

JANUARY 2021

KEHILLAT MA'ARAV'S
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

My

KM
VOICE

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE...**

**HELLO, FROM
CANTOR
MELANIE
FINE**

**GET READY
FOR KM'S
BLOOD
DRIVE**

**MY KM:
STAN ZIEGLER**

**MAZEL TOV:
"IT'S THREE GIRLS
AND A BOY!"**

**IN MEMORY OF
WENDY ZEITLIN**



Dear Congregants,

I am thrilled to be writing you as the Interim Cantor of Kehillat Ma'arav. When I chose to become a cantor and enrolled at the Jewish Theological Seminary

almost 30 years ago, I dreamed of serving a community that was like my second family, a community of like-minded people who loved Judaism as much as I did, who appreciated the gifts I had to bring, and brought me even more.

For many of us young and eager graduates, our early pulpits did not always meet our expectations. Few things do. Often, as a result, I would seek my spiritual and intellectual nourishment outside the community in which I served. This is one of the paradoxes facing many professional Jews.

I have loved being your Torah reader over the past six years. What I intended at first to be a part-time job has blossomed into the warm, welcoming, and spiritual home my son Max and I had been seeking. You have showered me with so much *kavod* (honor) over the years for my small contribution to the service, *dayenu*. It has been more than enough.

I am saddened by the resignation of our beloved and talented Cantor Sam. He has been the *nefesh* (soul) of KM. And I am honored to be given the sacred responsibility of being your interim cantor. I know I cannot replace all that Cantor Sam has brought to this congregation. Rather, my goal is to bring the best of me each and every day.

Two strengths that I bring to the pulpit are first and foremost, my vision for more inclusive Shabbat services. I believe we shine ever brighter the more members we involve in services, as Torah readers, Haftarah readers, daveners, singers, and English readers. If you would like to participate by doing any of these, Covid-permitting, please reach out to me. And, if you've always wanted to learn how to chant Torah or Haftarah, now's the time, even if you don't read Hebrew. Because, the second strength I bring is my decades of experience as an educator. More than my love for Judaism, is my love for teaching it. I hope you will allow me the opportunity to do so.

Please reach out to me with whatever you need.

May we go from strength to strength.

B'shalom v'hoda'ah,

Cantor Melanie Fine

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

YOM HULEDET SAMEACH!

Carol Abrams	Sue Hoffman
Michael Amster	Paul Klein
Yael Baruch	Tally Lippman
Robert Bernstein	Massoud Nemanim
Bernard Bienstock	Azita Nemanim
Oscar Bolanos	Joseph Peters
Raya Farrah Bolanos	Albert Reff
Sharona Daghighian	Sanford Rosenblatt
Louis Diamant	Jessica Sacher
Robert Ditchey	Gary Samson
Sumena Dunn	Avraham Shemesh
Joshua Dunn	Debra Silverman
Mikaela Ebrahemi	Libby Silverman
David Feldman	Rachel Steinhardt
Eric Fleiss	Skip Usen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

MAZEL TOV!

Eric & JoJo Fleiss 8th anniversary
Leon & Sharon Janks 38th anniversary
Jonathan & Area Kramarsky 20th anniversary
Robert Brook & Jackie Kosecoff 40th anniversary
Sid & Carole Meltzner 50th anniversary
Neville & Fay Pimstone 59th anniversary

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, LITTLE ONES!



Claire Vivian Gaster

Claire was born on Tuesday, November 16, and is the granddaughter of Minda and Jeff Salberg. The baby girl is the daughter of their son, Richard Gaster, and his wife, Stefanie.



Miles Hernandez Cambou

Miles was born on Monday, December 6th, and is the grandson of Mary Jo and David Wilzig. The baby boy is the son of their daughter, Dr. Catie Cambou, and her husband, Dr. Raul Hernandez.



Laila Yael Kirschenbaum

Laila was born on Thursday, December 16, and is the granddaughter of Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum. The baby girl is the daughter of their son, Josh, and his wife, Elina Kharit.

Laila Yael with her older brother, Leo.



Remi Margot Night

Remi was born on Saturday, January 1, and is the granddaughter of Marsha and Laurie (Phillip) Furst and Allan Night. The baby girl is the daughter of the Furst's daughter, Carly, and her husband, Orry Night, son of Allan Night.

MY KM: WHY I BELONG



STAN ZIEGLER

"...we're all very close-knit."

about a group of people getting together to start a new synagogue. Like the Zieglers, they didn't love all aspects of their current synagogues and were looking to create their own. "Sandy wanted me to go to a meeting, but since I was busy with tax season, I couldn't make it," he recalls. "I told her to go and if she thought it was worthwhile, then I'd go to the next meeting."

She thought the people were very warm and nice—a cornerstone of the Kehillat Ma'arav community even today—and the rest is history. They started out meeting

It was during a tax season when Stan, a CPA, came home to his now late-wife, Sandy, who told him

in homes, then in the Brentwood Presbyterian Church. "To this day, every Thanksgiving we have a joint breakfast where we get together here one year and at the church the next to eat, share and sing songs."

Involved from the beginning as synagogue treasurer, Stan would often invite people to experience Kehillat Ma'arav. He introduced one client of his who loved it so much that he joined and became a major donor. "He gave an initial \$1 million gift to the synagogue which went a long way for us to start searching for our building. In addition to his gift, he also helped pay off our mortgages," Stan shares.

One of Stan's favorite things about the synagogue after so many years is seeing the multiple generations together. "I've never been to a place where you find young and elderly people co-mingling so beautifully," he says. "Age doesn't mean a thing; we're all very close-knit."

JOIN KM IN SOCIAL ACTION!

WHY I CHOOSE TO DONATE BLOOD... by Alan Sperling



On January 30, KM will be holding a blood drive. It is very important that we get more than our goal of fifty donors. During these challenging times every pint helps save lives. This will be my forty ninth donation. I started a number of years ago when the Shul I was a member of in Columbia Maryland had its initial blood drive. I showed up because my good friend was running the event and I wanted to support him. The deed was done—I gave almost every time we had a drive. I waited six hours in line after 9/11 to donate. It feels good to donate. It gives you a sense of positivity. It is a Mitzvah.

And you get free treats —What else can you ask for?

Show up Jan. 30. It will make your day.

SAVE THE DATE TO SAVE A LIFE

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Mitzvah Day

The Kehillat Ma'arav Social Action Committee is pleased to announce that we have partnered with The American Red Cross to host a blood drive on Sunday, **January 30, 2022**. As the largest project in our evolving plans for a synagogue-wide **Mitzvah Day**, our Blood Drive will be a meaningful and life-saving day for so many.



We are committed to gathering a group of **at least fifty (50) donors!** If you've donated blood before, great—thank you for signing up again! **If you are unsure about whether you are able to donate**, the American Red Cross has a wealth of information to answers those musings. The truth is, more often than not, folks believe they are ineligible to donate, but they are absolutely fine to perform this life-saving mitzvah.

Visit the KM website, or see the weekly for more information. You can also call the Red Cross at (866) 236-3276 to find out if you are eligible to give.

There will be many opportunities to participate, even if you cannot donate blood. In the days ahead, we look forward to sharing information about donor outreach, financial contributions, and day-of hospitality for everyone who joins us onsite that day. Please contact Kate Flanagan at kateflanagan@km-synagogue.org to sign up to help, or if you have any questions.

OLD FASHIONED STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 large cabbage | 1 1/2 teaspoons salt |
| 2 pounds lean ground beef | 1 teaspoon pepper |
| 2 medium to large onions | 2 cans tomato soup |
| 2 tablespoons canola or olive oil | 2 small bottles (individual serving sizes) tomato juice or vegetable cocktail (like V8 juice) |
| 1 cup white or brown rice and 2 cups water | 1 can or small carton chicken broth |
| 3 eggs | |

DIRECTIONS:

In the bag that you brought your cabbage home~place the cabbage in the freezer and leave for 12 hours or overnight. Remove and leave to thaw at room temperature. This will take awhile, so I often take it the night before the day I want to make the cabbage rolls. The leaves will be soft and easy to use without having to boil them.

In a small saucepan or a microwave safe covered dish cook the rice. Set aside to cool. The rice can be made the day ahead and kept chilled in the refrigerator overnight.

Chop the onions fine and sauté them slowly until they are golden brown~set aside to cool.

In a large bowl, break apart the ground beef, add the salt, pepper, eggs, onions and the rice. Mix together until combined using your hands.

Remove the leaves from the cabbage, cutting away the tough part closest to the core.

Spray your large casserole or two small casserole dishes with cooking spray.

Put about a 1/3 to 1/2 cup meat mixture at the bottom of the leaf and roll up...the meat amount varies depending on the size of the leaf...repeat until all the meat is used up.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the tomato soup, juice, and broth. Pour evenly over the cabbage rolls. Cover with foil or the lid.

Bake the cabbage rolls slowly at 325 for 2 hours. Serve or cool on the counter. Remove the foil (if you don't, you will have little bits of foil on your cabbage rolls where ever it touches.) Cover with plastic wrap and either refrigerate or freeze.

For reheating~thaw first if frozen. Remove the plastic wrap and cover with a lid or foil and just reheat in the oven for about an hour at 325.

Enjoy!

Recipe suggested by Rose Piccirilli; courtesy of cakesandcolors.com

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In honor of

Deborah Berenbach, on the birth of her grandson, Leon, by Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk

Cantor Samuel Cohen's wonderful years of service, by Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk

Allisa and Zachary Fierstadt's new son, Sascha, and Leo Fierstadt's new brother, by Ellis Rosenblatt

Jill and Rabbi Gotlieb, on the birth of their grandson, Sascha, by Lolly Bennett, Evelyn Berger, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Judy and Mitch Blake, Judy and Les Eber, Karen Gottlieb, Brana Hall, Sue and Paul Hoffman, Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum, Leah Mendelsohn, Ellis Rosenblatt, Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk, Laurie and Gary Samson, Suzanne Schweitzer, Judy and Steve Shapiro, Shirley Strom, Joseph, Naomi, and Mina Yadegar, Stan Ziegler, Judy and Lou Zucker

Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum, on the birth of their granddaughter, Laila, by Judy and Manny Baker, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Sue and Paul Hoffman, Lori and Brian Papernik, Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk

Dorine Kramer and Nicholas Mitchell, on the birth of their grandson, Reuben, by Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk

A speedy recovery to

Jennifer Berman, by Judy and Lou Zucker

In memory of

Akhtar Aframian, mother of Joseph Yadegar, by Joseph and Naomi Yadegar

Selma Greenberg, grandmother of Sharon Krischer, by Sharon and Joel Krischer

Seymour Kramer, father of Beverly Schwartz, by Beverly Schwartz

Esther Rosenfeld, mother-in-law of Gail Rosenfeld, by Gail Rosenfeld

CAMP RAMAH FUND

In memory of

Bessie Abrams, mother of Chuck Abrams, by Chuck and Carol Abrams

George Louis, father of Carol Abrams, by Carol and Chuck Abrams

KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of

Sandi Diamant's birthday, by Louis and Sandi Diamant

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A donation by

Peter and Karla Gardner

Teri Lewis

Naomi and Joseph Yadegar

In honor of

Jill and Rabbi Gotlieb, on the birth of their grandson, Sascha, by Judy and Manny Baker, Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum

Tali Albert's Bat Mitzvah, by Matt Albert

In memory of

Sylvain and Betty Bernstein, parents of Alan Bernstein, by Alan Bernstein

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A donation by

Peter and Karla Gardner

IN MEMORY OF

Wendy Zeitlin

(December 16, 1938 –
January 26, 2020)

Remembered by

Sharon, Matthew, and Jacob Zeitlin



In 1938, Wendy was born in the Bronx, New York. She was the youngest of 3 daughters of Morris and Celia Bier.

At the age of 14, she visited her sister Doris who moved to California with her husband and family and liked it so much, she never went back to New York. Her parents, who owned a candy store in the Bronx, and other sister followed her and they all made a wonderful life in California.

At the age of 17, she met Stanley Zeitlin, a native of Texas, but then living in Santa Monica. They married and had 2 children, Sharon and Steven. Wendy held many jobs, but her favorite and most meaningful was running a successful periodical company with Stanley, selling back-issue periodicals throughout the world. Together, they completed libraries and made scientific and medical periodicals available to others worldwide. They both retired and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where they enjoyed living together for many years. Although Stanley died in 2008, Wendy continued to live there, traveling back and forth to Culver City to spend time with her daughter and 2 grandchildren, Matthew and Jacob, who she loved more than anything.

She told amazing stories, created exquisite art work, and loved animals, especially her 4 dogs. She died in 2020 at the age of 81. She is remembered for her beautiful heart, contagious laugh, kindness and generosity, and was loved by everyone who knew her. She is missed every day.

YAHREZITS

Listed by date name is read at Shabbat Services.



January 1

Shraga Amster, father of Michael Amster

Abe Ballonoff, husband of Edith Ballonoff and father of Lynn Beliak

Gabriel Rosenthal, father of Marian Goldsmith

Hannah Goldsmith, mother of Charles Goldsmith

Sheila Hope Hirschberg, mother of Mark Hirschberg

Eva Kramer, mother of Dorine Kramer and Beverly Schwartz and grandmother of Andrea Jussim

Judith Baar Resnick, mother of Joanne Klein

Lea Kramarsky, mother of Jonathan Kramarsky

Henry Latiner, father of Forrest Latiner

Karl Peterson, father of April Peterson

Sigmund Posner, father of Judy Shapiro

Abraham Gross, grandfather of Shelly Vedres

Louis Gross, father of Shelly Vedres

Yehudit Soltz, mother-in-law of Michael Wyte

Wendy Zeitlin, mother of Sharon Zeitlin

Pauline Taube, aunt of Stan Ziegler and great aunt of Randy Ziegler

January 8

Naomi Louis, mother of Carol Abrams

Samuel Bortnik, grandfather of Mathew Averbukh

Hy Baker, brother of Manny Baker

Bertha Marcus, step-mother of Judy Baker

Rhia Wolfe, mother of Lolly Bennett

Harold Glick, father of Susan Bronstein

David Fischbein, uncle of Alan Fein

Esther Gura, mother of Dennis Gura

Arthur J. Lewis, brother of Teri Lewis

Ethel Menitoff, mother of Michael Menitoff

Meyer Simon Olken, father of Sherwin Olken

Benjamin Reff, father of Albert Reff

Shirle Fleck, aunt of Kathie Rose

Lillian Turk, aunt of Shirley Strom

Arthur Swerdloff, father of Lauren Swerdloff

George Wolfberg, husband of Diane Wolfberg

Pamela Paul, mother of Jennifer Wolfberg

George Wolfberg, brother of Ted Wolfberg

January 15

Gesya Averbukh, grandmother of Mathew Averbukh

Rebecca Bortnik, grandmother of Mathew Averbukh

Morris Davidson, uncle of Judy Baker

William Barnard, husband of Sara Barnard

Rose Barnett, mother of Ron Barnett

Morris Bram, father of Edith Ballonoff grandfather of Lynn Beliak

Hannah Sallo, grandmother of Rachel Berg

Benjamin Brook, father of Robert Brook

Bernard DeHovitz, father of Dan DeHovitz

Eugene Erdley, father of Harold Erdley and grandfather of Alyssa Ganezer

Joshua Eisenstein, nephew of Marian Goldsmith

Mimi Harris, aunt of Karen Sue Gottlieb

Sam Stover, grandfather of Gaylen Grody

Bobbie Eisenstadt, sister of Harvey Kern

Leonard Mitchell, father of Nicholas Mitchell

David Gaiser, father of Heather Moses

Rose Rose, mother of Stan Rubin

Raffi Sabban, husband of Sonia Sabban

Stanley Greenberg, uncle of Tammy Steinsapir

Magda Kovacs, aunt of Thomas Vedres

Dorothy Paul, grandmother of Jennifer Wolfberg

Leah Wolfberg, mother of Ted Wolfberg and mother-in-law of Diane Wolfberg

Beatrice Horwitz, mother of Susie Yuré

Hilda Seidel, aunt of Stan Ziegler and great-aunt of Randy Ziegler

January 22

Bernard Marcus, father of Judy Baker

Clara Davidson, aunt of Judy Baker

James A. Winsberg, father of Sara Barnard

Sylvia Atkins, sister of Edith Ballonoff and aunt of Lynn Beliak

Eleanor Mooney, grandmother of Kate Flanagan

Esther Rabb, mother of Kathy Gura

Myron Krop, father of Richard Krop

Sylvia Laufer, mother of Bernard Laufer

Bella Varkel, mother of Leon Lewin

Percy Mestman, father of Roslyn Menitoff

Helen Ontman, aunt of Elaine Olken

Anna Wallock, grandmother of Lori Papernik

Moses Bernholz, grandfather of Baruch Rothenberg

Etty Bernstein, mother of Jessica Sacher

Samuel Schweitzer, father-in-law of Suzanne Schweitzer

Gladys Francis, mother-in-law of Suzanne Schweitzer

Maurice Shapiro, father of Stephen Shapiro

Maxine Baumring, mother of Holly Strom

Avishag Wyte, wife of Michael Wyte

Ted Stone, father-in-law of Stan Ziegler and grandfather of Randy Ziegler

January 29

Shari Berenbach, sister-in-law of Deborah Berenbach

George Gardner, cousin of Eileen Cohen

Florence Zimmerman Coutin, mother of Israel Coutin

Herman Robbins, father of Sandi Diamant

Florence Eber, mother of Les Eber

Rebecca Alexandra Gura, daughter of Dennis and Kathy Gura

Lee Meadows, mother of Brana Hall

Irene Thompson, grandmother of Kim Israel

Marilyn Jussim, mother of Noah Jussim

Corinne Krasner, sister of Helayne Levy

James Wesley Manning, father of Brad Manning

Gloria Matzer, mother of Simone Matzer

Yetta Wajnthal Wolfsdorf, mother of Lily Muller and grandmother of Paul Muller

Henry Salberg, father of Jeffrey Salberg

Herman Singer, father of Elyse Singer

Edith Bell, remembered by Linda Topal

KM'S BEREAVEMENT GROUP STILL SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER!



(L-R: Brana Hall, Shirley Elmaleh, Linda Topal, Eileen Cohen, Judy Spector, Susan Bronstein)

We'd love to hear from you! **Twenty Questions!**

What do YOU want to know about the clergy and staff at KM? Send us your questions for a casual and comedic version of 20 Questions to be published in monthly editions of The Voice. What made Rabbi Gotlieb want to be a rabbi? How does someone named Kate Flanagan end up working at a synagogue? What is Cantor Fine's favorite piece of music? Ask away! Send your questions to Mia Schai Labowitz at communications@km-synagogue.org.

What's Your KM Story?

Tell us all about how you found Kehillat Ma'arav and what it means to you now. Family stories, b'nai mitzvah memories, any special sentiments that are tied up in the sacred and hamish community we all love so much. We want to hear from you and your fellow congregants do too. Contact Mia Schai Labowitz at communications@km-synagogue.org to participate.

KEHILLAT קהלת מערב
THE WESTSIDE CONGREGATION **MA'ARAV**

Rabbi	Michael Gotlieb
Interim Cantor	Melanie Fine
President	Ellis Kirschenbaum
Executive Director	Kate Flanagan
Director of Education & Youth Programs	Sharone Weizman
Head of Early Childhood & Arts Programs	Masha Savitz Keys
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Events Coordinator	Cindy Roth
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