

★ Worshipping Together - Spring Holidays

Lag Ba'Omer

begins Thursday, April 29

Lag Ba'Omer, a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, is a festive day. It falls on 18 Iyar, the 33rd day of the Omer count. The Hebrew letters *lamed* and *gimel*



which make up the acronym "Lag" have the combined numerical value of 33. This day is an occasion for happiness during an otherwise mournful period.

The Omer counting period, seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot, is a relatively somber time: we do not permit weddings, and many Jews do not listen to live music or get haircuts. This is because of a plague that wiped out many of the students of Rabbi Akiva, one of the greatest rabbis of the Talmud.

We are told that the plague stopped on the 33rd day of the Omer, so that day is one of celebration, picnics, bonfires, and outdoor fun. In Israel, they also plant trees. Grab some friends and enjoy!

★ Making Connections

Celebration of America's Jewish Women

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

8:00 PM

COST: no charge
REGISTER: tinyurl.com/BETWomenMarch
QUESTIONS: Michelle Kunzman, 860-729-4201, michellekunzman1@gmail.com
SPONSOR: Women's Network



Professor Pamela Nadell will celebrate Women's History Month with us and share insights from her recent book, *America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*, which won the 2019 National Jewish Book Award/Everett Family Foundation Jewish Book of the Year. See the Library review on facing page.

An Hour Of Captivating Music

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

NOON - 1 PM

COST: no charge
CONTACT: Sue Wachtel, 860-658-2116, suewachtel@yahoo.com
REGISTER: tinyurl.com/BETStoltz
SPONSOR: Chai Society



Internationally acclaimed bass and acoustic guitarist David Stoltz will perform an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, classic rock, Broadway, Israeli music, and more. This concert includes duets with LeeAnn Lovelace and a few Israeli songs with Cantor Ness.

Grab your lunch and pull up to your computer for this special, online-only event!

Representing Israel in Tough Places with Israel Ambassador (Retired) Arthur Lenk

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

11:00 AM - NOON



COST: no charge
REGISTER: by 3/11, tinyurl.com/ToughPlaces
QUESTIONS: Dave Diamond, 860-965-3157, daviddiamond2@comcast.net
CO-SPONSORS: Men's Club and Israel Engagement Committee

Lenk served as Israel's Ambassador to South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini (Swaziland), 2013-2017 and as Ambassador to Azerbaijan, 2005-2009. He also served as Director of the Department of International Law at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2010-2013 and at Israel's missions in New Delhi, India and Los Angeles, California. He will talk about his experiences in Azerbaijan, a Muslim country, and South Africa, a majority-Black country, from the Israeli perspective. Ambassador Lenk was born in the United States and made aliyah to Israel in 1982.

FJMC Keeper of the Flame

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

10:30 AM

SPONSOR: CT Region Men's Clubs
Steve Rabb is Beth El's honoree this year.

Calling All Softball Players

SPRING/SUMMER

9:30 - 11:30 AM

COST: no charge
CAPTAINS: Alan Cetel, 860-232-9515, acjctc@aol.com, Jake Kovel, 860-651-9366, eaglewars@aol.com
Get ready to come out of winter hibernation and Covid quarantine. We are looking for new players to join our veterans when we take to the diamonds and start another fun season. This is a great way to revive your athletic career while getting to know fellow congregants. We are a co-ed slow pitch league and we will contact interested players closer to the season, in May.