



HAGESHER הגשר

The Bulletin of Congregation Ner Tamid  
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## To Crown a King by Rabbi Shana Chandler Leon



**@** Almost 250 years ago, the Continental Congress of the newly-born United States of America declared its independence from Britain, and forever swore off allegiance to any monarch, king or queen, that might rule over them without having been chosen by a vote of the people.

Last year, with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, many of us may have imagined what it's like to live in a country with a monarch, and then to watch the transition to a new

regnant. Some of us know first-hand. Some of us have no use or interest in any kind of monarchy. Some of us grew up in the age of Princess Diana, Prince Charles and all the intrigue and pageantry that surrounds the British Royal Family. Some of us may have taken a moment to note the true end of an era, and wish King Charles and Queen Camilla well and blessing after all.

There was a very notable Jewish presence at King Charles' coronation this past May, and that is not anything to take lightly. In the very Bad Old Days of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, 1189 to be precise, Jews were outright banned from the ceremony to mark the ascension of King Richard I. When Jewish dignitaries came anyway, laden with gifts and good wishes, they were stripped, whipped and banished from the court (*with*

*great appreciation for the reporting of Jonathan Shamir of Ha'Aretz, Ruth Schuster of the Associated Press and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency).*

The very public humiliation fueled a rumor that the new king had marked the Jewish "infidels" for death. A pogrom ensued, as a mob of Christians arrived in Old Jewry – a small ghetto in central London – to pillage, kill or forcibly baptize the Jewish community.

The religious zealotry that began at the coronation spread like wildfire, leading to increasing violence and, months later, to the unspeakable and still-haunting York pogrom, when Rabbi Yom Tov of Joigny urged hundreds of Jews to commit suicide rather than surrender to the murderous hoards. Though a few offered to convert, they were killed anyway.

A century later, in 1290, Edward I expelled all of the Jews in the kingdom. They were re-admitted only in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Oliver Cromwell, after he oversaw the execution of the current king's namesake, Charles I.

What a difference 733 years makes. Called by some "the most Jewish coronation in British history," Jews from all denominations, and from London to Sydney, said special prayers for the new king and queen. And this time, Jewish *machers* were welcomed to Westminster Abbey and given respectful and even prominent roles in the rituals, many of which were noticeably adapted for a new and different age.

The Chief Rabbi's Office, representing the mainstream Orthodox community, produced a 12-page booklet with "prayers of thanksgiving and

supplication to mark the coronation of their majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla,” which in and of itself is extraordinary if you think about it. King Charles was also, as we know, a devoted friend and deep admirer of the late Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, and spoke so eloquently at Rabbi Sacks’ funeral in 2020.

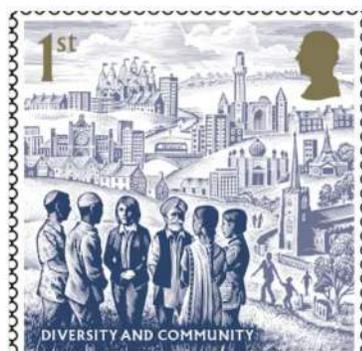
A multifaith procession, including the United Kingdom’s Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, welcomed the king to the abbey, accompanied him on the way out and offered him words of blessing. The gathering of faith leaders was absolutely in keeping with Charles’ historic choice, which he voiced as early as the 1990s, to be known not as “Defender of The Faith” (i.e. supreme governor of the Church of England) as all British monarchs have been, but as “The Defender of Faith.”

To honor Shabbat, the blessing was not microphoned. And for those who wondered, Rabbi Mirvis actually stayed the night before at Clarence House, Charles and Camilla’s primary residence just a short Shabbos walk from Westminster (in the 1970s, London’s top Orthodox rabbi decreed that observant Jews may enter a church at the monarch’s bidding).

Israeli President Isaac Herzog also walked to the abbey from his nearby hotel, and the coronation’s official Order of Service even expressed gratitude “to the Jewish community for finding ways to make this possible without compromising the observance of the Shabbat.” Astonishing.

The Royal Mail even issued a special stamp (below) to mark the coronation of the 21<sup>st</sup> century king and the amazingly diverse commonwealth over

which he presides. It portrays figures from Jewish, Islamic, Christian, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist faiths, while those gathered at the abbey also included Jain and Zoroastrian leaders (and representatives from both Sunni and Shia Muslim sects).



Charles’ coronation ceremony featured numerous psalms and Jewish prayers, such as the English-language version of the *Birkat Kohanim*, the priestly benediction, given by the Archbishop of York, and the king was dressed in his official royal robes by a team that included the chief executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

In a striking break with tradition, the anointing oil used for both Charles and Camilla came from Jerusalem olives, not British ones, blessed at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The olives came from the Monastery of Ascension and the Monastery of Mary Magdalene, both on the Mount of Olives. The latter is where Charles’ grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece, is buried. Alice (this was utterly new to me), is recognized by Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem as a Righteous Among the Nations, for sheltering a Jewish family during World War II.

The Coronation of King Charles and the remarkable degree of involvement and commitment to it by the Jewish communities of the U.K. set me to

thinking about an old and very important rule by which Jews have lived in lands where we have hoped to find shelter. It’s the Talmudic dictum of “*dina d’malchutah dina*,” meaning, “the Law of the Kingdom is the Law.” A complicated idea that is nonetheless eminently sensible, it is cited in tractates Nedarim, Gittin, Bava Kama and Bava Batra, where the rabbis attempt to reconcile the necessity of adhering to civil law while staying true to Torah precepts. It hasn’t always been easy.

But we have been exhorted to be good citizens, and to seek the peace and welfare of whatever government Jews live under, ever since the days of the prophet Jeremiah, who taught:

“Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace, you will have peace” (Jer. 29:7). We still pray every week together, with full heart, for the welfare and stability of our country, and we mean it, every single word.

Rosh Hashanah is but two weeks away now. It is the *true* Season of Coronation, when the shofar sounds and our prayers rise up to herald the recrowning of the Sovereign of Sovereigns. We are grateful to the genuine invitation to participate in earthly coronations when they come, but these are rare, and we know that governments can be fickle and unpredictable (may we only know peace, please God). But every year, Jews experience the Great Coronation, reminding us again of the True Monarch to whom all creation is called to return. May the rulers on earth find their way to peace, and may the Ruler of all Rulers inspire us all to create a glorious kingdom of joy and harmony, here and for the World to Come. ***Shanah Tovah!***

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Rosh Hashana is the Creation of the World. It is a time to recreate ourselves by recognizing our faults, repenting and asking forgiveness from others for our sins, all leading to atonement, granted by God for our actions.

Repentance involves knowing ourselves and changing to what God wants us to become. The major part of Rosh Hashana is finding our real selves and achieving our goals in life, practicing mitzvot and good deeds for all.

This past year brought us many challenges, obstacles, concerns, and COVID, but I am so proud of our community as we have met these bumps in the road with success. Never once have we not had Friday night and Shabbat morning services, Torah Study, programs and observances of every holiday.

We found that it is important to show more kindness, caring and concern towards one another and be mindful of how we speak. Carrying grudges from years ago seems unnecessary and serves no purpose. Best to talk about issues and try to resolve them before Yom Kippur.

Ner Tamid is a small community that relies on each other for support, attendance and a feeling of spiritual and religious fulfillment. Let us continue to work together to strengthen the bonds of our beloved congregation by generously contributing, assuming responsibility, volunteering and helping each other.

As I often say, "It takes a village" and truer words have not been spoken. Our village is small and taxed often to the limit, but it always makes sure the job is done.

Thank you is often not used enough to recognize the value of many.

Our amazing clergy team, Rabbi Shana, Cantor Rudy and Rabbi Reuben who each bring their special talents, creativity, knowledge and abilities to our services. They are a true blessing and we are grateful to have them.

Our Administrator Adele Shafer has been an integral part of Ner Tamid for almost twenty-one years. She cares about our members, has so many capabilities and handles every aspect of her job with a smile. Our

Executive Committee and Board of Directors work hard to make sure the important work of the synagogue is done properly.

Our office assistant Neo Ramputsa has done an excellent job and will be leaving us the end of August to further her education in Ireland. I wish her safe travels and good luck in her future. Our new office assistant, Alexander Kent, "Xander" is amazing. He is hard working, respectful, multi-talented and a joy to work with. I hope you have an opportunity to meet him.

Pablo Libedinsky our HaGesher editor who also updates our website calendar and produces our bulletin. Thank you.

I am so appreciative of several members who work so hard, are supportive, a shoulder to lean on and a willing ear to listen, that thank you is not enough, but know how much you matter.

Welcome to our new members **Sharon Polack** and **Ian Fink** I hope your association with our community is always fulfilling and enjoyable.

As we approach the High Holy Days, it is my hope that you enjoy services, feel renewed, and cleanse your thoughts of unhappiness, sadness, being unkind and think of how you can approach the New Year with joy, happiness and good health.

Continue to support our beautiful community financially and spiritually so you obtain the benefits from your efforts. Help us to keep our Eternal Light, our Ner Tamid burn brightly now and for the future.

I wish you Shana Tovah, good health, much happiness and a sweet year. May this year be one of success and many accomplishments.

**Charlotte Hyman**

### C3 Supports...

Your donations continue to allow C3 to support:

- High Holy Day Bimah flowers
- Holiday and event gift bags and flowers
- Trees in Israel
- Golden Book greetings
- Acknowledging events in our members' lives
- ... and more!



## Nancy Agronin

### Interview with Nina Zenter

Nancy and her husband Howard Blonsky joined the Ner Tamid family in 2018. Nancy had lost her husband Paul in June 2016 and after a few months decided to move on with her life, and took the plunge when she joined Match.com. It was *beschert* because that's where she met Howard who was also widowed. One year later they married and Nancy moved from San Carlos to set up home in San Francisco.

Nancy is from St. Louis, Missouri and was raised in a conservative Jewish family with her four siblings and confirmed in the local synagogue. Her father's grandfather invented Smetina sour cream and founded the Raskas Dairy which became Raskas foods but was subsequently sold. However, Nancy's immediate family was not involved, as she says her father never went past eighth grade, he drove a milk truck and had five kids to support.

Her orthodox grandfather on her father's side was a Rabbi from Lithuania, and a Shochet who supervised kosher chicken slaughter.

Following her graduation from high school Nancy enrolled in Washington University at St. Louis, to study economics. However, after about a year she found she had a calling for the nursing profession and transferred to the Jewish Hospital School of Nursing which later became the Goldfarb School of Washington University, from which she graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1964.

One night Nancy, while a student, was encouraged by her girlfriend to attend a Purim dance at the JCC. Fate stepped in and she met Paul Agronin, a young soldier temporarily stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Paul was from Wisconsin and finishing his studies at Ripon College.

Nancy and Paul were married in St. Louis in January 1965. Paul was still in college in Ripon, and Nancy moved to Ripon, where she worked several jobs. After Paul graduated in June 1965 they moved to Appleton, Wisconsin and he worked for his father for two years.

Their first baby daughter, Heidi was born in 1966 in Appleton, and then in 1967 came Amy, and finally Tammy in

Chicago in 1974 where they had moved because of Paul's job transfers. Paul's career caused them to move a lot.

Nancy was always active in the Jewish community wherever they lived ~ Sisterhoods, Hadassah, ORT. In fact, she and Paul and another couple were founding members of Congregation Shaare Shalom in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Nancy is a ten-year retiree of the American Red Cross. She was Night Supervisor in West Virginia at a 200-bed hospital for two years. She moved to St. Louis to Red Cross Disaster Services in Puerto Rico in 1989 during Hurricane Hugo, and was Third Highest Disaster Trained Registered Nurse in the Country for the American Red Cross.

Nancy's final position before moving to California was at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Jersey, where she was an Apheresis specialist harvesting stem cells and therapeutic exchanges.

Daughters Heidi and Amy live in San Carlos, California. Their husbands were involved in startups and Nancy and Paul moved there in 2001 right after 9/11 because their two daughters were both pregnant, so for the first three years they were of great help raising their small grandchildren.

Eventually Nancy got involved in volunteerism and community service, and her record is impressive - she was on the Board of San Mateo County Chapter of the American Cancer Society; she worked on the San Mateo County Task Force in Fall Prevention of the Elderly. She received training at Stanford to be a lay volunteer teacher for Matter of Balance, an evidence-based class on fall prevention; she was a member of the Kiwanis Club of San Carlos, becoming its treasurer for three years; she was a founding member of the Villages of San Carlos/Belmont, and at the Adult Center of San Carlos, taught stretching, strengthening and balance three days a week for 15 years, and which she now teaches once a week and has 55-60 attending.

And now as a consequence of an outstanding and unique nursing career, the Goldfarb School of Nursing College has selected Nancy to receive the **Barnes-Jewish College**

(Continued on page 5)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM THAT PREPARES LUNCH

**Dear Friends,**

We hope that you have enjoyed the Shabbat lunches at Ner Tamid.

For many years we have had the luxury of a paid staff person in the kitchen. However, with a growing deficit, we, the Shabbat kitchen team - Roni Miller, Nina Zentner, Steve Lachman and myself, have undertaken the entire responsibility of shopping, preparing and cleaning up from lunch, there-by saving the congregation approximately \$6,000 a year.

This means that the four of us have made the commitment to come on Fridays to prepare and to come back early Shabbat morning to finish the set up. That is our contribution over and above what we all individually contribute financially.

What we are asking of you is to follow our lead. If you enjoy the Shabbat luncheons, please make a financial commitment as well with either a donation to the Kiddush Kitty or better yet sponsor a kiddush lunch. We ask that this be an additional contribution, over an above what your normal giving would be. Celebrate an occasion- celebrate life or just celebrate by sponsoring a lunch.

We thank you all in advance and look forward to more delicious lunches and more lunch sponsors.

**Beverlee Hassid**



*(Continued from page 4)*

**Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award for 2023** for her accomplishments in nursing. Nancy is invited to receive her award at a special dinner event in September in St. Louis. That's so impressive Nancy and **Congratulations!**

Currently settled at Ner Tamid, Nancy has continued her volunteerism and community service and has become a member of the Finance Committee and chairs the Sunshine Committee as well as helping with many congregational events.

So, we welcome Nancy and Howard to our Ner Tamid family where Nancy continues to make her mark!

Finally, Nancy wishes to impart to everyone the importance of exercise - and states the old adage - if you don't use it you lose it!

Thank you Nancy!

## *L'Shanah Tovah from:*

Rabbi Shana Chandler Leon, Cantor Rudy Hassid,  
Ba'al Koreh Rabbi Reuben Zellman, Rabbi Emeritus Moshe Levin,  
President Charlotte Hyman, the Board of Directors,  
Administrator Adele Shafer, and HaGesher Editor Pablo Libedinsky



## *L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu:*

New Year's Greetings from the following members and families of Congregation Ner Tamid to you:

Hartley Appleton

Nancy Agronin & Howard Blonsky, Heidi  
Skrenta, Michael Blonsky, Amy Truel, Tammy  
Fauss

Moshe & Regina Blum, Paul Blum, David & Judy,  
Henry, Angelo, and Josiah Blum

Danise Chandler and Family

Charles Drucker; Miriam Drucker, Mark & Kim  
Drucker, Adam & Johanna Drucker, David  
Drucker, Samuel & Charvet Drucker, Aurora  
Rose Lynn Drucker

Madelaine Eaton and Radzh Eaton

Shirley Edelson and Ellen Edelson and Family

David Engelmann & Alberta Mischke

Arlene Finn, Ken, Brian, Camille, Kimberly,  
Zinnia, Freesia, Ila, and Miles Finn.

Marjorie Fulbright

Marlene Goldfarb and Family

Beverlee Hassid & Steve Lachman; Jen Dash &  
Eric Goldbrener, Samara & Marco, Emma &  
Serdar; Yael Lachman & Chris Rubio; Mark  
Lachman & Desiree Atkins and Family; Adria  
& Glenn Griffen and Family; Erik & Alessandra  
Giacomelli and Family

Rudy & Michele Hassid, Josh Hassid, Jake  
Hassid, Liran & Talia Machlouf and Family

Diane Hollander; Sarah Hollander; and Jonathan  
Hollander

Charlotte & Jerry Hyman; Michael & Audrey,  
Sydney and Joshua Hyman; Jeff & Hillary and  
Sierra Hyman; Michelle and Alex Hyman

Susie Julius and Family

Phil Kernfeld

Rabbi Shana Chandler Leon, Cantorial Soloist  
Andrew Henry, Adena, Sam, Jared, Jonah, and  
Eli

Leon Levy & Miryam Raphael and Families

Pablo & Irena Libedinsky; Jean-Marc Palmier,  
Ronitte Libedinsky, Eva, Jared, Yael, Nate and  
Eddie Henig

Huguette Machbitz, Michele & David Klein; Marc  
& Lori Machbitz, Joseph & Lesley Machbitz,  
Eric & Maureen Pasinkoff and Families

Barbara Mannheim

Roni Miller; Adam Salles; Cheryl Miller; Jason  
Torres, Stacey Enoch, Jack Torres, Beau Torres

Sharon Polack

Leon & Eva Rajninger and Family

Jacob Rosenstein, Judith Wolfe, and Hannah  
Rosenstein

Ann & Jere Ross and Family

Sue Scheiter

Adele Shafer and Family

Mira & Ralph Sinick

Gerald Spindel and Family

Shais & Susan and Jomar St. Martin

Linda Wertheim

Nina Zentner, Lisa & Chris Balton,  
Elsa and Miles; John Zentner,  
Matteo and Maya

Vivien Zielin



## HIGH HOLY DAY & FESTIVAL SERVICES SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER 2023

Sat	9	7:00 PM	<i>Selihot</i>
Fri	15	6:00 PM	<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah Services</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana and Cantor Rudy ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube
Sat	16	9:30 AM	<i>1st Day Rosh Hashanah Services</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana, Cantor Rudy, and Rabbi Reuben ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube
Sun	17	10:00 AM	<i>2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Services</i> ~ creative 2nd Day Service IN PERSON. Lunch following.
Sun	17	2:00 PM	<i>Tashlikh</i> ~ at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park, enter from 30th or 36th Avenue, off Fulton Street.
Fri	22	6:00 PM	<i>Erev Shabbat Shuvah Services</i> ~ Songs and prayer with Rabbi Shana and Cantor Rudy ~ YouTube Service
Sat	23	9:30 AM	<i>Shabbat Shuvah Morning Services</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana, Cantor Rudy, and Rabbi Reuben ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube
Sun	24	10:30 AM	<i>Kevel Avot</i> ~ Meet at SALEM MEMORIAL PARK as we visit the gravesites of the ancestors. A time- honored High Holy Day tradition.
Sun	24	7:00 PM	<i>Kol Nidre Service to begin Yom Kippur</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana, Cantor Rudy, Camellia Latta (flute), and Lara Garner (harp) ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube
Mon	25	10:00 AM	<i>Yom Kippur Services with Yizkor</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana, Cantor Rudy, and Rabbi Reuben ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube
		4:30 PM	<i>Yom Kippur Afternoon (Minha) and Closing (Ne'ilah) Service</i> ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube
		7:45 PM	<i>Final Sounding of the Shofar and Havdalah</i>
Fri	29	6:00 PM	<i>Erev Shabbat &amp; Sukkot Service</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana and Cantor Rudy ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube
Sat	30	9:30 AM	<i>Shabbat &amp; Sukkot Morning Services</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana, Cantor Rudy, and Rabbi Reuben ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube



### OCTOBER 2023

Sun	1	10:00 AM	<i>2nd Day Sukkot Festival</i> ~ innovative Service in the courtyard. "Shake your lulav!" Lunch following.
Fri	6	6:00 PM	<i>Erev Shabbat &amp; Shemini Atzeret</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana and Cantor Rudy ~ YouTube Service
Sat	7	9:30 AM	<i>Shabbat &amp; Shemini Atzeret with Yizkor</i> ~ with Rabbi Shana, Cantor Rudy, and Rabbi Reuben ~ IN PERSON and on YouTube.
Sun	8	TBA	<i>Simchat Torah Services</i> ~ celebrate the Torah with sweets, dancing and singing! ~ Led by Am Tikvah at <b>625 Brotherhood Way</b> , welcoming Ner Tamid.



"And ye shall take you on the first day the fruit of goodly trees, branches of palm-trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook, and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days," (Leviticus 23:40)

**BE PART OF THE MITZVAH  
PURCHASE A LULAV AND ETROG SET  
FOR SUKKOT 5784!**



Soon, it will be time again to parade through the synagogue with Lulav (palm branches) & Etrog

**Sunday morning, October 1st  
at 10:00 AM**

We will be ordering our Lulav and Etrog sets now to ensure early delivery.

Please order a set for yourself.

If you can't be here on Sukkot, help us provide enough for everyone!

*Please return this form or contact the [office](#) with your order by Wednesday, August 30.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # sets \_\_\_\_\_ @\$54 = \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- "I will be using my Lulav & Etrog at Services"
- "I will not be able to attend Services. Please use my set for the community."

# Selihot תּוֹשָׁבָה

Communal Prayers for Forgiveness & Reconciliation

We begin our spiritual preparation and usher in the High Holy Days on

## Saturday evening, September 9, 2023, at 7pm

- 7:15pm Havdalah and Dessert  
7:30pm Musical Program with *Camellia Latta*, flute, *Jon Lee*, piano, and  
*Aaron Colverson*, violinist  
8:40pm Selihot Service

at Congregation Ner Tamid • 1250 Quintara Street, SF  
and also on [YouTube](#)

Our Selihot program is generously sponsored by Beverlee Hassid  
in memory of her late husband, Sandy Goldbrener

Masks encouraged.

~ All are welcome! We look forward to sharing the leading of the Selihot Service  
with Am Tikvah clergy and lay leaders. ~

Please **RSVP** to Congregation Ner Tamid, 415-661-3383, [office@NerTamidSF.org](mailto:office@NerTamidSF.org)



# Todah Rabbah

*For your donations...from a Grateful Congregation*

[The following donations were received between June 16, 2023 and August 18, 2023]

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Patricia Avery  
Challah Sisters  
Victoria Chen  
Marlene Goldfarb

## Aliyot

Charles Drucker

## Anniversary

**Peggy & Sam Gluck**  
Ellen Isaak and Family

## Birthday

**Beverlee Hassid**  
Pablo & Irena Libedinsky  
Mike & Eileen Marchasin  
Roni Miller  
Nina Zentner  
**Brigitte Karliner**  
Rudy Rosenthal

## Donations

**Building Fund**  
Susie Julius  
Leon Levy & Miryam Raphael  
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**High Holy Days**  
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V. Adler  
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Pete Mancillas  
Barbara Mannheim

Danice Morris  
Sharon Polack  
Ian Fink  
Pete Mancillas  
Mark & Donna Rand  
Aleta Dupree

## Get Well

**Michael Hyman**  
Pablo & Irena Libedinsky  
**Brigitte Karliner**  
Rudy Rosenthal  
**Marta Katzki**  
Susie Julius  
**Ira Poretsky**  
Moshe & Regina Blum  
Susie Julius

## In Honor Of

**Charles Drucker**  
Oscar & Pearl Baltor  
**Beverlee Hassid**  
**Mazel Tov on Retirement**  
Moshe & Regina Blum  
Susie Julius  
**Cantor Rudy Hassid**  
**In Appreciation**  
Victoria Chen  
Alberta Mischke & David Engelmann  
**Charlotte Hyman**  
**In Appreciation**  
Barbara Mannheim  
Alberta Mischke & David Engelmann  
**Rabbi Reuben Zellman**  
**In Appreciation**  
Alberta Mischke & David Engelmann

## In Memory Of

**Dorothy Abers**  
**Irving Abers**  
Rochelle Miller  
**Goldie Abers**  
Ruth Abers  
**Irving Alter**  
Howard & Diane Alter  
**Liam Balton**

Nina Zentner  
**Mara Baltor**  
Oscar & Pearl Baltor  
**Herbert Benger**  
Susie Julius  
**Albert Bernzweig**  
Paul Bernzweig  
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Steven & Stephanie Blau  
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Stephanie Blythe  
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Phil & Allison Braverman  
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Bella Seerke  
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**Daniel Smigel**

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**Ethel Drucker Sobel**

Charles Drucker

**Jeanne Sonnenblick**

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**Rabbi Herbert Cerf Straus**

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**Ode to a bagel in the style of Ecclesiastes**

By ChatGPT (Artificial Intelligence)

Vanity of vanities, proclaims the bagel,  
A circular discourse, a tale to unravel.  
It is round and wholesome, a ring of delight,  
Yet its existence, transient, like morning's first light.

Behold the bagel, with a hole at its core,  
Symbol of emptiness, forevermore.  
It beckons to us, inviting our taste,  
But its purpose, elusive, as we bite and we chase.

From dough it is formed, by skilled hands it's shaped,  
Kneaded and molded, its destiny shaped.  
Yet soon it is consumed, a fleeting affair,  
Leaving behind mere crumbs, like whispers in the air.

In toasting or boiling, we seek its ideal state,  
But perfection escapes us, like fortunes of fate.  
We pile it with toppings, both savory and sweet,  
Yet satisfaction eludes us, like a mirage in the heat.

For the bagel, like life, is an endless pursuit,  
We seek satisfaction, our hunger to refute.  
But like chasing the wind, it slips through our grasp,  
Leaving us longing, in a world that won't last.

So let us reflect, in the wisdom we glean,  
From the bagel's lesson, a truth unforeseen.  
To savor each morsel, each moment we find,  
For in the mundane, true meaning unwinds.

For the bagel reminds us, as we take a bite,  
That life's worth is measured, not in days or in plight,  
But in simple pleasures, shared laughter and love,  
In the moments we cherish, as gifts from above.

Vanity of vanities, the bagel imparts,  
In its humble existence, a wisdom that starts.  
So let us partake, with grateful hearts aglow,  
In the beauty of life's bagel, as we come and we go.



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They accept clothing, household goods and electronics, and if you have furniture they will send a truck to pick up everything. You must specify **Ner Tamid, #207**, when you donate. For more information, call them at 415-861-4910.

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