you are interested in learning about the program please contact zacherhc@wi.rr.com or text to 414-331-6825.

Here is a little about what the program will entail: If you've always wanted to make your own jewelry, Eclectica Beads has the tools, supplies, and guidance! Create gorgeous jewelry for friends, for the special people in your life, for yourself.

CEEW Sisterhood will have an instructor in a private room. Kits for bracelets, necklaces and other projects will be available from \$15-\$60. We will provide snacks and beverages during the event.

Additional CEEW Sisterhood and Women of Reform Judaism (URJ) WI Area Programming

The CEEW Sisterhood is hoping to add a couple of additional programs in March.

UWM Center for Jewish Studies is hosting a lecture on Tuesday March 5 at 7 p.m. called "The Many Mrs. Maisels — The History of Jewish Female Stand-Up Comedians" given by Grace Kessler Overbeke. The program is being made available on Zoom, and we thought it might be nice to gather and enjoy it together. If you are interested in joining us please email Cindy Levy at ceew_sisterhood @yahoo.com.

It has been a long time since the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) WI Area group has gathered together. We are in the process of trying to put together a program. Please stay tuned for more information when it is available.

Tikkun Olam ProjectFrom the desk of Nancy Cummens

The CEEW Sisterhood Tikkun
Olam Committee is conducting a food
drive for the Food Pantry of Waukesha
County during the months of January
and February. People usually give generously during Christmas and Thanksgiving, but then donations can dry up



Volunteers needed for the member-led Friday night Shabbat services. Contact Mari-Claire Zimmerman (wzimmerman 1@wi.rr.com) for more information.

Sisterhood News

CONTINUED

during winters dark days. And people are still hungry.

Here is a list of the Big 8 items that the Food Pantry needs the most:

- 1) Ready to eat soup/pasta
- 2) Canned proteins
- 3) Whole grains
- 4) Pasta sauce
- 5) Condensed soups
- 6) Peanut butter
- 7) Cereal
- 8) Canned refried beans

The food pantry cannot accept any food donations without a unexpired expiration date.

- → Please note that there must be an expiration date on each product.
- → Please DO donate anything that has not passed the expiration date.

There are paper bags in the synagogue cloak room and flyers with the Big 8 to donate. Please bring your food bags to the synagogue and place them in the food bins which are in our lobby. We will be taking the food bins to the food pantry when they are full.

Keep in mind that the synagogue's open hours are variable. We are open most Friday nights for services, Sunday mornings during Sunday school,

before and right after Midrash class on Wednesdays, and various events on select Sundays. You can check the monthly newsletter calendar or the weekly bulletin for other possible times. Remember those "snow days" may cancel some synagogue events.

In addition to food donations, the Synagogue will also be collecting cash donations. Donations can be placed in the Tzedakah box right outside of the sanctuary. All of the donations collected through March will be donated to the Waukesha Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!



Camper Scholarships Available From the desk of Cindy Levy

A Jewish camping experience can change your life. The Sisterhood is delighted to help make the experience possible.

If you are a member of the CEEW Sisterhood and have a child or grand-child who will be attending a Jewish camp in 2024, you may be eligible for a camper scholarship.

The Sisterhood is taking applications for camp scholarships through March 31st. Any CEEW Sisterhood member as of December 31, 2023 can apply. Notification of awards will be made on or before April 15th. Email-Cindy Levy at ceew_sisterhood@yahoo.com for an application.

Other organizations and individual camps have scholarships available. Many of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) camps provide scholarships, including OSRUI in our own backyard. For example, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation (https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/departments/philanthropy/jcf/scholarships/) has two programs with March 1 deadlines. Happy Camping!



Contact temple administrator Brigette 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 / I Adar (February)

Susan Brandner: February 12 *Mother of Andi (Tabb) Patz*

Arthur Cohen: February 26, I Adar 17 Observed by the Congregation

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

Leonard Edelstein: February 29, I Adar 20

Father of Jeff (Maggie) Edelstein

Cyd Wendy Fishman Lash: February 22, I Adar 13

Observed by the Congregation

June Freeman: February 9, Shevat 30 *Observed by the Congregation*

Hannah S. Frisch: February 25, I Adar 16

Observed by the Congregation



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.

Leon Gelbart: February 2 *Uncle of Marsha Fensin*

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

Rosetta Moskowitz: February 1. Shevat 22

Mother of Ann (Alan) Meyers

Louis Small: February 12

Father of Marvin (Sandra) Small; grandfather of

Sxdni Small

Patrick Sprosty: February 11 *Fiance of Jennifer Ecker*

Lucien Van Minden: February 17, I Adar 8

Grandfather of Claude Scher

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

IN APPRECIATION

of generous contributions to Congregation Emanu-El of Waukesha

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

In Memory of...

Irving Goodman Donation from Kelly and Sheila Goodman

Miscellaneous

- Donation from Marcia Romashko on behalf of the United UU Congregation of Waukesha
- Donations from Rick Loeffler, Alan and Ann Meyers, Kathryn and Todd Nova, and Laurie Schwartz



Poetry Corner

For our next issue we invite you to suggest a favorite poem, or submit your own work to Adrian Richfield (susu78@aol.com) or Sxdni Small (rottiesrock@wi.rr.com).

Taste and SeeBy Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

Psalm 34, verse 8: "Taste and see that God is good."

We make our way into the woods at the edge of our land, trees webbed with plastic tubing, clear and pale green against the snow.

Down to the beaver dam, pond punctuated with cattails, galvanized tin bright against grizzled trunks.

Dip a finger beneath the living spigot. At every sugar shack across the hills clouds of fragrant steam billow. And after long boiling, this amber...

Where I grew up, the air is soft already, begonias thinking about blooming. Here, this is what rises, hidden and sweet.





ANNIVERSARY

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

BIRTHDAYS

Mark Levy celebrates his birthday on February 9.

Elly Kraines celebrates her birthday on February 10.

Karen Levy celebrates her birthday on February 19.

Cantor **Martin Levson** celebrates his birthday on February 25.

Cole Huskey, son of Ellyn Lem and Trevor Huskey, and grandson of Joanne Wagner, celebrates his birthday on February 28.



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

The February Read: The Tunnel by A. B. Yehoshua

A.B. Israel's premier writ-Yehoshua was one of ers born in Jerusalem in 1936 and died in 2022. He is considered one of the last of the great generation of early Israeli writers.

His newest novel, *The Tunnel*, is about Zvi Luria, a road engineer in his seventies who is dealing with the onset of dementia. Both his neurologist and wife convince him to stay active and involved thus leading to his volunteering his services to a young engineer assigned to build a secret road for the military in the desert.

The novel combines two stories: one about Zvi and his family and the other about a Palestinian family who secretly lives on a hilltop of the proposed new road. The political implications of the Palestinian family combine with the road that becomes a tunnel. Hence, the tunnel becomes a metaphor which operates on several levels. The tunnel is not just about the road building but about Zvi's life and the author's view on Israel/Palestian conflicts.

Book Club News

By Adrian Richfield





Yehoshua was an Israeli Peace Movement activist who set out his political views in essays and interviews, and a long-standing critic of the

B. YEHOSHUA

The

"The Tunnel is something of a hodgepodge," says writer Robert Alter. "Its different pieces may not fit together as tightly as one would like, but each piece has its own fascination. In any case, the main achievement of the book is to draw us into the process of mental decline and the gnawing anxieties, a subject rarely tackled by novelists."

Israeli occupation. 🌣

When: Wednesday, February 14

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Where: Debi Schwid's house

To participate, contact Debi Schwid at deb.schwid@gmail.com





Shabbat Shalom!



FEBRUARY 2 7 p.m. Cantor-led service

FEBRUARY 9 7 p.m. Cantor-led service

FEBRUARY 16 7 p.m. Cantor-led service (Zoom only)

FEBRUARY 17 10:30 a.m. Sisterhood Shabbat and kiddush lunch

FEBRUARY 23 7 p.m. Member-led service

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

CEEW TEMPLE LEADERSHIP

SPIRITUAL LEADER Cantor Martin Levson spiritualleader@waukeshatemple.org

EDUCATION DIRECTOR Carrie Barbakoff eddirector@waukeshatemple.org

PRESIDENT Laurie Schwartz president@waukeshatemple.org

VICE PRESIDENT Mark Levy markallanlevy@yahoo.com

ADMINISTRATOR Brigette Alexander administrator@waukeshatemple.org



SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES:

February 2, 4:48 pm; February 9, 4:57 pm; February 16, 5:07 pm; February 23, 5:16 pm

5784 2024	FEBR	UARY		SHEVAT / ADAR I		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Shevat 22	2 Shevat 23 Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	3 Shevat 24 Shabbat Mevarchim Chodesh Adar I Yitro
4 Shevat 25 Religious school, 9 a.m.	5 Shevat 26	6 Shevat 27	7 Shevat 28 Midrash class, 10:30 a.m.	8 Shevat 29	9 Shevat 30 Rosh Chodesh Adar I Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	10 I Adar 1
11 I Adar 2 Religious school, 9 a.m.	12 I Adar 3 Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	13 I Adar 4	14 I Adar 5 Midrash class, 10:30 a.m. CEEW Book Club: Debi Schwid's house, 1:30 p.m.	15 I Adar 6	16 I Adar 7 Cantor-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m. (Zoom only)	17 I Adar 8 Sisterhood Shabbat followed by Kiddush lunch, 10:30 a.m.
18 I Adar 9 No religious school	19 I Adar 10 DEADLINE FOR MARCH BULLETIN ARTICLES	20 I Adar 11	21 I Adar 12 Midrash class, 10:30 a.m.	22 I Adar 13	Purim Katan Member-led Shabbat service, 7 p.m.	24 I Adar 15
25 I Adar 16 Religious school, 9 a.m.	26 I Adar 17	27 I Adar 18	28 I Adar 19 Midrash class, 10:30 a.m.	29 I Adar 20		

The content deadline for the March 2024 bulletin is Monday, February 19.

Calendar dates, holidays, and candle lighting times are from hebcal.com.

Check the CEEW calendar for the most current information.