

**SONS OF JACOB
SYNAGOGUE
BULLETIN**

NOVEMBER 2019

**CHESHVAN - KISLEV
5780**

**What's
Happening**

Oct 25 – Nov 2

Office Closed

Stephanie will be out
of state.

Nov 15, 7:30pm

Services with
Rabbi Kushner

Nov 16, 9:30am

Shabbat Service

Nov 20, 10-11:00 am

Jewish Connections

Dec 13th & 14th

Services with
Rabbi Kushner
Sam's Celebration



Photography by John McCormick

Upcoming Services with Rabbi Kushner

Friday, November 15, 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 16, 9:30 am

Friday, December 13, 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 14, 9:30 am

Friday, February 28, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 29, 9:30 am

Purim
Wednesday, March 11

Friday, March 27, 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 28, 9:30 am

SOJ Seder
Thursday, April 9



Congratulations, **Samantha Mensinger**, on completing your conversion to Judaism!

Sam passed her Beit Din last month, went to the Mikvah, and is now officially Jewish. Let's welcome her into our SOJ family with warmth and enthusiasm!

Please help us celebrate with her on Friday, December 13th, at the Shabbat service and oneg following.



Condolences

Our sincere condolences to...

...the family of Bertha Ratute, who died on September 28th. She was a longtime member and will be greatly missed by all.

... John & Naomi McCormick, on the loss of his mother.

May their memories always be a blessing to those who loved them.

Sons of Jacob Historical Committee

The Historical Committee is still working on our project to update the Book of Remembrance.

We found many pages which need to be brought up to date. There is a form at the end of this bulletin so you can start a page or make updates to your family's page(s).

We understand that the cost has kept people from doing this in the past. We want to work with individuals to find a donation amount that will be feasible for them. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Finkelstein or Stephanie.

Please help us keep this wonderful historical account of the lives of our members past and present.

Donations from friends and family, In memory of Bertha Ratute

Beverly Bosen

Leo Feldman – Plaque Donation

Ron Ihlenfeldt – Plaque Donation

Bobbi Kazenelson

David Knipp

Joyce Kohn

Arthur & Kathy Lebow

Ted, Renee & Debbie Lederman

David Martin

Herb & Rochelle Padzensky

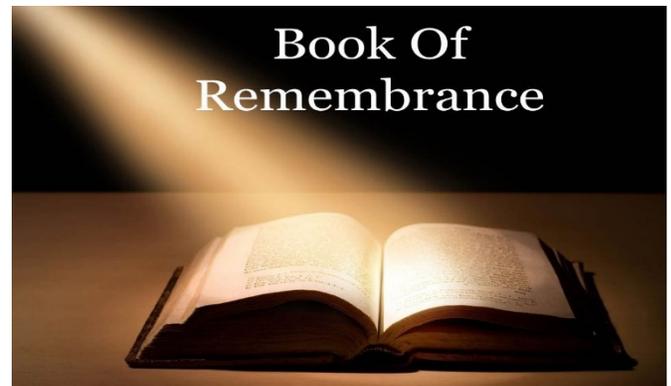
Robert & Carolyn Siegel

Arlynn & Jack Siegel

Arthur & Margo Suckney

Hebrew School News

There will be Hebrew school class on Wednesday, November 27th, due to it being Thanksgiving week.



We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following contributions:

GOLDBERG, Gary – In memory of his mother, Janet Goldberg and in memory of his grandmother,

Ida Goldberg

GOLDNER, Norman, In memory of his father, Aaron Goldner

IHLENFELDT, Ron – High Holiday Donation

KRAMER, Mark & Kris – High Holiday donation in memory of their loved ones

MOONEY, Vicki – In memory of her parents, Nathan & Ruth Zeiger

RATUTE, Arthur – Donation for yahrzeit plaque, in memory of his mother, Bertha

NASHEL, Susan – In memory of her grandmother, Rose Blindman

ZUCKER, George – Donation to the Jane Zucker Memorial Speakers Fund;

In memory of his wife, Jane Zucker

Correction from last month:

VIDIS, Arnold & Mary Kay – In memory of his father, Robert Vidis



Todah Rabah...

...to **Susan Nashel** for her annual donation of pulpit flowers, in memory of her parents, Frances & Harry Blindman.

...to **John McCormick** who took pictures of our building last fall. His beautiful photography provided many of the images that you see in SOJ bulletins, the website, and other communications. This includes the front of this bulletin and the front of our 5780 Membership Directory.

...**Robert Knox**, an art history professor at Wartburg, and his wife, Dr. Amy Nolan, for donating an etching of *The Death of the Firstborn* to SOJ. The etching is hanging in our library. Robert also hopes to have an art display at SOJ; watch future bulletins for details.

Words of Wisdom from Rabbi Kushner...

What happens when...

Some things cannot be fixed. They can only be carried. (Megan Devine)

I discovered this thought several days ago, and it has continued to intrigue me ever since. Out of curiosity, I presented it to several friends and asked them for their interpretation. One was immediately reminded of her own difficult childhood and of the scars that the past had left in her soul. She felt that these wounds would never completely heal, and it was part of her daily challenge to carry them, while attempting to forgive and move on.

Another friend thought of the severe disease that he was struggling with. Since a cure wasn't possible the most positive element in his life was being surrounded by a loving team of caretakers, family and close companions. Each shared a small part of the burden and made it lighter for him.

While I liked the idea of carrying the burdens with others, I also realized that this was not such an easy task. Probably every person has broken parts of their lives that are often well-concealed and not readily shared. How are we supposed to carry what we know nothing about? A personal loss, a difficult financial or social situation, an agonizing decision that need to be made...how can we help when we sense that something might need fixing, yet it cannot be righted, and can only be carried or supported? It takes mutual trust, intuition and experience to be able to reach these channels of communication.

Here is a suggestion that might be new for you: We set an intention to raise the fallen sparks. What is this all about? Most of us are familiar with the concept of "Tikkun Olam," or "repairing the world." This idea does not come from the Bible, the Talmud or our Siddur. We find it in Jewish mysticism, in the idea of *klipot*, broken shards. According to Kabbalah, in the course of creation, some vessels that were supposed to contain pure light were unable to sustain this pressure and burst. Most of the light returned to the Holy Source. The remainder fell below into empty space and attached themselves to the broken shards of the vessels. This ignited the power of evil in the world. Our task is the process of *tikkun*, restoration and repair. This can be achieved by contemplative action, which means concentrating on what the mystics call "raising up the fallen sparks."

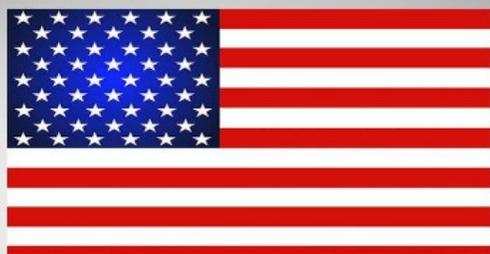
(continued on page 5)

No single person can fix all the broken shards that burst during creation. But by being sensitive to where a *tikkun* might be necessary and then setting the intention of “raising up the fallen sparks,” it is possible to create a collective upwind that can carry far beyond our own capacities. This can help heal the scars of someone’s past, aid the suffering of the ill or bereaved, and touch our surroundings with goodness. I’ve seen this subtle shift happen. It is possible. One way to begin is to change the way we greet each other. We ask routinely “how are you” and the automatic response is “I’m fine,” even when we really aren’t. Deep listening and fine-tuned observation can hint at the words behind the words. What is the tone of voice, the facial expression or the body language revealing that the words are not? Might we sense exhaustion or exhilaration? “How are you?” are the three most useless words in the world of communication. The person asking doesn’t really want to know, and the person responding normally doesn’t share the truth. What follows is a lost opportunity and meaningless exchange without connection. We can learn to take a short breath, look into the other person’s face and open our eyes before we open our mouths. Even if on the phone, we can nevertheless smile. It doesn’t need to be a long conversation. Socially and spiritually, we humans survive on interaction and relationships. For a *tikkun*, we need to go beyond an automatic batting back and forth of polite but empty exchanges of words. As a starter, we can open ourselves to the other person and respond to the “how are you?” by sharing something from our own life. In a remarkable way, this process elevates our own sparks as well.

In this New Year, let’s set an intention for being shard-menders in the world. *Holy carrying is the next best thing to fixing.*

L’Shalom,

Rabbi Rebecca



VETERANS DAY

★★★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★★★

**HAPPY VETERANS
DAY
TO ALL THOSE
WHO HAVE
SERVED!**

Jewish Connections Book Club

The Jewish Connections Book Club meets for brunch and a book discussion one Wednesday, each month from September-May. All meetings are held at the Tea Cellar in Cedar Falls. Dates, times, and reading selections are listed to the left. We welcome members and friends of Sons of Jacob to our meetings. For additional information on the club, please contact Naomi McCormick, nmccormick@cfu.net or Bobbi Kazenelson, bobbikaz@gmail.com.

January 15, 2020; 10-11:00 am

A Tale of Love and Darkness

By Amos Oz

2003, NY: Harvest/Harcourt

February 19, 2020; 10-11:00 am

The Last Watchman of Old Cairo

By Michael David Lukas

2018, NY: Spiegel & Grau/Random House

March 18, 2020; 10-11:00 am

The Guarded Gate

By Daniel Okrent

2019, NY: Scribner

April 15, 2020; 10-11:00 am

Symphony on Fire – A Story of Music and the Spiritual Resistance During the Holocaust

By Sonia Pauline Beker

2007, Paradise Valley, PA: Word smithy

May 20, 2020; 10-11:00 am

A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka

By Lev Golinkin

2014, NY: Doubleday

Wednesday, December 19th

10–11:00 am

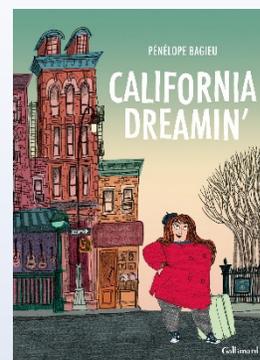
Tea Cellar

209 State St

Cedar Falls

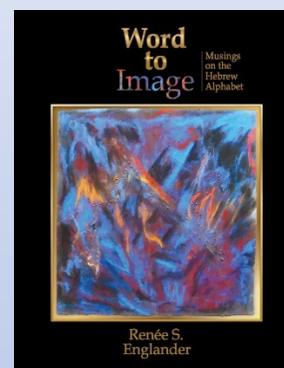
**December
Selections**

California Dreamin': Cass Elliott Before the Mamas & the Papas
By Pénélope Bagieu



Word to Image: Musings on the Hebrew Alphabet

By Renée S. Englander



A link to a review of *California Dreamin': Cass Elliott before the Mamas & the Papas* by Pénélope Bagieu (2017) is provided below.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/comic-riffs/wp/2017/05/19/mama-cass-graphic-biography-california-dreamin-shows-how-a-baltimore-teen-became-a-rock-star/>

Yahrzeits

In Jewish tradition, when the year of mourning is over, mourners are expected to return to a fully normal life. There are several occasions each year when our loved ones who have passed on are memorialized. The most significant of these is yahrzeit, the anniversary of the death, which is observed according to the Hebrew calendar. As is the case in all Jewish holy days, yahrzeit observance begins at night.

You are invited and encouraged to let us know the name and yahrzeit of your beloved ones who have departed. We will add them to our bulletin on the month in which the death occurred. You will get a reminder when the yahrzeit occurs. Yahrzeit candles are available at the synagogue.

“The memory of the Righteous is a Blessing”

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

Oct 27 – Nov 2:

David Kushner
Ruth Blindman
Arron Goldner
Tillie S Kronheim
Lucie M Field
Kurt Wolf
Jacob Cohn
Sarah Rothstein
Sid Weissman

November 10 - 16:

Barbara Ratute Myers
Herschel Gellerman
Lillian Westerman
Alex Margulis
Sam Shrago
Jacob Weissman
David Weinberg
Maurice Cohn
Bess D Cohn
Rachel Nathanson

November 24 - 30:

Bessie Rosenbaum
Arnold Farber
Sheva Sophia Katz
Anne Krensky
Ivan Milner-Brage

November 3 - 9:

Frances Blindman
Ben Barg
Max Leonard Alpern
Sol Algase
Charlotte Rosenthal
Frances Slivken
Jake Kanofsky
Ervin Myers
Ricka Wolf
Henry Cutler

November 17 - 23:

Joseph Lederman
Louis Cecil Hurwich
Mary Libby Margulis
Morris Feldman
Meyer Sidney Lederman
Ida Levi
Meyer Ritter
Peshe Goldie Cohen
Samuel Goldberg
Meyer Widerschein
Rabbi Stanley Rosenbaum



NOV 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Hebrew School

Hebrew School

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Board Meeting

Services with
Rabbi Kushner,
7:30 pm

Services with
Rabbi Kushner,
9:30 am

Hebrew School

Hebrew School

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Jewish
Connections

Hebrew School

Hebrew School

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

Hebrew School

Office is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, unless otherwise noted.

Sons of Jacob Book of Remembrance

The Historical Committee has been meeting to try and gather information on the history of SOJ and its members, past and present.

Our first project is to go through the Book of Remembrance. We are finding many pages which need to be brought up to date. There is a form at the end of this bulletin so you can start a page or make updates to your family's page(s).

We understand that the cost has keep people from doing this in the past. We want to work with individuals to find a donation amount that will be feasible for them. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Finkelstein or Stephanie.

Please help us keep this wonderful historical account of the lives of our members past and present.

- I would like to start a page

Family Name: _____

- I would like to add to my existing page

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____