



**Adath Shalom Congregation**

31 Nadolny Sachs Drive Private, Ottawa, ON, K2A 1R9

[www.adath-shalom.ca](http://www.adath-shalom.ca)

# Bulletin

June 1 to August 31 2020

9 Sivan to 11 Elul 5780

## PUBLIC EDITION OF ADATH SHALOM BULLETIN

What you are about to read now is a redacted version of the full Adath Shalom Bulletin that has been distributed to the Adath Shalom Congregation membership. For privacy reasons, all email addresses and phone numbers have been removed.

Also some other material identifying shul members has been removed.

If you are a member of Adath Shalom looking for a replacement copy of the Bulletin, please contact me, Peter Wolfe, the Bulletin Editor (at [bulletin@adath-shalom.ca](mailto:bulletin@adath-shalom.ca)) and I will email you the full version.

If you are interested in learning more about Adath Shalom, feel free to browse the shul website. Specific information about the shul is found at <http://www.adath-shalom.ca/brochure.htm>

Thanks,

Peter Wolfe

Adath Shalom Bulletin Editor



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## CO-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN FOR JUNE-AUGUST 2020 BULLETIN

This is such a difficult time for so many across the world, in Canada and in Ottawa. None of us will know what the new normal will look like when the pandemic is brought under control. Yet, we have read about acts of heroism and of the many doing so much to help others. People everywhere are trying to retain a sense of community during a time of self-isolation.

The importance of community has been evident at Adath Shalom. David Kriger and Joel Yan spend time each week coordinating a virtual service. Our gabbaim have stepped up to the plate and are carrying out their functions on a virtual platform. Members have continued to present d'varim that teach us. Joel and Toby Yan lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service. Other members have volunteered to lead our Shabbat service. Harvey Goldberg, as Zoom host, makes sure that the services have the appropriate degree of decorum. Both services encourage our connection to the spiritual and the community.

Our Adult Education Committee has added to previously scheduled programs, giving us increased learning opportunities. Toby Yan has organized a telephone check-in for some of our members. Other members are making masks, gowns or have written letters to patients at the Royal Ottawa Hospital.

There always is a risk in mentioning some of the volunteers. I would like to apologize for any omission in relation to the good work that any member is doing.

Adath Shalom has responded very well to this trying time. We may not be meeting in person, but we are continuing to pray, learn and to care about each other and others.

The Board held a virtual meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The challenge that faced the Board can be summarized as how do we plan when there are so many unknowns. Considering that our annual general meeting (AGM) is normally held in June and the High Holy Days are in September, it was necessary to make some decisions. The AGM will take place on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will take place virtually as in accordance with an Ontario emergency regulation, we are permitted to conduct our AGM by electronic means.

After quite a bit of discussion over the past few months, the Board finalized the revised draft By-laws and Constitution that you will receive as part of the AGM package. You will be asked to adopt the governing documents at the AGM.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<All events will occur on the Zoom platform>

- June 7: Adath Shalom Poetry Group  
7:00pm <see page 4 for details>
- June 12: Shabbaton with David Brooks  
4:00pm: Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
D'var: the Apocrypha  
<see page 5 for details>
- June 14: Shabbaton Presentation with David Brooks:  
11:00am Apocrypha  
<see page 5 for details>
- July 5: Shabbaton with Ari Goldberg  
10:30am Part 1. The Re-Jew-Vination of Israel Via Zoom invite.  
<see page 6 for details>
- July 12: Shabbaton with Ari Goldberg  
10:30am Part 2. ***Nefesh Yehudit: How Israeli music expresses Israelis' Jewishness*** <see page 6 for details>
- August 2: Shabbaton with Professor Shawna Dolansky  
2:00pm The Book of Deuteronomy  
<see page 6 for details>

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Time 10:00am)  
June 28

By way of background, the Board also had a discussion about the possibility of virtual services on Shabbat and the High Holy Days. Considering that a number of member congregations of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism (USCJ) are, in fact, using various platforms for Shabbat services, it was decided to seek the views of the membership through a poll. Coincidentally, the timing of the survey coincided with a ruling of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly. The ruling states that within certain parameters, it is permissible for a community to offer a stream or interactive videoconference of its services on Shabbat and/or Yom Tov.

Among the 55 members who responded to the survey, 81.2% (45 members) agreed with on-line High Holy Day services, 9.09% (5 members) disagreed and 9.09 (5 members) were indifferent. Among the 54 members who responded to the question relating to the on-line services on Shabbat, 79.63% (43 members) were in favour, while 9.26% disagreed (5 members) and 11.11% (6 members) were indifferent. Of the fifty-two members who responded to the question relating to joining on-line congregational services, 88.46% (46 members) indicated they would participate in virtual services, while 11.54% (6 members) indicated they would not participate in a virtual service.

The Board had a special meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the next steps in implementing virtual Shabbat and High Holy Days services. We acknowledged that there are members who are not comfortable relying on technology on Shabbat. It is a challenging time for all of us and, perhaps more so, for those who will not join us virtually in prayer on Shabbat. We noted that the attendance at Kabbalat Shabbat services has been very good.

We are mindful of the fact that Adath Shalom can be proud of the fact that it is a respectful, inclusive synagogue. Thus, the Board decided to have Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat services, generally on alternative weeks. Attendance at both services has been very good. We hope that you join us.

Please take care and stay safe,

***Sherill Besser***

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

COVID-19 was the last item under Other Business in the March 8 Board agenda. The minutes say: "The Board looked at the current risk to holding services and kiddush. At this time, the risk was seen to be low." One week later, the school building was closed and the cancellations began.

I had been scheduled to attend the Sulam for Officers in Toronto in early May. The United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism (USCJ) conference is an "intensive leadership program which arms officers with the resources needed to contribute to the leadership team to support their step-up on the leadership ladder." Numerous Adath Shalom presidents have attended in the past. Sulam was reborn as a virtual conference and, as this is not my preferred method of learning, Co-President Sherill Besser will attend the June 7-8 on-line sessions.

We belatedly learned that IMUN was being held in July in Georgia, after a 15+year break. It is a joint program of USCJ, the Rabbinical Assembly and the Cantors' Assembly. IMUN's purpose is to "empower lay leaders of small and remote congregations to fill certain ritual leadership roles." For Adath Shalom's needs, this could include: leading a Shabbat, reading Torah, visiting the sick, comforting mourners, and officiating at a baby naming or a funeral. The Board agreed in principle to subsidize registration in the future, but not this year due to the late notice and the virus threat. There is a possibility that IMUN will also

be reborn as a virtual event.

Adath Shalom has been using Zoom for the weekly Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services. On May 10 we held our first ever virtual meeting. Much of the time was spent preparing for the June 28 annual general meeting (AGM), also to be held on-line. The proposed budget for 2020-21 was approved for presentation to the AGM, while noting that given the situation, next year's budget may be subject to more variability than normal.

The Adult Education Committee has really stepped up to the plate, with interesting on-line programs. On May 3, Tamar Wolofsky hosted a special webinar on African immigrants in Israel. Then on May 22 and 24, Rabbi Hamerman regaled us with a treatise on The King, Priest, Prophet and Judge. Many congregants posed questions to Rabbi Bulka in his "Ask the Rabbi" session on May 31. Further information on forthcoming programs is included in this Bulletin.

***Elaine Vininsky***

## SO IT'S TISHA B'AV. WHAT DO I DO?<sup>1</sup>

*Tisha B'Av* – 9<sup>th</sup> of the month of Av (except if it falls on Shabbat in which case it moves to the next day) – is the one special day in our calendar that is never called a “holiday.” The day commemorates the destruction of the two temples, and numerous other tragedies that befell the Jewish people on (or near) this day in history. It is the one truly sad day in our calendar. This year, the fast of *Tisha B'Av* begins on the evening of Wednesday, July 29 and continues until after sundown on Thursday, July 30. It is the culmination of a three-week period of semi-mourning that starts with the half-fast (dawn to dusk) that begins on the 17<sup>th</sup> of *Tammuz* (July 9) when the Babylonians first broke through the walls of Jerusalem. During these three weeks, no celebrations are held. From the first of Av (July 22), traditional Jews refrain from eating meat or drinking wine except on Shabbat, from getting haircuts or wearing new clothes.

How does one observe the day? In most respects, the rules are the same for *Tisha B'Av* as for *Yom Kippur*: a full 25-hour fast; no unnecessary washing; no wearing of leather; no sexual relations; no shaving or use of cosmetics. However, in two ways they are different.

- 1) Because studying the Torah “gladdens the heart,” one avoids Torah study except for selections such as *Eichah (Lamentations)* or the laws of mourning, all of which can be read with or without a minyan.
- 2) Because it is never called a holiday, work is not forbidden, at least after noon. (Presumably anyone observing the other practices would be in Shul in the morning anyway.) In many ways, *Tisha B'Av* is just another weekday.

Other commonly observed practices in the home include sitting on low stools (or taking the cushions off chairs and couches), and avoiding any form of celebration until noon of the following day (apparently because the fire in the Temple was extinguished about then).

For me, the hardest part of *Tisha B'Av* is its normalcy. In contrast to *Yom Kippur*, one does not spend most of the day in Shul, nor is the day choreographed to reach any climax. It starts sadly, and it ends sadly, with no redemption. Most of the

time, one is just alone with his or her thoughts.

**David B. Brooks**



## ADATH SHALOM POETRY GROUP

With everyone social distancing at home, it seems like a good time to bring back our poetry group.

A one hour Zoom poetry get together has therefore been scheduled at our usual time of Sunday evening at 7:00pm, on June 7th.

As we usually do when we meet in person, everyone is invited to bring one or two poems by a Jewish poet that they would like to read aloud to the group. A short bio of the poet would also be appreciated.

Although it is not essential, it would be helpful if you send me a copy of the poem(s), either as a scan, a photo, or typed in Word, by June 5th, in order that I can send out all of the poems in advance to those who have indicated that they will join us, so that they can follow along.

Let me know if you plan to “attend” so that I can send you a copy of the poems that I have received.

**Ellen Caplan**

<sup>1</sup> This article was originally published twelve years ago in the June 29 to September 28 2008 issue of the Bulletin. It has been

republished in the July 1 to August 31 2015 issue, and in the July 1 to August 31 2016 issues.

## “THE APOCRYPHA” – SHABBATON ON JUNE 12 AND 14

### THE APOCRYPHA CONTENTS<sup>2</sup>

- 1 The First Book of Edras
- 2 The Second Book of Edras
- 3 The Book of [Tobit](#)
- 4 The Book of Judith
- 5 [The Additions to the Book of Esther](#)
- 6 The [Wisdom of Solomon](#)  
[Ecclesiasticus or the Wisdom of Jeshua the Son of Sirach](#)
- 7 The Book of [Baruch](#)
- 8 The Story of Susanna<sup>3</sup>
- 9 The Song of the Three Children<sup>3</sup>
- 10 The Story of Bel and the Dragon<sup>3</sup>
- 11 The Prayer of Manasseh
- 12 [The First Book of Maccabees](#)
- 13 The Second Book of Maccabees

<the hyperlinks will bring to a version that you can read>

What do you think about a book that was written in Hebrew, published in Greek, canonized for Catholics, rejected by Protestants, and not translated into modern English until 1938, yet contains the only text that tells the story of Chanukah? What if that book first appears between the time of the Hebrew Bible and the Catholic Bible does, and both were created as independent books by the same Catholic theologian? That book is The Apocrypha, and the addition of the article “the” and the two capital letters are not just for emphasis; that is how that priest defined the book with the meaning of the hidden texts.

I found my copy of the English version of *The Apocrypha* at a local bookstore some years ago, and it remained on my *To Read Sometime* shelf until the COVID-19 rule to stay at home gave me the freedom to read all 200,000 words of this little-known gem of Jewish writing—except that most of it is far from a gem. I will be talking about *The Apocrypha* at a Shabbaton with an impertinent d’var on 12 June at 4:30pm and a serious presentation on 14 June at 11:00am. The latter will be divided into three parts: the book’s history; its contents; and—if time permits--a few of the many illustrations it has inspired.

**David B. Brooks**

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<sup>2</sup> Edgar J. Goodspeed, *An American Translation* (1938), page xi

<sup>3</sup> In some versions these three chapters are grouped into one book entitled *The Additions to Daniel*



## ADULT EDUCATION ZOOM SESSIONS WITH RABBI ARI GOLDBERG

***Sunday, July 5 - 10:30am***

### **The re-Jew-vination of Israel**

One of the most exciting stories in contemporary Jewish life is the renaissance of Judaism in Israel. The state of Israel was created as a homeland for the Jewish people but for its first half-century Israeli national identity was largely secular. [Today](#), the great majority of Israelis proudly identify both with Jewish nationhood and with Judaism. Together, we will explore how Israelis, from the ultra-orthodox to the outwardly-secular, are living their Judaism in the world's first Jewish democracy and creating fresh approaches to our ancient tradition. We will consider how we, as Diaspora Jews, can learn from Israeli Judaism and how we can share our Diaspora Jewish experience with Israelis. A multimedia seminar will be followed by a discussion.

***Sunday, July 12 - 10:30am***

### ***Nefesh Yehudit* : How Israeli music expresses Israelis' Jewishness**

Israel is a singing nation. Since the birth of the state, music has been its premier art-form. Together, we will listen to six Israeli hit songs from the past 70 years (with translation). We will explore what these beautiful songs reveal about how Israeli society has related to Judaism, over time, and what Judaism can mean to us in the 21st century. Each song will be a springboard for group discussion.

## ADULT EDUCATION ZOOM SESSION WITH PROF. SHAWNA DOLANSKY

***Sunday, August 2 at 2:00pm***

Deuteronomy is not the most interesting of biblical books to read - it's repetitive, there's not a lot of action, and it's dotted throughout with law codes and descriptions of rituals. It is, however, of central importance historically. Understanding the what, when, where, and why of Deuteronomy's composition goes a long way to understanding how Judaism is born out of the ashes of destruction and exile in the 6th century BCE. Shawna will record a lecture on the centrality of Deuteronomy to the origins of Judaism, and hold a Q&A session after her dv'ar Torah.

The book of Deuteronomy is comprised of a series of speeches delivered by Moses to the Israelites as they are about to enter the Promised Land. But, as Moses points out bitterly and repeatedly at the beginning of the book, even after all of his trials and tribulations, he himself will not be permitted to cross over. Shawna's dvar Torah will look at two different explanations in the Torah for why Moses is forbidden from entering the Promised Land.

# PURIM 2020

*(Pictures by Harvey Goldberg)*



## PHOTOGRAPH FROM OUR ARCHIVES



*(Photograph from Irwin and Fenja Brodo)*

An early “women’s minyan,” probably just before Adath Shalom voted to count women in the minyan, taken in the Schnitzer’s home. Left to right: Fenja Brodo, Marcia Tanenbaum, Cheryl Leyton, Chris Shugar, Anna Bilsky, Leah Schnitzer, Ruth Kahane, Nancy Zalman.

**Editor’s Note:** This photo is the first in a series of photos found in members’ archives. If you have any interesting archival Adath Shalom pictures, please send them to Lawrence Wolofsky ([member-info@adath-shalom.ca](mailto:member-info@adath-shalom.ca)) or me ([bulletin@adath-shalom.ca](mailto:bulletin@adath-shalom.ca)) to archive and to publish in the Bulletin. If needed, please arrange with Lawrence for any scanning of your photos.



**ADATH SHALOM WEDDING**  
**ANNIVERSARIES<sup>4</sup>**

Christine and Stephen Shugar	June 6, 1976
Sylvia Greenspoon and Rick Levine	June 8, 1983
Leslie and Elliot Tepper	June 9, 1968
Rosalie Fox and Lawrence Wolofsky	July 1, 1988
Sylvia and Michael Caplan	July 7, 1963
Phyllis and Peter Wolfe	July 9, 1988
Fenja and Irwin Brodo	August 26, 1962
Ellen and Usher Caplan	August 29, 1971
Seymour Mayne and Sharon Katz	August 31, 1978

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<sup>4</sup> We would be happy to publish your anniversary dates. Please email them to [member-info@adath-shalom.ca](mailto:member-info@adath-shalom.ca).