Kehillah Connection

'Think about an

intermediary stage

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that was between two

May 2025 • Iyyar 5785

Shavuot Is a Defining Moment from Hazzan Stein



What's the appropriate Torah reading for each Jewish holiday? The readings for Sukkot include the commandment to dedicate the first fruits of harvest in the land of Israel to the Temple. A fitting theme for a harvest

festival. On Pesah, no surprise, we read various passages from the Exodus narrative, including the instructions for observing the holiday and, most dramatically, the parting of the sea. And on Shavuot, the holiday we'll observe at the beginning of next month celebrating the giving of the Torah, we, most appropriately, read the giving of the 10 Commandments.

But how about the second day of Shavuot? There are two days, afterall, in the diaspora. On

the second day of Shavuot, we read a passage from Deuteronomy that speaks not only of Shavuot, but about two other Jewish holidays, Pesah and Sukkot. Why this grouping? These holidays make up the three pilgrimage festivals (in Hebrew Shalosh Regalim) when

our ancestors would travel to the Temple in Jerusalem and make an offering.

Fittingly, we also read these passages on the final day of both Pesah and Sukkot. This shared Torah reading reminds us of the link among these three holidays. But in addition to sharing the pilgrimage theme, these three holidays demonstrate an important sequence for the Jewish people. Pesah reminds us of our liberation from slavery in *Mitzrayim*. Shavuot reminds us that the Exodus was not merely for

freedom's sake, but toward the goal of receiving God's Torah. And Sukkot? One of the names of Sukkot is *Hag Ha'asif*, Festival of Ingathering. Ingathering refers to both the final harvest of the year as well as the ingathering of the Jewish people in the land of Israel, the ultimate destination following the Exodus and the giving of the Torah.

The three pilgrimage festivals are not merely three separate occasions on the Jewish calendar but rather an intertwined three-fold reminder of our history, our purpose, and our responsibility to one another, to God, and to the land of Israel. Two of the three have very immersive, household rituals. Pesah has the seders and a strong emphasis on matzah. Sukkot has the sukkah (a literally immersive mitzvah) as well as the tactile mitzvah of lulav and etrog. Shavuot, on the other hand, doesn't have the same recognizable rituals. Therefore, it's a little harder to "do" Shavuot.

What can we do to bring Shavuot back into

the forefront of our observance? First an additional challenge. Shavuot can be overlooked as a stopping point between the origin (or liberation) of our people and its destiny (the arrival in the promised land). How might we call greater attention to the source of this holiday to see it as

the foundational moment in our people's history?

Think about an intermediary stage that was between two highly significant periods in your life. It may seem less significant to the two it lies between, but without it, for one reason or another, you would not be the person you are today. Think of this moment or period and how important it was in the path to becoming who you are. Try to recall the feelings of that time and inhabit that emotional space for a little while. If you're the journaling type, write down some of

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"Everything's Fine": A Jewish Survival Skill Since Sinai from Beata Abraham



You know the drill. Your mother is calling and wants to know how you're doing. Despite your bottomless existential dread, the crushing weight of the world on your frail shoulders, and the fact that your house is currently being

consumed by flames, you respond with: "I'm fine!" Your mother is relieved, and you both return to your regularly scheduled lives.

Sound familiar?

Pretending that everything is fine isn't just a habit – it's actually an art, a tradition, and possibly even a Jewish superpower. It is a thousands-of-years-old coping mechanism that has carried the Jewish people through plagues, pogroms, and even Passover seders hosted by that one uncle who won't stop talking about cryptocurrency. Denial is a powerful cultural tool that has allowed us to keep moving forward despite facing unbearable hardships, and if we are being honest, it certainly has come in very handy.

So, let's take a moment to appreciate the legendary Jewish ability to pretend everything is fine when absolutely nothing is fine.

While denial is not about ignoring reality, it is about being intentional with our focus. Even during our most difficult times throughout our history, Jews have understood that by focusing on daily rituals, study, and communal practices, we were able to insulate ourselves from the full emotional weight of our suffering. In exile, the commitment to keeping Shabbat, learning Torah, and celebrating life-cycle events created a psychological buffer against despair.

- **During the Holocaust:** Many Jews continued religious rituals, education, and even humor in the ghettos and camps, maintaining a psychological barrier against the horrors surrounding them.
- Under Soviet Oppression: While Judaism was officially suppressed, families kept traditions alive behind closed doors, sometimes pretending outwardly that nothing was wrong to avoid persecution.
- Passover: Even while enslaved in Egypt, the Israelites are said to have maintained their Hebrew names, language, and traditions holding onto identity in defiance of their situation
- Shtetl Jews: "Sure, There's a Pogrom, But Have You Tried This Kugel?" For centuries, Jewish communities in Eastern Europe lived in constant fear of basically being chased out of town. But rather than panic, they channeled their anxiety into dark humor, highly caloric food, and the ability to act like nothing was wrong.

Hand in hand with the skill of Jewish denial is Jewish humor, also known as the Sword of Sarcasm. Jewish humor thrives on sarcasm, irony, and exaggerated neuroses – poking fun at suffering, but always with a sharp wit. "They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat." Funny because it's true, and also serves to move us past the pain and to the celebration. Our classic Jewish comedians who have entertained generations with famous sarcastic quotes like "Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering – and it's all over much too soon," Woody Allen; and "I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member," Groucho Marx, knew that the best way to deal with pain was through humor.

And then there is the strategic optimism of

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Shavuot Is a Defining Moment from Hazzan Stein (continued)

what this evokes for you. This is Shavuot. That intermediate moment, phase, or temporary stop in between two significant points that is, in and of itself, of equally defining importance.

Following Pesah, we have seven weeks to prepare for Shavuot, that defining period for the Jewish people in between liberation from slavery

and entry into the land we call home. Will we pass it by in post-Pesah exhaustion, or will we embrace it as the pivotal moment that it was for our ancestors and could again be for us today? I will be here on Shavuot. I hope to see you as well.

"Everything's Fine": A Jewish Survival Skill Since Sinai from Beata Abraham

perspective: in other words, however terrible things are, they could always be worse.

Jewish parable (brilliant and always timely): A man goes to see his rabbi.

Man: Rabbi, my house is so small, my wife and seven kids and I can barely move! We have no money, but our house doesn't fit us. What can I do?

Rabbi: Here's my advice. On each Monday of the next three weeks, you will bring first a chicken, then a goat, and finally a cow into your house. Come back to see me in one month.

The man is perplexed, but follows his trusted rabbi's advice. After one month he returns to see his rabbi.

Man: Rabbi! What have you done?! Now my house is truly unlivable with all of these animals inside.

Rabbi: Remove all of the three animals and come back in one week.

One week later, the man returns.

Man: My house has never felt more spacious! Thank you for telling me to remove the animals so that my family can enjoy all of the wonderful space in our house.

The moral? Perspective can change everything.

Our people have worked hard to perfect our signature mix of shrugging, sighing, and pushing through with a nervous laugh. It has allowed the Jewish people to outlast their oppressors and keep moving forward, generation after generation. And if we have learned anything from our history it is that the only way to survive is to invoke the thousands-year-old tradition of barely controlled existential dread masked by sarcasm and accompanied by a nice piece of challah. It doesn't hurt that we tell the best jokes in history, either.

The Jewish Survival Formula: Humor + Denial + Perspective = Resilience



CBINT Annual Meeting Monday, June 16, 2025

Honor our past, celebrate our present, and embrace our future.

Doors open at **6:30pm** Refreshment Reception Business Meeting Convenes at **7:00pm**

Installation of New Officers and Board of Trustees
Recognize retiring board members and synagogue milestones

If unable to attend in person, participate via Zoom: **CBINTMilwaukee.org/stream**Your participation is necessary to achieve a voting quorum.

RSVP at CBINTMilwaukee.org or call 414-352-7310

Thank you, With Appreciation and Gratitude

With inspiration from Puccini and La Boheme, Jonathan Larson and Rent,

Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes How do you measure a CBINT year?

In ruach, in s'machot, in Talmud, in a "glazel tea" In mitzvot, in shirah, in laughter, and minimal strife Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes How do you measure a year in our CBINT life?

How about learning? How about respect? How about compassion? Measured in love.

It's time now to celebrate May the journey never end Let's celebrate 120 years in the life of friends.



It is with profound gratitude that I thank each of you for the last decade: the honor and privilege to work with, and work for, you. Together, we have laughed and learned, celebrated and consoled, prayed and paused. Grown and given thanks. You welcomed me unconditionally, back to both shuls that were very formative and important in my life and that of my family.

I have learned from each of you, as you generously shared your wisdom and experiences. For this I am grateful. The many leaders of this shul – clergy, ritual, and layperson, professional and volunteer – are the heartbeat of this shul. Their work and dedication is unwavering. Our congregants are the pulse, the flow of shul life. May the pulse forever be strong.

Music has always been my core, from liturgy, to the classics, Broadway, jazz greats, and more. Music gives me foundation and balance, to melodically appreciate and absorb life lessons.

So, I close with two musical and liturgical quotes that are impactful for me, and I hope will have meaning for you.

From Wicked: I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn. And we are led to those who help us most to grow.... Who can say if I've been changed for the better? But because I knew you, I have been changed for good.

From our Liturgy: Y'vorech'cha Adoshem V'yishm'recha. May Hashem bless you and keep you, may His countenance shine upon you and grant you peace.

B'shalom, Marlynn Brick

Interested In Sponsoring a Kiddush Lunch? It's Easy!

Whether it's to celebrate, honor or commemorate, you can be a part of creating community and the warm Shul atmosphere in which we take pride. You can sponsor a lunch yourself, with friends or family, or with a group. Contributions to the full cost are welcome too.

To sponsor a Kiddush, please contact kitchen@CBINTmilwaukee.org

Moms and Bourbon: What Could Be Better?

The highlight of springtime in Wisconsin? Celebrating **Mother's Day on May 11 at 11:30** with family and friends at CBINT, hosted by the locally famous chefs of Men's Club. Yes, we'll all be here to honor our mothers and wives who got us here and guided us to this day. Count on another delicious breakfast buffet enhanced by the Nicolet string quartet. As always, CBINT member mothers eat FREE! Included at no extra charge: easy parking, no waiting in a packed lobby, and no seating under a draft! Join us for a friendly atmosphere of enjoyment. Reservation form included in this bulletin.

Come June, the Men's Club will bring back our summertime event of "Beef and Bourbon." We offer a premium half-pound beef burger (non-meat on request), a table full of toppings, and potatoes. And of course, mouthwatering, American-made bourbon. This is open to all, even CBINT quests. Our event date will be set soon, so keep an eye out for the formal announcement.

Bill Fink, Men's Club President

Sisterhood Knows that Spring Is in the Air!

- **S Support!** Thank you all for your support this past year as Sisterhood learns to function as a Presidium! Many have participated in re-energizing Sisterhood, and we have great momentum for next year!
- **P Programming!** We're pulling out some Sisterhood classics and brainstorming about new events. Have you shared with us your ideas yet?
- **R Rosh HaShanah** (yes, you read that correctly). We're looking ahead to start promoting our Shana Tova cards. Stay tuned for details on how to place your orders ... in a few months.
- I **Involvement!** Attending Men's Club Mother's Day Brunch? See you there (come on, CBINT moms eat for free!)! Celebrate spring by purchasing something for your garden at CBINT's Plant Sale!
- **N New!** Meet us at Stone Creek Coffee this month for an evening of catching up with Sisterhood friends and discussing new directions for Sisterhood. Stay tuned for the date.
- **G Glass Box!** Find special gifts for your mothers and graduates at our very own Glass Box!

Anita Bensman & Armona Nadler-Strick, Sisterhood Presidium



Social Action Committee News

The SAC has had a busy couple of months! We wanted to share an excerpt from the note of gratitude we received from Pathfinders, where Hazzan Stein and the SAC helped – along with countless volunteers - to package and donate 100 bags of toiletry essentials for youth experiencing housing insecurity. In March, SAC also provided a meal to Pathfinders participants that was much appreciated.

From Pathfinders:

"Our whole community is stronger when our young people are thriving. Thank you for bringing safety, hope and healing to young people when they need it most."

We also received a lovely handwritten thank you from Ovation Communities, where we helped to sponsor their Hanukkah party.

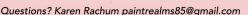
Please join us for our May 18 educational program entitled, "Care for the Caregiver," with featured speaker and congregant Enid Bootzin Berkovits, RMT, NHA. A light breakfast will be served. Please register online or by calling the CBINT office.

Finally, a note of thanks. CBINT SAC would like to express our extreme gratitude to Marlynn Brick. Marlynn has been a constant in the CBINT office for years, offering organization, support, kindness, and genuine care for CBINT and our community. Many of our SAC efforts would not have been possible without her help. Thank you, Marlynn, for EVERYTHING! You will be missed.

Donald Bass, Felicia Miller, and Jodie Honigman, co-chairs



HEIRLOOM TOMATOES **HERBS FLOWERS**







HE GLASS BOX AT CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL NER TAMID

6880 N. Green Bay Ave. 414-351-4221 Tues.-Thurs. 10-2 Fri 10-12 Sun 10-11:30 When religious school is in session

Or by appointment, call Ellen Goldstein at 414-861-6734

A toast to Mom! Come celebrate this special day with friends and family at

A toast to Mom! Come celebrate this special day with friends and family at Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid. This delicious, kosher brunch will include numerous selections prepared by the well-trained men of the CBINT Men's Club.

CBINT Siegel Hall Sunday, May 11, 2025



Special entertainment provided by the Nicolet High School string quartet!



| Price if naid

Mother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 11, 2025 • 11:30 a.m.

BY RESERVATION ONLY • R.S.V.P. NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MAY 5

Send this stub with payment to:

CBINT Men's Club • c/o Mother's Day • 6880 N. Green Bay Ave. • Glendale, WI 53209

Name

Phone ______ Total enclosed:_____

(If paying by check)

Check if you require a reserved table

If possible, seat me with the ______ family.

# Attending	by May 5
Mothers who are CBINT MEMBERS	FREE
All other adults (13 years & older)	\$24 ea.
Children (5 to 12 years old)	\$12 ea.
Children (4 and under)	FREE

To help us control costs, please do not mark mothers as free if they are not members of our synagogue.



VENMO: @CBINT-MensClub
Zelle: mensclub@cbintmilwaukee.org

Send this form even if paying with credit card

week 1 AUGUST 18-22



BETH ISRAEL NER TAMID

Week 2 AUGUST 25-29

Presents

Community Gap Camp



FOR POTTY-TRAINED 3Y0-4TH GRADE

> AFTERCARE AVAILABLE 3-5PM

EARLYCARE AVAILABLE 8-9AM Non-Members \$67/DAY*

MJDS Families \$65/DAY*

Sibling and Shul School discounts available! Kosher snacks and lunch provided

CBINT Members

\$62/DAY*

PRICE PER DAY

HALF DAY RATES
AND
FULL WEEK DISCOUNTS
AVAILABLE

Enrollment open now!
For more information, contact Talia: programs@cbintmilwaukee.org

Contributions

In Honor of Judy Eglash's Special Birthday **General Fund**

Minnie Kahn Joyce Gutzke Bobbie Fishman **Bobbe Abrams**

Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund Sheila and Morris Rudberg

Debbie Rubinstein

Security Fund Rena and Fred Safer **Social Action Fund**

Nancy and Marshall Kellman

In Honor of Barbara Simon's Special Birthday Social Action Committee Minnie Kahn

In Honor of Marcia Hecker's Special Birthday **General Fund** Nona Rowen

Music Fund

Judy Eglash

Arlene Devorkin

In Honor of Bobby Miller's Special Birthday Security Fund

Rena and Fred Safer

In Honor of Aura Hirschman's Birthday **General Fund**

Anita and Mark Nagurka Judi and David Cohen

In Honor of Sherry Blumberg's Special Birthday Security Fund

Rena and Fred Safer

In Honor of Rabbi Josh Herman's **Community Commitment**

Vivian Rothschild

In Honor of the Marriage of Galya Fedderly & Simon Wechsler General Fund

Sandra Wechsler

In Honor of the Birth of Brayden Michael Bass **General Fund**

Anita and Mark Nagurka

In Appreciation of Hazzan Stein's **Concerts**

Kenneth Weber Music Fund

Jane Chester

In Appreciation of Laura and Henny Graupe Social Action Committee

Barbara and Al Simon

In Appreciation General Fund

Sarie and Larry Shainock Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Abbe and John Krahn Family Lori Siegel & Steven Koppel Family Hazzan's Discretionary Fund Abbe and John Krahn Family Lori Siegel & Steven Koppel Family

In Appreciation of the CBINT Hamentaschen Bakers Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund Beth Regner Peterman

In Appreciation for Marlene and Jerry Deutsch General Fund Bobbie Fishman

R'fuah Shlema for Nadine Siegman Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bobbie and Jay Miller

R'fuah Shlema for Judy Wolkenstein **General Fund**

Beth Peterman Bobbie Fishman Edie Pump

In Memory of Louis "Buddy" Siegel General Fund

Arden Krahn Beverly and David Gruber Terri and Neil Siegel Caren and Donald Bass Anita and Mark Nagurka Lisa and Benjamin Adler

Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund Beverly Blankstein

Jacobson Chapel Fund Cindy Cooper

In Memory of Hy Eglash General Fund

Beth Regner Peterman Ann Lederman Carole Fishman Goodman-Bensman Whitefish Bay Funeral Home

Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund Sheldon Rosen and Family

Bobbie Fishman School Fund

Linda and Nelson Weine

Jacobson Chapel Fund Ronald Laux Marcuvitz Education Fund

Rita and Alan Marcuvitz

In Memory of Bev Feiges Balkansky Fund

Evelyn and Alan Balkansky General Fund

Laeh Grant Janice and Dennis Waisman Ann Lederman Sarah Barrett Sandy Perlman and Family Anita and Mark Nagurka Goodman-Bensman

Whitefish Bay Funeral Home

Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund Cindy Cooper Carol and Werner Richheimer Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Patti Weigler & Stuart Meyer

School Fund Harriet Seiler

In Memory of Naomi Pikofsky General Fund

Anita and Mark Nagurka Judy Wolkenstein Beverly and David Gruber Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund Judy Glotzer Sam & Aidee Cooper Art Fund Cindy Cooper

In Memory of Vellie Paula Bloch Merry Atinsky Kiddush Fund Judy Glotzer

Balkansky Fund

Evelyn and Alan Balkansky

In Memory of Mort Swerdlow **General Fund**

Beverly and David Gruber

In Memory of Denny Selby **General Fund** Sam Denny

In Memory of Esther Cohen Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Bobby and Jay Miller

In Memory of Barbara Sapiro Harold Kramer Beautification Fund

Delores Kramer

In Memory of Caryn Bruckheimer's Husband **General Fund**

Yvette Lisberg

Book Club Meets May 19

The CBINT Book Discussion Group meets **Monday, May 19, at 1 p.m.** in the promenade to discuss "The Rye Bread Marriage" by Michaele Weissman. Marlene Deutsch moderates. All members are welcome. For information, contact Bobby Miller, b.jeanmiller6790@gmail.com.







We Celebrate May's Member Birthdays!



Please find the complete list of this month's birthdays on our website: CBINTMilwaukee.org/celebrate/birthdays



Please Find Yahrzeits for May at cbintmilwaukee.org/yahrzeits





Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid Marvin & Marilyn Zetley Family Campus 6880 N. Green Bay Ave Milwaukee, WI 53209-2821 Return Service Requested

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CBINT Funds

Alan & Rita Marcuvitz Education Endowment Fund – Funds to be used for adult, youth, and family education.

Balkansky Fund – Provides scholarships for Camp Ramah.

Beth Hearst Fund (Formerly Passport to Israel) – Provides funds for current youth and educational programs.

Carl S. and Sandra G. Zetley Generation to Generation Fund – Provides funds for education and family programming.

CBINT/Religious School Fund – Underwrites tuition for children of members attending the CBINT School of Religious Studies.

Ervin & Suzann Colton Education Endowment Fund – Provides funds for Scholars in Residence and other speakers.

Gemilut Hasadim – Provides funds for Shabbat meals for CBINT families with newborns or families in mourning.

General Fund – Provides funds to maintain CBINT.

Harold M. Kramer Beautification Fund – Provides funds for beautification projects at CBINT.

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund – Fund established for charitable causes.

Isadore & Sylvia Blankstein Library Fund – Provides funds for CBINT library acquisitions.

Jacobson Chapel Fund – Provides funds for the maintenance of Jacobson Chapel.

Kenneth Weber Choir Fund – Fund dedicated to supporting the choir and other musical programs.

Marilyn Zetley Children's Library Fund – Provides funds for the children's section of the library (books, furniture, etc.)

Merry Atinsky Kiddish Fund – Helps CBINT Sisterhood provide kiddish lunches after Shabbat services

Panitch CBI Family Education Fund – Assists CBINT families with financial needs who wish to attend family education retreats. Pentateuh/Humash Fund – Provides funds to purchase Pentateuh/ Humashim. Books will have a dedication bookplate.

Prayer Book Fund – Provides funds to purchase prayer books/siddurim. Books will have a dedication bookplate.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Fund established for charitable causes.

Rabbi Panitch Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund – Provides scholarships for Camp Ramah.

Sam & Aidee Cooper Art Fund – Provides funds to purchase art for CBINT.

School Fund – Provides funds for the school and special school projects.

Senior Activities Fund – Provides funds for social, spiritual and educational opportunities for mature adults.

Shirley Bass Floral Fund – Provides bima flowers for the holidays.

Sol & Esther Blankstein Scholarship Fund – Assists high school/college students to pursue Jewish Education.

Soloman & Yetta Soloff Memorial Adult Education Fund – Established in the memory of Dr. Soloman & Yetta Soloff. Promotes and supports Adult Education programs.

Special Scholarship Endowment Fund – Provides scholarships for Jewish education.

Stein Mendelson Scholarship Fund
– Provides funds for a Camp Ramah scholarship for one student per summer.

The Schuster Family Endowment Fund for Second Home Cemetery

William & June Sherkow Scholarship Fund – Provides funds for charitable, educational, or religious purposes.

Youth Scholarship Endowment Fund (YSEF) (Formerly Youth Education Endowment Fund) – Provides scholarships for trips to Israel, Jewish overnight camp and advanced Jewish education.

CBINT Office Information

Joel Alter	Rabbi	
Jeremy Stein	Hazzan	
Herbert G. Panitch	Rabbi Emeritus	
Beata AbrahamExecutive Director / Director of Congregational Learning and Education		
Anita Nagurka	Business Manager	
Menachem Henny Graupe	President	
Marlynn Brick	Executive Assistant	
Armona Nadler-Strick	Sisterhood Presidium	
Anita Bensman	Sisterhood Presidium	
Bill Fink	Men's Club President	
Michael Johnson	Facilities Management	
Aimee & Dennis Kahn	Second Home Cemetery Administrators	
Charlie Kagan	Kitchen Manager	

Phone: 414-352-7310 **Fax:** 414-352-2050

Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

www.CBINTMilwaukee.org

Please call to confirm office operation hours.

Worship & Service Information Weekday Services:

7:30 am and 6:00 pm

Sunday and Civic Holidays:

9:00 am and 6:00 pm

Shabbat:

9:30 am

Please advise Rabbi Alter or Hazzan Stein if needed to help recruit attendees for a yahrzeit minyan.