



Life at Hevreh

November 1 – December 31, 2020





Chanukah: 8 Nights of Light with Hevreh

Thursday, December 10–Thursday, December 17 at 6 pm

Join us online each night at 6 pm to light Chanukah candles. Each night will be hosted by a Hevreh family, and together we will share the blessings for candle lighting, songs, and stories.

Zoom link will be provided in advance.

Chanukah: Hevreh Helps Warm Up the Winter

This year, we are coming together as a community to turn our blessings outward and give back. Our goal is to raise \$8,000 over the course of the holiday to give to the **Construct Warm Up the Winter Fund**, which ensures that our neighbors across the county have access to the funds necessary to heat their homes throughout the winter. Stay tuned for more information about how to donate, matching gifts, and more!

New Member Shabbat shel Chanukah

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 6 PM

We have been honored to welcome nearly thirty families that have joined our community since our last New Member Shabbat in May. To brighten up our festival of lights, we look forward to officially blessing these new families with a celebration for the (Rock of) ages. Check your email for more information from Hevreh's weEngage committee as we get closer to the date!

Chanukah Drive-In Candlelighting and Havdalah

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 5 PM

Join us in the Hevreh parking lot for a special drive-in Chanukah celebration, featuring Havdalah and candle-lighting.

Yachad Chanukah for Religious School Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 9:30 AM

We are excited to celebrate together, even at a distance. Each family will receive a special Yachad Chanukah supply bag at home, with everything you'll need to participate in this fun, interactive morning of learning and celebration. You can opt in to one, or all of the cooking workshops!

9:30 am: 9:30 am: Chanukah Trivia and Singalong with student Cantor Gabe Snyder

10 am: Make Your Own Chocolate Gelt Cooking Workshop

11 am: Learn how to make Iraqi Jalabi: A Fried Chanukah Treat

12 pm: Traditional Latkes & Applesauce Cooking Workshop

Chanukah: Pub Trivia Night for Parents

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 8 PM

Pre-order and pick up your Chanukah brew-pack, fry up your favorite treats, put the kids to bed, and join Quizmaster Corey Rittmaster for a night of pub-style trivia on Zoom, with prizes!



FROM THE RABBI

RABBI NEIL P.G. HIRSCH



At the time of publishing this bulletin, two holidays are upcoming

—Thanksgiving and Chanukah. Looking at these two celebrations, the themes are calling out. Thanksgiving is all about gratitude, and Chanukah means rededication. It strikes me that these themes beg consideration from each of us, given this moment through which we are living.

Let's ask: For what are we grateful? I am grateful for family and friends, community, and health. I hope that each of us will be able to join with others for Thanksgiving, but the realities of COVID may be adjusting how we each are observing the holiday. Nonetheless, my hope is that each of us is still able to express our gratitude to those we love and those who love us, whether that be in person or via Zoom. I am continually grateful for our community, for those within our Hevreh and among our broader circle of neighbors who show care and compassion to one another, who show up to continue to help provide the things we need to thrive together, who do what we need one another to do to stay healthy and safe. And in this day and age, we cannot underscore our thanks for health. I have a friend who pinches himself every morning and says, "Thank God, I'm here." It is his sort of prayer of gratitude to God that he is living another day, and his commitment to make the most of it. As we use this Thanksgiving to describe the different blessings that have come our way, I hope each of us is able to recognize just how full our cups are.

Yet, as we struggle, Chanukah is there to help us through that, too. Chanukah is about rededication of that which is holy. The Temple was desecrated, and the Maccabees had to sanctify it yet again. We know that there are parts of our lives that call for recalibration and renewal. Chanukah invites us to draw up the list of those things that we want to adjust, renew, and change.

Likewise, COVID has forced many of us to change our daily routines and regular practices, and emphasized other aspects of our lives. We have rededicated our home spaces as places of comfort and sanctuary. We have repurposed bedrooms as classrooms or offices. And less tangibly, we have had to rededicate ourselves to friends and family in different ways, found meaning in community virtually when before it was all in person, and found a new balance with work, perhaps.

In so many ways, this coming winter is about continually examining our lives and drawing out blessings. My hope for each of us is that we are able to express gratitude at this season, and also bring light out in a challenging time. May this Thanksgiving and this Chanukah be good for you, for your family, and for our community.

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch



Nina Liprowitz Day 211

TREASURER'S REPORT

As I write this, 5 months into the fiscal year, income and expense numbers appear in line with budget projections. If you have not already sent in your High Holiday appeal donation please consider increasing your gift over last year's gift. We would love if all our members show their support of our community by donating something. Last year we had only 40% of our membership send in donations for our High Holiday appeal, this year we are up to 50%. We need your help so that next year we can report that not only did we increase our participation rate, but that we reached our goal of 100%.

We are also asking that if you have not sent in your security assessment please send this in soon. We have just finished spending our funds awarded by the State of Massachusetts to put protective film on the windows, barrier poles by the front door in order to stop a car from driving into the front of the synagogue, additional security cameras, and medical supplies. Our security assessment has a few other projects that we will need to work on this winter and next spring.

I would also like to ask that you all make an annual donation to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires of any value. The Federation funds supplement our religious school. We need this support in order to keep our fees as low as they are. We could not run the program we have without the support of the Federation. Using money from the security assessment, our security committee will be working on several projects over the coming months.

I wish everyone a very happy Chanukah and remember you can deduct the first \$300 of donations as a tax credit for 2020 on your tax return. Do not let this credit go to waste and please remember Hevreh in your year end giving.

Rebecca Wolin
Treasurer of Hevreh's Board of Trustees

RITUAL SPEAKS

Who could have imagined a year ago that we would be celebrating the High Holy Days and the Festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah as virtual experiences? Who could have imagined that we wouldn't be greeting each other in our beautiful sanctuary and sitting with our loved ones and friends? And yet, so it happened. We are most grateful to Rabbi Hirsch and Rabbi Gordon for re-inventing our services and other High Holy Day events with beautifully prepared materials and music, enabling us to celebrate with joy, love, and excitement. These High Holy Days were like none other. Perhaps the freedom from the stress of parking and finding seats afforded an opportunity to really experience prayer in a new way. The amount of work involved in crafting and delivering HHD services and other events was enormous. We thank the Hevreh staff, Kate Van Olst, Jodie Friedman, and Rebecca Wagner, for everything they did to make all this happen seamlessly. Hevreh volunteers rose to the occasion, preparing and delivering the High Holy Day Kits to our entire membership. They truly did holy work and we are most appreciative.



Chanukah candlelighting:

First Night:
Thursday, December 10

Second Night:
Friday, December 11

Third Night:
Saturday, December 12

Fourth Night:
Sunday, December 13

Fifth Night:
Monday, December 14

Sixth Night:
Tuesday, December 15

Seventh Night:
Wednesday, December 16

Eighth Night:
Thursday, December 17

Berkshire Minyan Update

The Berkshire Minyan is a group that has gathered for traditional egalitarian services in the Hevreh library on Shabbat mornings for more than a decade. Like so many other communities, we have been seeking ways to sustain connections during this time of social isolation.

In July, limited groups of Minyan participants, wearing masks and maintaining appropriate distance, began holding abbreviated outdoor Shabbat morning services at the home of Sharon Strassfeld and Michael Ramella in Great Barrington, while others gathered on Zoom for Torah study. As the High Holidays approached, Amy Sales organized a remote version of the Minyan's traditional Elul learning program, which was attended by some 40 participants. Although we missed gathering in person, we embraced the opportunity to learn with our members as well as teachers from beyond the Berkshires.

At the same time, we started to consider how we might conduct safe, in-person, abbreviated High Holiday services out of doors for our relatively small congregation. After months of planning, about 50 of us gathered, masked and with appropriate spacing, under canopies while others tuned in online. Rabbi Daniel and Dr. Lisa Lehmann kindly invited us to pitch our tents on their property in Stockbridge. The rabbis on our planning committee,

Neal Borovitz and Stephan Parnes, helped identify the most essential parts of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services so that we could keep each service to within two hours. As always with the Berkshire Minyan, many participants assumed roles in the services –chanting Torah and Haftarah and leading prayers and discussions. Our special gratitude goes to Rob and Patty Fire who chaired the committee and, with their beautiful harmony and heartfelt engagement, led us through the High Holiday liturgy.

All of us were delighted with what our community was able to achieve under such fearful circumstances—especially as we found ourselves outdoors, under clear skies, and in the midst of New England Fall foliage, a masterpiece of Creation.

As the weather turns colder, we are moving our Shabbat morning services indoors for those who are comfortable doing so, and we are continuing to stream our services to all who want to join with the Minyan. As we do so, we continue to hope for a speedy reunion with our friends over a Shabbat kiddush table at our Hevreh home.

Aaron Gurwitz
Berkshire Minyan



Heidi Katz Psalm 57

get INVOLVED

weENGAGE

We hope all of you had a happy, sweet, joyous, and especially healthy High Holy Day season. We look forward to seeing you at our many Hevreh Zoom events, and then to being able to get together in person.

weEngage has had a very busy year and a half welcoming our new members – 31 in Fiscal Year 2019 and an additional 27 so far in FY 2020, which began in May. We will be hosting a Zoom New Member Welcome Shabbat in December to officially welcome each and every one of these new members and their families.

It is always heartening when new members enthusiastically email us back to let us know how much they are looking forward to being part of our Hevreh family.

So, when you see information about our New Member Shabbat on Friday, December 11 please mark the date on your calendar and be sure to join us in getting to know, at least via Zoom, the latest arrivals to our family. Let's give everyone a warm Hevreh welcome.

Debbie Harris, Julie Gale, and Shelley Rolf
weEngage Chairs

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Justice in Action Committee has focused its energies on the Religious Action Center's (RAC) Civic Engagement Get Out The Vote Campaign for the November election. The weekly topical webinars held through RAC enabled congregants from all over the country to connect with each other and share experiences in their efforts to get out the vote. This has been a non-partisan effort targeting low propensity voters.

One part of this initiative was led by Debbie Harris. She recruited Hevreh volunteers to reach out by phone to our membership and ask them to commit to voting this November so that we could be a 100% voting congregation. As our Hevreh members vote in a variety of states besides MA (NY, NJ, FL, and TX), volunteers were also able to provide information on registering to vote, absentee and mail-in vote options. Callers also asked members to reach out to family and friends to encourage them to vote.

Hevreh volunteers have used RAC resources through Reclaim Our Vote to do postcarding and letter writing in FL, TX, GA, SC, and NC. The colorful, handwritten postcards provided relevant information on registering to vote and options for voting early or by mail. Molly Sheriff headed up this initiative and we are very proud that, at this writing, over 1000 postcards have been sent.

The RAC also offered phone banking and texting initiatives. This was led by Jadwiga Brown and there were around 250 calls made by volunteers.

Tom Sawyer continues to head the Social Justice in Action's Breaking Bread Kitchen. Take-out meals are being served at the American Legion Hall in Sheffield even during the pandemic. Hevreh has been doing a meal about every 6 weeks. The meals have an attendance of about 80 community members. Pat and Rob Fire and Tom Sawyer have been the Hevreh leads and they have been helped by a few Hevreh volunteers but can always use more.

The Peoples Pantry has been another initiative that has been very active in addressing food insecurity during this challenging time. Susan Weinstein reports that Mahaiwe Tent has provided tents for outdoor food pickup. Fortunately, the pantry has received many grants and will be able to continue this winter. Berkshire Bounty has been collecting from Hevreh members to distribute to People's Pantry shoppers.

Those interested in volunteering, making cash donations or dropping off food and household items that are needed can go to the People's Pantry website: thepeoplespantrygb.org or to Berkshire Bounty's website: berkshirebounty.org.

Michele Krieg Bauer and Carol Noble
Social Justice in Action C-Chairs

BERKSHIRE BOUNTY: CALL FOR DONATIONS

Tuesday, December 1 from 10 am-12 pm

Berkshire Bounty is now preparing for its 7th monthly Mobile Food Drive on Tuesday, December 1. We will again be collecting canned and/or packaged goods that will be distributed to the growing population of food insecure people in South County through People's Pantry in Great Barrington.

TO FOOD DONORS:

Foods in most demand are:
hearty soups, tomato sauce
and cereal.

Or

Help with Christmas by
donating canned cranberry
sauce, canned vegetables
(green beans, yams or peas),
jarred or envelope of gravy
mix, stuffing.

*If donating from your own
pantry, please check outdates.*

Many congregants have donated food during Berkshire Bounty's monthly Mobile Food Drives since the first one in June. We hope all those congregants AND MORE will contribute food as part of the next collection.

Berkshire Bounty volunteers will come to Donors' homes on Tuesday, December 1 between 10 am and 12 pm. Donors are asked to leave their food donations at their doorstep by 910 am. If the food is not there, the volunteer driver will knock on your door or call you after they arrive. We ask that you then carry your donation to the driver's vehicle. Food Donors may also drop their food donation at Hevreh or at People's Pantry during those same hours.

We ask you to consider: a) donating canned and/or packaged food; b) driving to pick up donations at food donors' homes; and/or, c) helping unload from driver's cars as they deliver food to People's Pantry on the day of the Mobile Food Drive. If you are interested in participating, please email Berkshire Bounty at info@berkshire-bounty.org to tell us what you would like to do. Please also include your street address, email address and best contact telephone number.

Mark Lefenfeld & Jay Weintraub
Co-Presidents, Berkshire Bounty

ROSH CHODESH NEWS

The new year has begun and the Rosh Chodesh group has begun meeting again. For those of you unfamiliar with Rosh Chodesh, it is an ancient ritual to celebrate the new moon each month. Here at Hevreh we welcome any female member of the congregation to join us – we love including new people! We meet several times a year, trying to line up meeting dates with the actual Rosh Chodesh/new moon date. In October we watched the WAM Theater production of ROE online and then met as a group a couple of days later to discuss the production and the issues involved. Our next event will be our **Annual Chanukah Latke Potluck on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm**. Unfortunately, we cannot meet in person, to smell and savor the wonderful flavors of all the foods participants bring. So our plan is to each make latkes and join together on zoom to have a meal together. Participants can do traditional latkes or get creative – hopefully we can exchange recipes. The other thing we will do that night is talk about Chanukah family traditions/Shabbat traditions. An email will be sent out closer to the date and you can RSVP at that time. If you are not on the email list for Rosh Chodesh and would like to be, please send your name and email address to Michele Krieg Bauer, chair of Rosh Chodesh, at talktome8888@ymail.com. We hope to welcome current and new members to our group!!

Michele Krieg Bauer and Carol Noble
Rosh Chodesh Co-chairs



Larry Frankel *Olive Tree*

VOLUNTEERING WITH HEVREH

Interested in Volunteering with Hevreh?

Over the High Holy Days our Hevreh volunteers reached out to every single household, stuffed envelopes, filled and delivered our #HevrehAtHome kits, and most importantly, brought genuine connection to each interaction and did the holy work of keeping our community feeling connected. As we continue to come together creatively through the winter, we'd love to hear from members who are willing and able to say "yes" and lend a hand.

If you'd like to be on the general volunteer email list, or if you have specific tasks you'd like to help with, please email our **Communications and Engagement Manager, Jodie Friedman** at jfriedman@hevreh.org.

Chanukah Bag Brigade

Bag filling: Thursday, December 3, 2-4 pm

Bag delivery: Monday-Wednesday December 7-9

We are excited to deliver a little extra Chanukah love to our community this year, and we need your help! Filling the bags will take place in the sanctuary, with all Covid-precautions observed. Delivering bags is a great way to meet the families in our congregation, and say hello from a distance!

Questions? Interested? Be in touch with Jodie Friedman at jfriedman@hevreh.org

OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE...OPEN YOUR EARS TO LISTEN...
OPEN YOUR HEART TO CHANGE

We are in a restaurant with a vivacious 5 year old girl, her grandmother and mother. They are being served by an attractive young person, Sara. Nadia, the 5 year old says in a subdued voice, as if the conversation is not to be overheard, "Safta, did you see the person who is waiting on us? She was born a boy but really wants to be a girl. She is transitioning. Now she will be happy." When Sara, returned, Nadia smiled warmly and simply said, "Sara, I like you."

In Deuteronomy 32:1, we read Moses' last words: "HA ZANUI" as he entreats ALL ISRAEL TO OPEN THEIR EARS; TO HEAR — and then immediately after we read the first words of Genesis. "Berashit" how in the beginning: God created the earth, separated day from night; water from land; spread vegetation over the earth; lit the sky; populated the earth with water creatures and beasts on land. On the sixth day, God created ADAM —a human — not humans, but one single human, from whom all others were created .

We all came from one ...man and woman! Granted we do not all look alike; some of us are brown; some black; some white! We come from all parts of the world. But we are all flesh and blood. We all need nourishment, caring and love.

Let us open our eyes to our differences and celebrate these differences. Let us care for the other, as we care for own. Let us open our ears to hear the cries for help and not ignore those cries Let us fight for those seeking asylum; let us eliminate weapons that kill dozens in seconds. Let us work together for a better, kinder, world.

Let us begin right now, right here, in our own hearts.

Jadwiga Brown

Thanks to those who helped
raise and lower our Sukkah
this year:

Dave Halley

Jeff Blaugrund

Suzanne Sawyer

Daniel Bellow

Dale Drimmer

Lori Thaler-Cohen

Mia Cohen



HEVREH HAPPENINGS

Visit hevreh.org/community to join any of these exciting classes.

DROP IN FOR...

WEEKLY LUNCH N LEARN

November 4, 11, 18, December 2, 9, 16, 23

Wednesdays at 11:45 am

Our tradition teaches that when two (or more) sit together and discuss words of Torah God dwells with them. Study is one of the many ways we as a Jewish community experience the sacred and the spiritual. Join Rabbi Hirsch each week as we continue our path of sacred learning. All are welcome, and make sure to bring a friend! To get the Zoom link each week, email info@hevreh.org.

HEVREH'S CREATIVE BEIT MIDRASH

November 7, 21, December 5, 19

Biweekly, Saturdays, 8:30-9:45 am

Now that we've celebrated the start of the new year, repented, sat in our booths, and started the Torah cycle anew, it's time to get creative. Combine your spiritual energy and your creative imagination. Together with Rabbi Hirsch, participants explore Jewish topics through mediums of choice. Join in to express yourself through visual art, music, dance, written word, etc. Sessions are for sharing and processing individuals' creative product through nurturing, not critique. No artistic experience is needed. The doors to creativity never close. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Hevreh to be directed to Larry Frankel or Heidi Katz.

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR...

TRAVELING THE MUSSAR PATH

Nov 2, 16, 30, Dec 14, Jan 11, 25, February 8, 22, March 8, 22, April 5, 26, May 10, 24

Meeting Mondays from 12-1:30 pm

The cost for this course is \$180. Visit hevreh.org/community to sign up.

In our confusing and contentious time, many are seeking to find a greater sense of grounding in core virtues which can guide us, uplift us and inspire us to become the best persons we can be. For the Jewish world, asking such a focus is hardly new. Yet, in our time, we have the uncovering of a rich part of our Jewish heritage which was nearly lost to our people – the study and practice of Mussar. In large part inspired by the work of The Mussar Institute and other contemporary efforts at reclaiming mussar for our day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study Mussar teachings and their accompanying practice into their lives.

Traveling "the Mussar Path" is a powerful, meaningful and life-affirming spiritual practice. This Va'ad (Mussar group) is both for new students/practitioners as well as those with some previous experience in Mussar study and practice. We will begin by exploring middot (soul-traits) such as Hakarat HaTov/Gratitude; Kavod/Honor; Sh'tikah/Silence. From there we will move on to middot (soul-traits) chosen collaboratively by the members of the group. The experience will involve bi-weekly group sessions, alternating with hevruta study outside of our group sessions.

Visit hevreh.org/community to join any of these exciting classes.

ADULT HEBREW 102

November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17, January 7, 14, 21, 28
Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 am

Tuition Cost: \$36

This past summer, over 40 adults in our Hevreh community joined together to learn Hebrew. This fall and winter we continue! For those just learning their letters and basic reading, join Rabbi Hirsch’s group on Thursday mornings. Learning Hebrew unlocks new pathways for your Jewish journey. Join us! All are welcome.



KITAH BET HEBREW

November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17, January 7, 14, 21, 28
Thursdays, 10-11 am

Tuition Cost: \$36

Ezeh kef lilmod ivrit! What fun to study Hebrew—ask anyone who started in our adult Hebrew program this past summer! Join Rabbi Gordon on Thursdays for a continuation of Kitah Bet (intermediate level) Hebrew class. We’ll be using the “Aleph isn’t Enough” text book to continue building our skill set for reading, decoding, and understanding Hebrew!



KITAH GIMMEL WITH MOREH AVI

Continuing on November 5
Thursdays, 3-4 pm

Tuition Cost: \$36

Our Kitah Gimmel advanced Hebrew class will continue to meet every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 4. We currently have five students and there is room for folks looking to advance their conversational Hebrew skills. Our textbook is put out by the Israeli Ministry of Education and geared towards middle school aged immigrants to Israel. We supplement the text by starting each class with Hebrew conversation for 15-20 minutes and have also dabbled in Israeli newspaper and short story reading.



BEYOND BREAD: WINTER BAKING COURSE

November 19: Challah Fundamentals And a Bonus—Sweet Potato Challah
December 17: Babka
January 14: Barbari
February 11: Fougasse
Thursdays from 4-5:30 pm

Tuition Cost: \$30 per course

Hevreh is excited to partner with master baker Cheryl Holbert of Nomad Bakery for a curated Zoom baking class this winter. Once a month, we will welcome Cheryl into our virtual kitchens and bake delicious creations full of Jewish soul and creativity. All ages and kitchen experiences are welcome, ingredients lists will be sent at the time of registration. Each course is \$30 per person. Sign up for one, or for all four!



religious school news

Calendar Reminders:

November

Sunday, Nov. 1:	No School Prep day for Faculty
Tues/Wed. Nov. 3/4:	Hebrew Skills on Zoom
Saturday, Nov. 7:	Yachad Shabbat on Zoom (10 am)
Sunday, Nov. 8:	Tiny Talmidim (9:30 am)
Tues/Wed. Nov. 10/11:	Hebrew Skills on Zoom
Sat. Nov. 14:	Tot Shabbat on Zoom (9 am)
	Teen Leadership & Havdalah on Zoom (6:45 pm)
Sunday, Nov. 15:	Unit Check-In on Zoom (9:30-10 am)
	Family Take Home Project #1: Building toward Justice
Tues/Wed. Nov. 17/18:	Hebrew Skills on Zoom
Sunday, Nov. 22:	All Religious School T’filah for students and families, followed by students only Unit Time (9:30 am)
Tues/Wed. Nov. 24/25:	Hebrew Skills on Zoom
Sun. Nov. 29:	No School

December

Tues/Wed. Dec 1/2:	Hebrew Skills on Zoom
Saturday, Dec. 5:	Yachad Shabbat on Zoom (10 am)
Sunday, Dec. 6:	Tiny Talmidim (9:30 am)
Tues/Wed. Dec 8/9:	Hebrew Skills on Zoom
Saturday, Dec. 12:	Tot Shabbat (9 am)
Sunday, Dec. 13th:	Yachad Chanukah (more information below!)
Tues/Wed. Dec 15/16:	Hebrew Skills on Zoom
Sunday, Dec. 20:	All Religious School T’filah for students and families, followed by students only Unit Time (9:30 am)

YACHAD CHANUKAH FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FAMILIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 9:30 AM

We are excited to celebrate together, even at a distance. Each family will receive a special Yachad Chanukah supply bag at home, with everything you’ll need to participate in this fun, interactive morning of learning and celebration. You can opt in to one, or all of the cooking workshops!

9:30 am: 9:30 am: Chanukah Trivia and Singalong with student Cantor Gabe Snyder

10 am: Make Your Own Chocolate Gelt Cooking Workshop

11 am: Learn how to make Iraqi Jalabi: A Fried Chanukah Treat

12 pm: Traditional Latkes & Applesauce Cooking Workshop



Monthly on Saturdays, 9am

Zoom into Tot Shabbat in your PJ’s!

NOVEMBER 14 AND DECEMBER 12

All are welcome to sing and dance their way into Shabbat with your friends from Hevreh! Our online Shabbat morning experience is a terrific way to center your family for a day of rest and special time together. Join the rabbis, and student cantor Gabe Snyder for a lively Shabbat experience each month, and as always— all are welcome.

teacher reflections

"This school year we are learning how to use our other senses to teach and to learn. It's more difficult to speak and hear with masks on and when we are very far apart. The first week, we all tried to be louder and teach in our known way. Three weeks in, we are teaching in new ways, relying on non verbal communication and our powers of observation. We have all learned to pause a bit before we speak and act.

Resilience is coded into our DNA. We've been changing and adapting the way we teach Judaism for 5781 years. What we are doing this year is tapping into it and rediscovering what we have always known how to do."

–Terri Sash, Tiny Talmidim

"While it's true that living through a pandemic has certainly made many things more challenging, as a teacher it has given me the opportunity to truly appreciate some things I used to take for granted. Most especially, having real face to socially-distant face time with your students!

Teaching at Hevreh has always been one of the great joys of living in the Berkshires. When the pandemic started last March I was worried that moving to Zoom we would lose much of the social cohesion and camaraderie that had developed in our classrooms over the previous months and years.

But, I watched with delight both Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday as our students laughed and joked, ran around the back yard and gathered in socially distant small groups to chat and socialize, it was clear to me that my fears had been unjustified. They are doing amazingly well and if anything are even more closely bonded than they were last February. If they are any indication, I'm hopeful that together we're all going to somehow make it through this and emerge stronger and more closely connected than ever.

It is such a joy to hear children's laughter at Hevreh again. As a teacher, it's the greatest gift we could receive."

–Dave Halley, K'Tanim (K-2nd Grade) and Bonim (3rd-5th Grade)

"As both a parent and a teacher in the Religious School, the Corona era presents double the challenges but also double the opportunities. Fortunately, the Education Team at Hevreh has been doing its very best to minimize the former and maximize the latter. The barriers to participation have never been lower and, as a result, attendance has never been higher. For example, Wednesday school is now Tuesday or Wednesday, virtual or in-person and individual or small group, making it so much easier to accommodate teacher, parent and student schedules and different student learning styles. This year, we have also made "Building Towards Justice" one of the pillars of our learning goals, highlighting the importance of making anti-racism part of our work as educators, while also reflecting the current reality in our country and in our growing Religious School community, where many of our families are Jews of Color. The challenges of Covid are well-known and widespread, but these are just a few of the unexpected blessings and bright spots that make me proud to be a member of the teaching staff and of our Religious School community."

–Avi Dresner, Tzofim (6th and 7th Grade)

Dear Families,

It was a true shehecheyanu moment – on August 31st the ECC at Hevreh officially opened its doors, providing care and learning to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. From that moment on, we have been growing and strengthening our early childhood community.

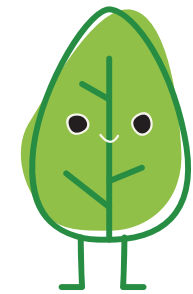
The children's laughter, and occasional tears, reflect the sounds of learning and exploration, forging friendships, and developing classroom identities. All our classrooms (Sunshine, Rainbow and Sky) share in the excitement of discovery, imagining and creating. Through nature walks and outdoor play, stories and music, building and painting, the children are given the tools to grow and thrive. Deeper than the activity itself is the social development of each child as they figure out how to wait, share, take turns, and resolve conflict. All this is done with the support and love of our amazing teaching team. Each educator brings a diversity of strengths and all possess valuable experience and a passion for the field.

On a personal note, I find the joy of Shabbat is amplified listening to our youngest children singing and celebrating together. As we continue to grow and thrive, my wish is for the playful, joyous voices of children to be heard throughout the building, reinforcing Hevreh's place as a community home for people of all ages and its commitment to our future.

L'shalom,

Ellen Marcus

Director, The ECC at Hevreh



Early
Childhood
Center

at Hevreh



Auriel Blessings in the Meadow

High Holy Day appeal donation List

Elise Abrams
Marion Adler
Paul Adler
Roy Aibel
Cindy & Mark Andrews
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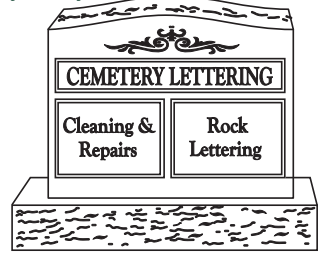

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Event link, password, recipes, and ingredient list will be sent before the event.

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