

**CONGREGATION ANSHE EMETH E-NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2022**

**Saturday, February 19, 10 AM In-person and also Zoom Shabbat Service. Zoom link at the bottom.**

**WELCOME TO RABBINIC INTERN CAITLIN BRAZNER**



*(Photo also attached to this email).*

**Biography:** Caitlin Brazner is a 5th Year rabbinical and education student at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati. After graduating college in 2010, Caitlin participated in AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps. This transformative, year-long, service-corps program for young, Jewish adults gave her the opportunity to work at a non-profit serving underemployed and undereducated adults in Washington, DC, to volunteer, and to study the intersection of Judaism and social justice. After AVODAH, she worked for five years in Reform congregations in Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland, as well as at URJ Camp Harlam, in Kunkletown, Pennsylvania. It was during these years of exploration, mentorship, and reflection that Caitlin discovered her true calling to serve the Jewish people through the rabbinate.

While a student at HUC-JIR, Caitlin has served as the student rabbi for numerous midwestern congregations and is currently the Rabbinic Intern of Rockdale Temple. Caitlin completed her Master of Hebrew Letters (MHL) in 2021. She expects to be ordained in May of 2022, and to complete her Master of Education (MEd) at that time as well.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin (go Packers!), and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (go Badgers!), Caitlin, her husband Scott Larsen, and their dog Pig, love to cheer on the 'Green and Gold,' and the 'Big Red,' each weekend.

**YAHZEITS FOR FEBRUARY**

**Sam Kastner, Morris Kaufman, Rose Louis, Leo Shapiro, Sally Shuchat**

And most recently, **Jan Shamberg and David Dial**

In sympathy to Debby Garland and Ardyth Sokoler on the passing of their mother, **Jan Shamberg**. Jan served as our treasurer between **Sally Shuchat and Renni Livingston**.

**Z'I for David Dial** with sympathies to **Linda Brotkin**

**MESSAGE FROM CAITLIN BRAZNER:**

To be Jewish is to be part of an unbroken chain that spans thousands of years. Ours is a tradition of storytelling and torch-bearing; roots are important to us. Jewish author Ariel Sabar beautifully captures this sentiment when he reflects on his own family history and Jewish traditions. He writes:

...my son's birth was...a stark reminder of continuity, that we are who we come from as much as who we make of ourselves. Jews had carried a flame into the hills of Kurdistan, and they carried it out, still burning, 2,700 years later. My father touched another candle to it and brought it across continents. I didn't want it to die with me. If my children ever feel adrift, unsure of who they are, I want that candle to still be burning.<sup>1</sup>

My parents carried that flame, too. From their candles I lit my own and grew to become a rabbi, someone immersed in the Jewish community and dedicated to the stewardship of our tradition. And now, as I come to Piqua, I carry it here to this place where you have proudly kindled your own flames in this historic community since 1858!

Judaism is rooted in the concept of *l'dor vador*- "from generation to generation." We are part of a moving, evolving, continuing chain that connects us to Jews in all places, spaces, and times. I am honored to come to this new (to me!) place and serve your community, to have the opportunity to learn and grow here, and to be one of the many generations of student rabbis that have and will serve this pulpit. I am so looking forward to this coming spring together! Below you will find a brief bio in order to get to know me a little better. I also invite you to visit my website, [RabbiCaitlinBrazner.com](http://RabbiCaitlinBrazner.com), to see more of my writings and past work.

In this week's Torah portion, *T'tzaveh*, God commands the Israelites to light and keep a *ner tamid*, an eternal flame, always burning in their Tent of Meeting.<sup>2</sup> As we continue on in our year together, may we find the lights of Jewish tradition always burning, always inspirational, and always there for you, me, and the many generations who will come after us

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**WITH GRATEFUL THANKS:**

**Maxine Rubin**

**Lora Kaufman**, in memory of **Lee Kaufman**.

**Cory & Sharon Lemmon**

**Joanne Hillelson, Craig, Helen** and baby **James Vincent** in memory of **Jerry Hillelson**

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<sup>1</sup> Sabar, Ariel; *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq*. (Algonquin Books: NYC & Chapel Hill. 2009)

<sup>2</sup> See Exodus 27:20-21. (*Editor's apology for my inability to format this footnote, following the message*).

**MISHE' BERACH**

Prayers for Healing to **David Ferrell** following surgery.

**AND MORE..... NEXT PAGE**

**ZOOM... OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN!**

Please see attached flyers. No charge for any program but registration is required. These are being offered by other congregations in our *Jewish Community Legacy Project* area.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 (7 – 8:30 PM) or Thursday, Feb. 24 (Noon to 1:30 PM) Security for Congregations

Sunday, Feb. 27 at 7 PM – The History of American Synagogue Stained Glass

Tuesday March 1, 2022 – April 5, 2022 from 7-8:00 PM Exploring Jewish Thought 6 sessions on