

March 2020 *Adar-Nisan* 5780 Volume 15, Number 7

### SHABBAT SERVICES

*Shabbat* services are held on the first Friday of each month, followed by an *Oneg Shabbat*. Members are invited to bring fruit, cookies and snacks. Am HaYam provides *challah*, *kiddush* wine and cold beverages. If you wish to lead a Friday *Shabbat* service in the future, please contact Judy Keller at [jkelle47@verizon.net](mailto:jkelle47@verizon.net).

### SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday, March 6, 7:30 PM

*Shabbat* Service led by Arlene Cohen and Mim Selig

Followed by the *Purim Shpiel* led by Judy Keller



If you see someone enter the service that you do not recognize, please introduce yourself and welcome him/her to services and to *Am HaYam*.

The Federated Church is fully handicap accessible with plenty of parking, with both regular and handicap spaces.

**NOTE:** For security purposes, the main entrance will be locked 15 minutes after services begin. If you arrive late, please come in through the kitchen entrance.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

This letter is about the future of *Am HaYam*. I am writing this in the form of an allegory which I have taken from *Bambi*, a book by Felix Salten. This part of the story is not political in any sense, but perhaps we can see *Am HaYam* in it and the issue of leadership for our *Havurah*.

### THE FALLING LEAVES

*"These leaves were falling from the great oak at the meadow's edge. They were falling from all the trees; but two leaves clung to its very tip on the top of the Oak Tree." "It isn't the way it used to be," said one leaf to the other. "No," the other leaf answered. "So many of us have fallen off tonight, we're almost the only ones left on the branch." "You never know who's going to be next," said the first leaf. "Even when it was warm and the sun shone, a storm or a cloudburst would come sometimes, and many leaves were torn off, though they were still young. You never know who's going to be next." "The sun seldom shines now," sighed the second leaf, and when it does it gives no warmth. We must have warmth again." "Can it really be true, that others come to take our place when we are gone, and after them still others, and more and more?" "It is really true," whispered the second leaf. "We can't even begin to imagine it, it's beyond our powers."*



Renate and I are almost finished with our first year as co-presidents, and we promise to complete our second one. We and many previous presidents have discussed the problem of lack of new faces to replace us. Our *Havurah* is on in years and it is difficult to find members willing to step up and take on leadership roles. We need new Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs with fresh ideas. Please think about what you can give to *Am HaYam*.

Arlene Cohen  
Co-President

## PURIM SERVICE & SHPIEL

“There’s no Purim like our Purim  
Let’s get on with the show...”

On Friday, March 6, 2020 *Am HaYam* will celebrate *Purim*, starting at 7:30 PM at the Federated Church, with a brief service and our annual *Shpiel*. Our talented *Purim Shpiel* Players will present their unique interpretation of the *Purim* story. Come in costume if you wish and be prepared for a fun filled evening of songs. Please bring *Hamantashen*, other desserts, or fruit to be shared at the *Oneg* after the conclusion of the *Purim Shpiel*.



See you in Shushan, Persia.

## HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE KEEPS ON GIVING

Jon Cline embarked on a third round of shopping to refill the food pantry at Lower Cape Outreach Council. In February he delivered \$1131.00 worth of food. Jon has been in touch with LCOC throughout the fall and winter to find out specifically what they need and when.

## AM HAYAM PASSOVER SEDER

*Am HaYam* will hold a community Seder on the second night of Passover, Thursday, April 9th, 6 PM at the Eastham United Methodist Church, 3200 Route 6. The Seder will be led by Judith Sitkin and Linda Pearson.

Reservations are essential as space is limited. Please contact Carol Roth at 508-255-5952 (EVENINGS ONLY) or [croth@primaryconnections.com](mailto:croth@primaryconnections.com) at your earliest convenience, *but no later than Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling!)*. Please provide the following: How many people in your party (tables of 8), what you are planning to bring for the potluck dinner, and with whom you wish to sit. Seating requests will be honored as best we can. When making your reservation, please spell the names of the people in your group because each reservation will have a place card with name and table number. Thank you.

Please bring a main dish to serve 8, plus a dessert or a side dish (guidelines below). *Matzo*, gefilte fish, *charoset*, Kosher for Passover wine and grape juice will be provided by *Am HaYam*. A traditional Seder Plate will be placed on each table. *If you are gluten-free, please bring your own matzo.*

Although *Am HaYam* itself observe the basic laws of ask that out of respect to who do, please do not in-when preparing your pot-yeasted wheat flour prod-her for Passover" (pure OK). This includes breads, ta/noodles, salad dressings corn starch or corn syrup, crumbs. In the Kosher sec- you will find suitable "Kosher for Passover" substitutes for baking - cake mixes, *matzo* cake flour, *matzo* meal, potato flour, salad dressings and prepared desserts. Fresh fruits and vegetables are always kosher and Kosher for Passover unless processed (e.g. cut up and bagged). Vegetarian dishes are welcome as many of our members and guests are vegetarian. Again, do not use regular flour or flour products for thickening. The main course for most Passover Seders is meat (chicken, turkey, brisket, *tzimmes* with beef), therefore, we discourage dairy deserts or accompaniments. Look for *parve* non-dairy\* creamer to substitute. Soy and almond milk are OK if unsweetened (read the labels). Tofu/tofutti is allowed. FORBIDDEN: Pork (in any form including bacon bits in salad dressings) and all shellfish. \*Not all non-dairy products are *parve*; please check for the "*parve*" notation.



does not keep kosher, we *kashrut* for Passover. We our members and guests clude the following foods luck contributions: no ucts, unless marked "Ko- nut, potato or rice flour is cakes, pie crusts, pas- with thickening agents, gelatin, bread or panko tion of your supermarket,

## **CONCERT: Music in the Time of Anne Frank**

March 1, 3 PM at the Federated Church, 320 Main Street, Hyannis, \$15

Cantor Elizabeth Anker recommends this concert which will be performed by pianist, Deborah Nemko. (See attached flyer for details) Deborah writes:

“I am inspired by the courage and wisdom of a child named Anne Frank. Her impassioned words: ‘How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world,’ are remarkable and her diary remains one of the most important narratives related to the difficulties faced by those living in hiding during the World War II. By performing and presenting the music by forbidden Dutch composers whose musical careers and, in some cases, lives were destroyed, I hope to promote an understanding not only of the difficulties they faced but also the monumental spirit of people whose voices would not be stifled, even in the darkest of times.

“This concert entitled ‘Music in the Time of Anne Frank’ will bring to the light works by Dutch composers who were suppressed by the Germans during World War II in the Netherlands. Many of these composers lost their lives in camps and their works are still not published. For this reason, the concert is a living testament to their art and vitality.”

## **WOMEN’S TORAH STUDY**

The Women’s Torah Study group meets monthly year-round on the fourth Tuesday of each month, 2-4 PM, at members’ homes. We are now studying the Book of Numbers, *Bemidbar*. Our goal is to study with more depth, using additional sources from various commentaries to podcasts and internet research. Our main source is *The Jewish Study Bible*, but any Jewish Bible in English may be used. Many of our members also bring commentaries of one sort or another.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24, 2-4 PM, at the Judi Sitkin in East Harwich. If you wish to be added to the WTS email list, please contact me at [rebeccabolmes@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccabolmes@comcast.net).

*Rebecca B. Holmes, Facilitator*

## **SUNDAY TORAH STUDY**

There is no Torah Study in March. We will resume on April 12.

## **CALLING ALL TORAH READERS**

It may be frigid now, but Spring is just around the corner. If you'd like to get a head start on your new Torah portion, please contact me. Our next Torah *Shabbat* service is scheduled for Friday, June 5, when we will also observe *Shavuot*. We welcome who either read or chant Torah.

Shira Sands  
[shira77@bc.edu](mailto:shira77@bc.edu)

**MEMBERSHIP/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Any and all help needed for recruitment of new members as our membership declines. Planning for social activities to attract and retain membership requires more participation than we currently have. Please consider joining this committee dedicated to the survival of *Am HaYam* during these challenging times. Contact Jane Dorval at [215-815-7466](tel:215-815-7466) or [janedorval@comcast.net](mailto:janedorval@comcast.net) or Jessica Dill at [508-221-7451](tel:508-221-7451) or [jrdill1@comcast.net](mailto:jrdill1@comcast.net). Thank you.

*Jane and Jessica  
Co-Chairs*



**ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

URGENT HELP NEEDED for planning this year’s Adult Education/Speakers programs. All ideas and networking contacts are welcome! If you are interested or have any questions, please call or email Deborah Cline 203-247-9974 or [deborahcline00@gmail.com](mailto:deborahcline00@gmail.com) or Jane Dorval 215-815-7466 or [janedorval@comcast.net](mailto:janedorval@comcast.net). Thank you.

*Deb and Jane  
Co-Chairs*

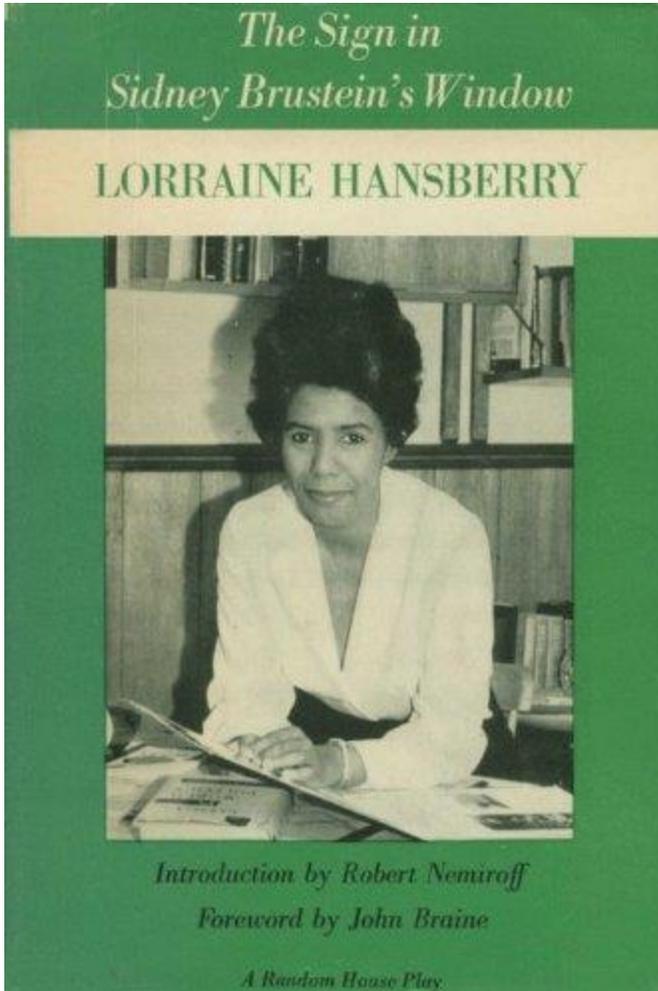
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Sunday, March 1	Concert: Music in the Time of Anne Frank	3:00 PM
Monday, March 2	Play Reading Group	12:30 PM
Friday, March 6	<i>Shabbat/Purim Shpiel</i>	7:30 PM
Monday, March 9	Ritual Committee	10:00 AM
Tuesday, March 10	<i>Purim</i>	
	<i>Megillah Reading/Purim Shpiel</i>	3:00 PM
Friday, March 13	<i>Shabbat</i> in P-Town	6:30 PM
Tuesday, March 17	Board of Directors	7:00 PM
Thursday, March 19	<i>Rosh Chodesh</i> Women	7:30 PM
Tuesday, March 24	Women’s Torah Study	2:00 PM
Friday, March 27	<i>Shabbat</i> in P-Town	6:30 PM

## PLAY READING GROUP

The next meeting of The Play Reading Group will be on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the home of Carol Roth at 3 Doran Drive in Orleans. We “Nosh and Schmooze” at 12:30 and begin reading at 1:00 and run until 3:00 (Winter hours).

We will read *The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window* by Lorraine Hansberry. It was first presented at the Longacre Theater in New York City on October 15, 1964. It is one of a handful of great American plays.



At the time of Lorraine Hansberry’s death, at the tragically young age of thirty-four, she had created two electrifying masterpieces of the American theater. With *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry gave this country its most movingly authentic portrayal of black family life in the inner city. Barely five years later, with *The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window*, she gave us an unforgettable portrait of a man struggling with his individual fate in an age of racial and social injustice. These two plays remain milestones in the American theater, remarkable not only for their historical value but for their continued ability to engage the imagination and the heart. From the Los Angeles Times, “It is rich and warm and funny and beautifully written.” This play is timely and lends itself to an emotional and riveting discussion.

ALL MEN AND WOMEN ARE WELCOME!  
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! YOU CAN  
COME ON EITHER SIDE OF THE CUR-  
TAIN!

Please check with the Clams Library System or purchase the play inexpensively at: [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), or [powell.com](http://powell.com).

RSVP to Carol Roth at 508-255-5952 (EVENINGS ONLY) or [croth@primaryconnections.com](mailto:croth@primaryconnections.com).

Please carpool if possible. Thank you.

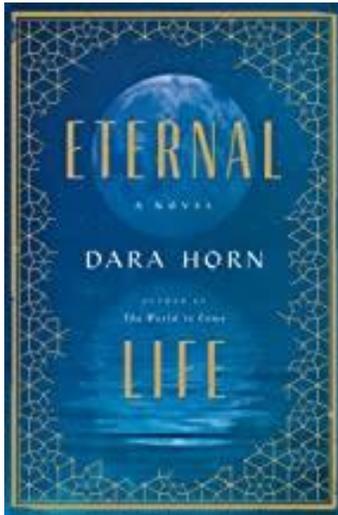
*Bernice Simon-Wolfson, Chair*

## ROSH CHODESH WOMEN

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM at the home of Judi Sitkin, 8 Glenwood Drive in East Harwich.

Judi Sitkin is facilitating a program about the author, Dara Horn, and her book, *Eternal Life*, which is the story of Rachel, a woman born at the turn of the Common Era in Jerusalem, who cannot die. She has lived thousands of lives and witnessed the scope of human history as a Jewish woman. Her experiences over 2000 years offer a unique perspective on the meaning of life. The depth of her wisdom shines new light on age-old questions, as well as the most modern debates, as we get a glimpse of what it might be like to live forever.

Rachel grows up in the time of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and is the daughter of an important and well-respected scribe. As teenagers, Rachel and Elezar take a vow that leads to their immortality, in an attempt to save the life of their very ill child. This decision binds their unique lives together forever. *Eternal Life* is written in Rachel's voice and, provides a female perspective on a variety of moments in history and life in general.



Dara Horn is an award winning novelist and literary scholar. She received her Ph.D. in comparative literature from Harvard University in 2006, studying Hebrew and Yiddish. She has written five books, three of which were selected as an Editor's Choice in The New York Times Book Review. She has taught courses in Hebrew and Yiddish literature in many prestigious colleges and universities. She has lectured at over 200 universities and cultural institutions throughout North America, Israel and Australia.

RSVP to Judi Sitkin at 954-817-1334 or [judisitkin@gmail.com](mailto:judisitkin@gmail.com).

Just a note about a book *Rosh Chodesh* has chosen for a discussion at our June meeting. *A River Could Be A Tree* is a memoir by Angela Himsel. It tells the strange but true life story of Angela Himsel, the seventh of eleven children from a family that belonged to an evangelical branch of Christianity, the Worldwide Church of God. Questioning her religion and her connection to God, she wound up in the most unexpected place: a *mikvah* on Manhattan's Upper West Side. This memoir traces a seemingly impossible journey of faith, family and friendship. It certainly makes for good winter reading!

Bernice Simon-Wolfson, Chair

## **SAVE THE DATE: SPECIAL ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S PROGRAM OPEN TO ALL**

On Thursday, April 23, *Rosh Chodesh* Women will welcome two speakers from the Harvard Kennedy School's Wexner Israel Fellowship Program, 7:30 PM at the Federated Church. This program is open to the entire membership - men, women, friends and family. Refreshments will be provided by *Rosh Chodesh*.

### **AM HAYAM DIRECTORY**

The 2020 edition of the *Am HaYam* Directory has been emailed to participants. If your information needs to be updated or you would like to be included, please send Name, Address, Phone, and Email information to Jessica Dill, [jrdill1@comcast.net](mailto:jrdill1@comcast.net). The *Am HaYam* Directory is a convenience for members to locate people in your area and contact each other. It is not to be used for mass mailing or solicitations or any other commercial purposes.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Membership/Social Committee is seeking new members. The Committee is responsible for getting the word out about *Am HaYam* and creating programs that attract new members and provide opportunities for all members to enjoy socializing together. We are open to new ideas and people willing to roll up their sleeve to make them happen. So come Contact Jane Dorval at [janedorval@comcast.net](mailto:janedorval@comcast.net) or Jessica Dill at [jrdill1@comcast.net](mailto:jrdill1@comcast.net) with questions and/or interest.

A member is anyone who participates in *Am HaYam* religious services, programs, and events or who wishes to be on the email mailing list. There are no membership dues. *Am HaYam* is solely dependent on the generous donations of those who attend our events or who make donations to mark special occasions or to remember loved ones. Mail donations to: Am HaYam, Box 1235, Brewster, MA 02631. If you wish to have a card sent announcing your donation, please include the name and address of the person for whom you are making the donation.

### **RITUAL COMMITTEE - HELP WANTED**

*Am HaYam* needs you! The Ritual Committee is looking for more members to lead *Shabbat* Services. Members of the committee will assist you with planning. We have guidelines for *Shabbat* services and ideas for alternative creative services to share with you. Services can be led by individuals or by groups. We have services in need of leaders. Please email Judy Keller at [jkelle47@verizon.net](mailto:jkelle47@verizon.net) and reserve your date!!!

## **HINENI OUTREACH GROUP**

The meaning of *Hineni* is “Here I Am.” The members of our group are here to help during times of sickness and bereavement. We want to reach out when someone needs help and wants help. If you need of assistance, please “reach in” for our help. If you know someone who might benefit from our help, let us know and we will ask them if they would like some assistance.

Ruth Shapiro is coordinating the *Hineni* efforts. Please don't hesitate to call Ruth at 508-896-3573 if you have any questions, wish to be a *Hineni* volunteer, or need help. We are here...*HINENI!*

## **FAITH COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK**

Cape Cod as “The Canary in the Coal Mine”

Have you ever seen a view of Cape Cod from space? Cape Cod looks like a skinny little projection jutting bravely out into the vast ocean. From this perspective, you can see how vulnerable we are to the natural elements of water, wind, (erosion), and tides. In terms of climate change, some would say we are “the canary in the coal mine.” For those that are not familiar with this expression, miners used to bring caged birds down into underground mines as a precaution. If the birds died from lack of oxygen, the miners were alerted to the danger and moved out of the danger zone.

A group of concerned Cape Cod citizens have urged every town on the Cape to declare a “Climate Emergency.” The Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN) voted to support this initiative. You should be seeing these emergency declarations on your town warrants at annual meetings. Once declared, this will allow our local governments to plan to reduce our carbon emissions and to apply for state funded grants such as The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP). These grants provide support for cities and towns in MA to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans.

I would urge you to vote to pass the Climate Emergency declaration in your town.

*Lyn Solomon, FECN Representative*

**LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL:**

- *Shabbat Service*, April 3
- *Play Reading Group*, April 6
- *Am HaYam Seder*, April 9
- *Shabbat in P-Town*, April 10
- *Torah Study w/Douglas*, April 12
- *Shabbat Service*, April 17
- *Holocaust Memorial Service*, April 20
- *Board of Directors*, April 21
- *Rosh Chodesh Special Program*, April 23
- *Shabbat in P-Town*, April 24
- *Women's Torah Study*, April 28

**MILESTONES**

*Mazel tov to*

Tova Soyt on the birth of her grandson, Rye Oswald Louis Soyt, son of Madison Louis and Jonathan Soyt

*Condolences to*

Marc Weiss on the loss of his beloved wife, Alice, and to her children, Nora Simpson, Molly Simpson, Christopher Weiss and Rachel Rachlinkski and her grandchildren.

*Refuah Shleimah to*

Arlene Cohen  
Arline Lowenthal  
Marc Sitkin  
Paul Schlansky  
Bob Dubeau

**DONATIONS**

**GENERAL FUND**

*In appreciation of*

*Am HaYam*

Elinor Danker  
David and Linda Grunebaum

*Yahrzeit for*

My beloved husband, Michael I. Holmes

Rebecca B. Holmes

*In memory of*

Bruce Wolf, beloved husband of Sheryl Wolf

Carol Roth

Alice Weiss, beloved wife of Marc Weiss

Judy Keller

Malcolm Shapiro

Charlotte Jerace

**"YELLOW PAGES" OF AM HAYAM**

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