

B"H

# ILLUMINATING

*Akron*

NEWSLETTER  
ELUL 5785  
SEPTEMBER 2025



ANSHE SFARD SYNAGOGUE

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Rabbi

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Rabbi Emeritus

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Education Director

**Mussie Sasonkin**  
Program Director

**Joel Stile**  
President

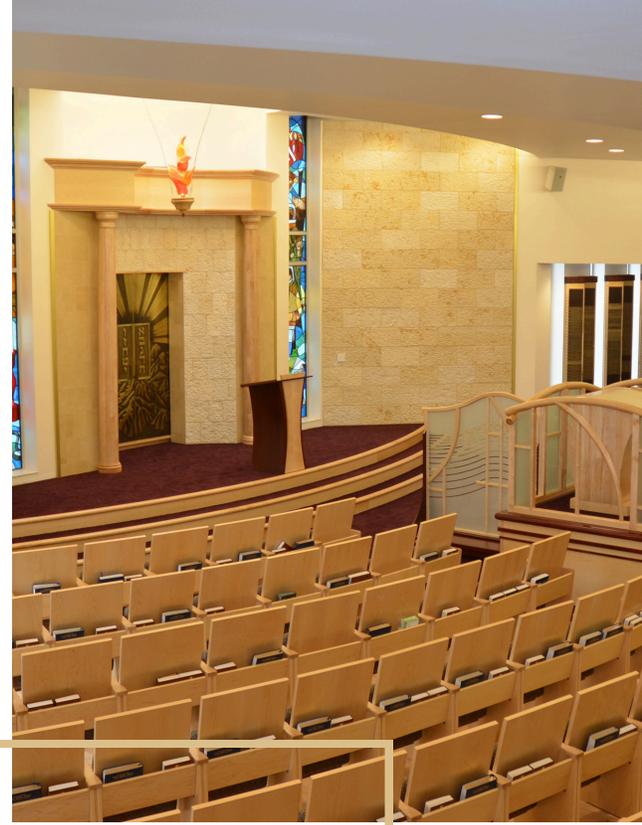
**Robert Taub**  
Membership Chair

**Art Taub**  
Men's Club President

**Carrie Markey**  
Office Manager

**Keith Migdal**  
Free Loan President

**Arlene Miller**  
Chavurah Sisterhood



# Anshe Sfard

Revere Road Synagogue

646 N Revere Road, Akron, Ohio 44333  
office@akronshul.com | akronshul.com



## Weekly Services



### MORNING SHACHARIS

Sunday.....8:00 am  
Monday & Thursday.....7:30 am  
Shabbat.....10:00 am

### EVENING MINCHA & MAARIV

Sunday - Friday.....7:30 pm

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# RABBI'S MESSAGE



Recently, a story caught my attention.

The restaurant chain Cracker Barrel decided to change its logo. Like so many companies today, they wanted to be more modern and “with the times.” So, they retired their long-time icon, Uncle Herschel.

The change sparked an uproar. Customers who had grown up with the brand and felt attached to its southern style were furious. They felt the company was erasing its very identity.

And then Cracker Barrel did something remarkable. They admitted their mistake. They swallowed their pride, reversed course, and brought Uncle Herschel back.

Now, the truth is, I couldn't care less about Cracker Barrel (or their logo)—especially since it isn't kosher. Honestly, until this week, I had no idea their mascot was a nice old Jew called Uncle Herschel!

So many Jews today feel the need and the pressure to modernize—to update, to make our traditions seem more “palatable” or “relevant.” We try to fit in, to rebrand, to make Judaism look less like good old Uncle Herschel and more like the latest cultural trend.

But the secret to Jewish survival has never been rebranding. It's not pretending the world hasn't changed, but remembering that what makes us strong hasn't changed. Our soul is eternal. Our traditions are timeless.

As Cracker Barrel discovered this week, people value authenticity. They want something real. The Jewish strength that has carried us for thousands of years is not in marketing—it's in our roots. The nations of the world won't respect us because we hired a PR consultant to polish our image. They will respect us when we respect ourselves—when we live proudly as Jews and stay loyal to our heritage.

We have the Torah as our eternal logo. We have the same G-d who has always been with us, and always will be.

Of course, it's not always easy to resist the pull to modernize, to blend in. But when we pause and remember where we come from—and who we truly are—that temptation quickly fades.

What impressed me most in this story was how the CEO responded to the backlash. She wrote, “*We said we would listen, and we have.*” She didn't double down and get defensive. She admitted the mistake and recognized the criticism.

That's not easy. Nobody enjoys being told they've messed up. Our instinct is to defend, explain, or protect our pride.

We are now in the Jewish month of Elul. A month of reflection and a season to draw closer to G-d as Rosh Hashana approaches. A chance to ensure we haven't strayed and to return to our inner core, to our eternal roots. A time to say, “*We listened, and we returned.*”

Let's not forget our own “Uncle Herschel,” our own Bubby and Zaidy. They prayed, they lit candles, they ate kosher, and they did everything they could to support Jewish causes. There was nothing more important to them than celebrating the holidays together. Their Judaism was real.

That's our inheritance. That's our strength.

What sustains us is not chasing what's fashionable, but holding on to what is eternal.

The Torah will always be our logo. Our ancestors will always be our role models. And by staying true to our roots, we will thrive into the future.

Mussie & I wish you and your families a happy & healthy sweet new year!

**- Rabbi Moshe Sasonkin**



## WHAT ARE THE HIGH HOLY DAYS?

If the year is a train, the High Holidays are its engine. A blend of joy and solemnity, feasting and fasting, prayer and inspiration—all make up the spiritually charged head of the Jewish year.

## ROSH HASHANA

Rosh Hashanah is the birthday of the universe, the day G-d created Adam and Eve. It's celebrated as the "Rosh," or head, of the Jewish year. Just as the head controls the body, our actions on Rosh Hashanah have a tremendous impact on the rest of the year.

As we read in the prayers, on this day *"all inhabitants of the world pass before G-d like a flock of sheep,"* and it is decreed in the heavenly court *"who shall live and who shall die... who shall be impoverished and who shall be enriched; who shall fall and who shall rise."*

It is a day of prayer, a time to ask the Almighty to grant us a year of peace, prosperity, and blessing. But it is also a joyous day, when we proclaim G-d King of the Universe. The blowing of the Shofar represents the trumpet blast sounded at a king's coronation. Its deafening cry also serves as a call to repentance and a renewed commitment to return to Hashem.

## YOM KIPPUR

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year—when we are closest to G-d and to the essence of our souls. As the verse states: *"For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins before G-d."*

Over 3,000 years ago, this was the day G-d forgave the Jewish people at Sinai for the sin of the golden calf. On Yom Kippur, we set aside physical needs and afflict ourselves by refraining from eating or drinking, wearing leather shoes, washing, or bathing.

## SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH

Following the solemn High Holidays, these festivals are a time of unbridled joy. Sukkot is a weeklong holiday that celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection G-d provided for the Children of Israel when they left Egypt.

We celebrate by dwelling in a foliage-covered hut (a Sukkah) and by shaking the Lulav—the "Four Kinds" of palm, myrtle, willow, and citron. This serves as an expression of both our diversity and our unity.

The joy of this season reaches its peak on Simchat Torah, when we celebrate the conclusion—and immediate restart—of the annual Torah-reading cycle. We mark it with Hakafof (dancing in circles with the Torah) and a festive meal—plus a l'chaim or two!



# HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

RSVP: AKRONSHUL.COM/HOLIDAYS

## SELICHOT

SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 13

Selichot services .....11:00 pm

## ROSH HASHANA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Mincha & Maariv .....6:45 pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Shacharis .....8:30 am

Shofar Blowing .....11:30 am

Tashlich (Shul pond) .....1:30 pm

Mincha & Maariv .....6:45 pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Shacharis .....8:30 am

Shofar Blowing .....11:30 am

Mincha & Maariv .....6:45 pm

## YOM KIPPUR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Kol Nidrei.....6:30 pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Shacharis .....8:30 am

Yizkor .....11:30 am

Mincha & Ne'ila .....5:00 pm

Shofar Blast/Fast Ends .....7:45 pm

Break-Fast Dinner .....8:00 pm



# CHAZAN ISRAEL GOLDFROIND



## Returning for his 20th year!

Chazan Goldfroind will lead us with his melodious voice on the High Holidays. We celebrate two decades of his inspiration and heartfelt song.

The Sasonkin Boys Choir will join the Chazan on Yom Kippur.

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## FAMILY SERVICE & PROGRAM

Ages 0-6, 7-12

Led by Kaila & Mussie Sasonkin

RSVP: akronshul.com/family

## ROSH HASHANA

Tues-Wed, September 23-24

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

## YOM KIPPUR

Thursday, October 2

10:00 am - 12:00 pm





# HIGH HOLIDAY EVENTS:



Tuesday  
Sep 23  
1:30pm

## TASHLICH SERVICES

Following Rosh Hashana services, at the Anshe Sfarad pond. Kiddush refreshments will be served.



Thursday  
Oct 2  
7:45pm

## YOM KIPPUR BREAK-FAST DINNER

Join the community for a delicious Break-fast dinner following at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. No fee, but please RSVP. *Sponsored by Bernie Schneier and Dr. Larry & Julie Geller*



Friday  
Oct 10  
5:30pm

## YOUNG FAMILY SHABBAT IN THE SUKKAH

Join families with young children for a Shabbat in the round - Sukkot edition! Great Food. Great Friends. Lots of Fun! *Sponsored by the Lippman Kanfer Family Foundation*



Sunday  
Oct 12  
6:00pm

## MEN'S NIGHT! BRISKET, BOURBON, & BROTHERHOOD

Enjoy a night with the guys!  
Brisket, Bourbon, & Brotherhood - in the Sasonkin Sukkah



Tuesday  
Oct 14  
6:30pm

## SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION

The celebration of the year!  
Dinner, Dancing, L'chaims + more!  
*Sponsored by the Cooper, Morris, & Stein Families*

**HONORING RABBI MENDY'S  
7TH YAHRTZEIT**



RSVP TODAY! [AKRONSHUL.COM/HOLIDAYS](http://AKRONSHUL.COM/HOLIDAYS)



**Need a Lulav & Etrog?**  
Purchase a set of your own for just \$50! Email: [office@akronshul.com](mailto:office@akronshul.com)



# SISTERHOOD CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP

What a sweet night!



In preparation for the High Holidays, the Sisterhoods of Anshe Sfard, Beth El, and Temple Israel came together for a special pre-Rosh Hashanah chocolate workshop. Nearly 100 women and girls participated in this sweet and meaningful evening, which began with prayers, the sounding of the shofar, and a beautiful musical performance by Cheryl Eitman.

Participants then rolled up their sleeves to learn the art of making chocolate truffles, Dubai chocolate, and chocolate bark. Everyone left with treats for themselves and an extra box to share with a friend, spreading sweetness to others as the new year begins.



## HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Skip the kitchen stress this year!

Let our Chavurah Sisterhood handle your holiday meals!

A big thank you to all the dedicated volunteers and staff!



Pickup is on September 16, 2-6pm  
Order at: [akronshul.com/fair](http://akronshul.com/fair)



# INTRODUCING OUR **BAR-BAT CLASS!**





**Zohara Bertman**  
July 6, 2025



**Hayden Reiss**  
August 23, 2025



**Ana Velasco-Stile**  
September 7, 2025



**Mason Sable**  
November 8, 2025



**Zoey Sable**  
November 8, 2025

*Mazel  
Tov!*



# MOM & ME



Summer Fun!





# Yahrzeit

THE FOLLOWING WILL OBSERVE YAHRZEIT IN MEMORY OF THEIR LOVED ONES

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Randal Lowry  
Sharlene Manes
- 2 Scott Emerman
- 3 Avi Greenbaum
- 7 Wendy Cooley
- 8 Linda Lyons
- 11 Kathy Goldstein
- 13 Marsha Rockitter
- 15 Kim Aronson
- 16 Gary Himmel
- 18 Wendy Zimmerman  
Carol Ann Leibowitz
- 19 Carol Kushkin
- 20 Gwen Schall  
Regina Dorman
- 25 Julie Geller  
Carol & Kendal Kushkin
- 28 Estabelle Landau  
Marilyn Groden
- 29 Barbara Miller
- 30 Marsha Rockitter

## OCTOBER

- 6 Teddi Kay
- 7 Robert M. Taub  
Arthur Taub  
Carol Ann Leibowitz  
Debbie Saferstein  
Sharon Saferstein
- 8 Linda Groden  
Marc Merklin
- 9 Stuart Glauberman
- 14 Joel Miller
- 15 Kaila Sasonkin  
Moshe Sasonkin
- 17 Arlene Markey
- 22 Susan Alfonso  
Eileen Benson  
Magita Willen  
Ronnie Kramer
- 23 Barbara Shapiro
- 24 Kim Aronson  
Brian Aronson  
Estabelle Landau  
Barbara Shapiro  
David Kloner
- 26 Jeffrey Miller  
Bob Miller  
Stephen Stein
- 27 Stuart Glauberman  
Carol Ann Leibowitz  
Gary Lichten  
Joel Recht  
Linda Stile
- 28 Stanley Apple  
Stephen Stein
- 30 Jennifer Chestnut

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Larry Geller  
David Stile  
Joel Stile  
Shelley Stile
- 6 Bob Cooper  
Susan Lichten  
Steve Zimmerman
- 7 Arthur Taub  
Robert M. Taub
- 11 David Kloner  
Debbie Reiss
- 14 Regina Dorman  
Susie Meles
- 15 Teddi Kay
- 16 Teddi Kay  
Shaine Lipton  
Carmie Stein
- 19 Marilyn Tapper
- 21 Marsha Rockitter
- 22 Debbie Sutter
- 24 Brian Aronson  
Robert A. Gabor  
Shirley Katz
- 25 David Kloner
- 26 Bernard Schneier  
Marilyn Tapper
- 27 Arthur Benson  
Liliya Feinstein  
Joan Allyn Kodish
- 30 Nancy Kool



## MAZAL TOV

**Justin & Rebecca Miller**  
on the birth of their daughter  
Maya  
Proud Grandparents are Jeff  
Miller and Barbara Miller

**Steve & Wendy Zimmerman**  
on the engagement  
of their daughter  
Kelley Kraus to David Silverstein

**Michal & Larry Levine**  
on the B'nei Mitzvah of their twin  
grandchildren Taylor & Levi Citron

**Vic & Susie Meles**  
on the birth of their granddaughter  
Eliana Vera



## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Salomon Meles**  
Beloved husband of the late Angela  
Meles  
Beloved father of Raquel Rosen  
(Jerry), Victor Meles (Susie);  
Beloved brother-in-law Aida Meles

**Robert "Bob" Parker**  
Beloved husband of Shellie Levine  
Parker

**Bennett David Aster**  
Beloved husband of Nicki, obm  
Beloved father of Matthew (Heike)  
Aster and Andrew Aster

**Esther S. Bober**  
Beloved mother of Mark (Lyn) Bober,  
Carolyn Bober, and Brian Bober  
Beloved sister of Janet (Bob) Cohen

**Bruce Altchouler**  
Beloved husband of Karen (Kushkin)  
Altchouler  
Beloved son-in-law of Carol Kushkin  
& Dr. David Kendal and Michael  
Kushkin



The 'Yahrzeit' - the anniversary of the date of passing is very significant in Judaism. It is the time of year when the soul is at its greatest strength and in its fullest glory. With each ensuing year, this radiance again shines forth in the world and in the Heavens, as the soul is elevated to a higher spiritual level and drawn even closer to G-d.

On this day, every Mitzvah performed and every effort to improve one's spiritual life brings great merit to the deceased.



# MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## THE HELEN BENES MEMORIAL FUND

**In Honor of**  
*Birth of Mendel & Yisrolik Sasonkin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lazbin**

**In Memory of**

*Aunt Helen Benes*

*Louis Benes*

*Maria Lazbin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lazbin**

*Louis Benes*

**Dr. & Dr. Mark Lazbin**

*Issak Boroskiy*

*Polina Reznik*

**Mr. & Dr. Yuriy Dorman**

## THE MARK BOROVSKY CHILDREN'S BOOK FUND

**In Memory of**

*Dvoira Borovskya*

*Izco Gitelmaker*

*Misha Dorman*

*Yekhanon Dorman*

**Mr. & Dr. Yuriy Dorman**

*Anne Lublin*

*Philip Joel Lublin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Cooley**

## THE CEMETERY FUND

**In Memory of**

*Ann Sobel*

**Mr. Morton Sobel**

*LTC Irving Gersten*

**Mrs. Rachel Gersten**

*Marlene Miller*

**Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Miller**

*Mildred Manes*

**Mr. & Mrs. Lee Manes**

*Murray Antonoff*

**Dr. & Mrs. Perry Schall**

## THE HYMAN M. & MARTHA EKUS MEMORIAL FUND

**In Memory of**

*Harvey Ekus*

**Ms. Judy Subotin**

*Maurice Neiman*

**Mr. Brian Sass & Ms. Judy**

**Subotin**

## THE CHARLES & ROSE GLASS EDUCATION FUND

**In Honor of**

*Marilyn & Harvey Groden's*

*70th Anniversary*

**Mr. Paul Nestvold**

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael**

**Vasserman**

**In Memory of**

*Alan Kay*

*Tillie Schnur*

**Mrs. Alan Kay**

*Maurice Neiman*

**Mr. Robert M. Taub & Mrs.**

**Teddi Kay**

*Marvin Greenbaum*

**Mr. Avi Greenbaum**

## THE NATHAN & ROSE KATZ KITCHEN FUND

**In Memory of**

*Arnold Stone*

**Ms. Rose Wilcher**

**For the Recovery of**

*Art Taub*

*Harvey Lipton*

**Mrs. Herb Moss**

## THE PRAYER BOOK FUND

**In Honor of**

*Marilyn & Harvey Groden's*

*70th Anniversary*

*Steve Winer's 88th Birthday*

**Dr. & Mrs. Joel Miller**

## In Memory of

*Herbert Weiss*

*Jacob Miller*

*Louis Kramer*

*Neal Sausen*

**Dr. & Mrs. Joel Miller**

*Kathryn Cooper*

**Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cooper**

*LTC Irving Gersten*

**Mrs. Rachel Gersten**

## THE RABBI MENDY LEGACY FUND

**In Honor of**

*Bernie Schneier's Birthday*

**Mr. & Mrs. Yakir Siegal**

*Birth of Mendel & Yisrolik*

*Sasonkin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael**

**Vasserman**

**Mr. & Mrs. Ken Sharrock**

**Dr. & Mrs. Ryan Heksch**

**Ms. Marilyn Tapper**

**Mr. & Mrs. Brian Reiss**

**Mr. Stephen Winer**

*Kaila's Birthday*

**Mr. & Mrs. Raymond**

**Michaels**

**Mrs. Herb Moss**

*Bob Cohen*

*Levik Sasonkin's Birthday*

*Mrs. Kelly's Birthday*

*Rabby Mendy's Birthday*

*Steve Winer's 88th Birthday*

**Mr. Paul Nestvold**

*Marilyn & Harvey Groden's*

*70th Anniversary*

**Ms. Marilyn Tapper**

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael**

**Antopolski**

*Rabbi Mendy's Birthday*

**Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lazbin**

*Shlomit Antopolski's Birthday*

**Cheryl A. Kelley**

*Steve Winer's 88th Birthday*

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael**

**Vasserman**

**Ms. Marilyn Tapper**

## In Memory of

*Allan Godshall*

**Mr. Robert Godshall**

*Arthur Winer*

**Mr. Stephen Winer**

*Charles Bissinger*

*Erin Bissinger Geller*

**Dr. & Mrs. Larry Geller**

*David Sokol*

**Mr. & Mrs. Larry Levine**

*Dr. Salomon Meles*

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wise**

*Ellen Migdal*

*Rhoda Migdal*

**Mr. Keith Migdal**

*Erika Brady*

**Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Groden**

*Esther Bober*

**Cheryl A. Kelley**

**Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Groden**

*Jonathan Benjamin*

*Gerendas*

**Dr. & Mrs. Nathan Ida**

*Kathryn Cooper*

**Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cooper**

*Margaret & Jerome Rolnick*

**Mr. & Mrs. Josh Rolnick**

*Neal Sausen*

**Cheryl A. Kelley**

*Rabbi Mendy Sasonkin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael**

**Vasserman**

*Sally Winer*

**Mr. Stephen Winer**

*Samuel Haberman*

**Mrs. Dave Recht**

*Shelly Peskin Godshall*

**Mr. Robert Godshall**

*Stefan Handler*

**Mrs. Susan Alfonso**

**For the Recovery of**

*Janet Cohen*

**Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Groden**

*Suzanne Feldman*

**Ms. Esther Feldman**



THESE MOMENTS HAPPEN BECAUSE OF YOU!





# Anshe Sfard

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## CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUED:

### THE RABBI LIEBTAG EDUCATION FUND

#### In Honor of

*Marilyn & Harvey Groden's  
70th Anniversary*

**Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Cooley**  
*Marilyn & Harvey Groden's  
70th Anniversary*

**Mrs. Herb Moss**  
*Marjorie Recht's Birthday*

**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Recht**  
*Scott Gross's Special  
Birthday*

**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Recht**  
*In Memory of*

*Bob Parker*

**Mrs. Herb Moss**

**Mrs. Rachel Gersten**  
*Neal Sausen*

**Mrs. Herb Moss**

### THE JACK SAFERSTEIN BUILDING FUND

#### In Memory of

*Harry Lublin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Cooley**

### THE LOU & FREDA STILE MITZVAH FUND

#### In Honor of

*Bernie Schneider's Special  
Birthday*

*Gary Brotsky's Special  
Birthday*

*Marilyn & Harvey Groden's  
70th Anniversary*

**Steve Winer's 88th Birthday**

**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Stile**  
*Joel Recht's Birthday*

**Leonard & Beverly  
Bernstein**

#### In Memory of

*Ellen Winer*

**Mr. Stephen Winer**  
*Janice & Alan Woll*

**Mrs. Linda Lyons**

*Louis Stile*

**Mr. David Stile & Dr. Kathy  
Laing**

*Mel Lyons*

**Mrs. Linda Lyons**  
*For the Recovery of*

*Joel Stile*

**Leonard & Beverly  
Bernstein**

**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Recht**  
*Kaila Sasonkin*

**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Stile**

### THE TORAH FUND

#### In Honor of

*Marilyn & Harvey Groden 70th  
Anniversary*

**Mr. Robert M. Taub & Mrs.  
Teddi Kay**

*Rosie Green's 1st Birthday*

**Mr. Avi Green**

#### In Memory of

*Ben Taub*

*Bob Parker*

**Mr. Robert M. Taub & Mrs.  
Teddi Kay**

*Evelyn Berezin Miller*

**Mr. Barry Miller**

*Floria Maria*

**Ms. Orli Rodriguez**

*Herbert Weiss*

**Mr. & Mrs. Paul Karon**

*Jack Jaslovitz*

**Mr. Alan Jaslow**

*Janet Lou Brunner*

*Michael Taub*

**Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Taub**

*Louis Kay*

**Mrs. Alan Kay**



## KIDDUSH SPONSORS

**Brian Aronson  
The Reiss Family  
Bob Cohen  
Harvey & Marilyn Groden  
Steve Winer**



## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

**Katherin Gruber  
Allan Rockitter  
Neal Sausen  
Harvey Efron**



## LEAVE A LEGACY!

**Consider including  
Anshe Sfard  
in your will**

With a simple act  
today, you can make  
an eternal impact!