



RECONSTRUCTING  
JUDAISM

# CHESAPEAKE

Annual Celebration

April 19, 2020

FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS



# CONGREGATIONS

## ADAT SHALOM RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION

301.767.3333 | Bethesda, Md. | [AdatShalom.net](http://AdatShalom.net)

## COLUMBIA JEWISH CONGREGATION

410.730.6044 | Columbia, Md. | [ColumbiaJewish.org](http://ColumbiaJewish.org)

## CONGREGATION BEIT TIKVAH

410.464.9402 | Baltimore, Md. | [BeitTikvah.org](http://BeitTikvah.org)

## KOL AMI: NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECONSTRUCTIONIST COMMUNITY

571.336.5544 | Arlington, Va. | [KolAmiVirginia.org](http://KolAmiVirginia.org)

## KOL HALEV SYNAGOGUE

410.299.7967 | Baltimore, Md. | [KolHaLevMd.org](http://KolHaLevMd.org)

## MISHKAN TORAH CONGREGATION

301.474.4223 | Greenbelt, Md. | [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org)

## OSEH SHALOM

301.498.5151 | Laurel, Md. | [Oseh-Shalom.org](http://Oseh-Shalom.org)

# HONORING THOSE WHO SHOW THE WILLING AND EAGER SPIRIT OF *HINEINI*

## ADAT SHALOM RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION

Pam Sommers and Fred Pinkney

## COLUMBIA JEWISH CONGREGATION

Betty and Peter Silvergate

## CONGREGATION BEIT TIKVAH

Ken Staubs

## KOL AMI: NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECONSTRUCTIONIST COMMUNITY

Rayna Aylward

Toni Popkin

## MISHKAN TORAH CONGREGATION

Mark Loewenstein

## OSEH SHALOM

Dan Bravmann and Ann Wittik Bravmann

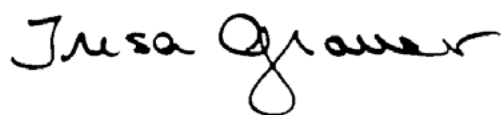
Gary and Melody Magnus

Dear Members of the Chesapeake  
Reconstructionist communities:

Welcome to our 28th Annual (and first Virtual) Chesapeake Celebration! Although we are not sharing a meal together this year, we are nonetheless grateful for the opportunity to come together to appreciate the time, creativity, commitment, hard work and love that each of the honorees has shared with our communities.

We come together to celebrate you and to recognize that our communities thrive because of the people in them. THANK YOU for so generously offering your wisdom, your vision and your caring in support of meaningful Jewish life in your congregations, in the Reconstructionist movement and in the larger world. On behalf of Reconstructing Judaism and from me personally, todah rabah for your leadership and your efforts. May you all go from strength to strength!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tresa Grauer". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'G' and a long, sweeping underline.

Tresa Grauer, Ph.D.

Vice President for Thriving Communities  
Reconstructing Judaism



## ברוכים הבאים!

Welcome to the 28th Chesapeake Annual Celebration, our first Virtual Celebration. I am thrilled to be able to say that for 28 years, we've been celebrating our regional congregations, members and leaders. We appreciate your participation in today's virtual event and we really thank you for your support of Reconstructing Judaism.

Yasher Koakh to all our Hineni honorees. You all exemplify in so many different ways what makes our Reconstructionist congregations and havurot special; each of you has stepped up to help our community and your own congregation in the eager, willing spirit of Hineni — "Here I am." Thank you for all of your hard work.

Today, we especially remember our friend and colleague Sam Seeman, who recently passed away at 103 years old. He was an amazing leader of the Reconstructionist movement for decades and will be truly missed.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Carol Stern and John Riehl for being my lay partners in planning this event and for leading this afternoon's program.

A special thank you to Rabbi Deborah Waxman for today's learning and to Cantor Charlie Bernhardt for today's music. Thank you to Rachael Burgess, Rosa Cohen, Rachel Forth, Tresa Grauer, Jacob Weinberg and everyone else who worked so hard to make this program a reality. We couldn't have done it without you!

Please plan to participate with us in the Reconstructionist Learning Series beginning on April 26 with Rabbi Jacob Staub leading a program on Reconstructing Judaism, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. The full schedule is in this Journal and online.

Thank you again to everyone who has joined us this afternoon and to everyone who has taken the time to support Reconstructing Judaism. We hope to see you at future programs.

**תודה רבה! Kol Tuv!**

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jackie Land". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jackie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Land".

Jackie Land  
Associate Director of Thriving Communities  
Reconstructing Judaism

Welcome!

We are thrilled that the Reconstructionist communities of the Chesapeake region have gathered together virtually for an enlightening celebration. Thank you for your flexibility, your creativity and your commitment in finding a way to celebrate together. The palpable sense of connectedness and spirit that you have brought to this celebration for the past 28 years is exactly what we are seeking to evoke today. We feel confident that we will all be nourished by this convening.

כל הכבוד *Kol hakavod* – congratulations and great respect – to all of this year's honorees. You model service to your communities, and your accomplishments are a testament to the power of progressive Jewish life. We are glad for the opportunity to recognize both you and your endeavors. And to everyone here today, thank you for everything you do. Your presence and commitment reflect the vitality of Jewish community.

You are all helping to reconstruct Judaism for our time, which is more important than ever when so much of what we know and how we worship is being challenged during this pandemic. Together, we have revitalized traditional ways of being Jewish and are creating new ones. We are, collectively, demonstrating that we are deeply rooted and boldly relevant. Thank you!

On behalf of Reconstructing Judaism and the entire Reconstructionist movement, we hope you find blessings, joy and strength through today's gathering. And we hope you find inspiration for the challenging and generative work ahead. May we go *mihayil lehayil*, from strength to strength, together.

*L'Shalom,*

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. On the left is the signature of Deborah Waxman, which is written in a cursive, flowing style. On the right is the signature of Seth Rosen, which is more stylized and compact, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Rabbi Deborah Waxman  
President

Seth Rosen  
Chair, Board of Governors



# RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

is the central organization of the Reconstructionist movement.

Reconstructing Judaism trains the next generation of rabbis, supports and uplifts congregations and *havurot*, fosters emerging expressions of Jewish life and encourages people to be their best selves—always helping to shape what it means to be Jewish today and to imagine the Jewish future.

Reconstructionists approach Judaism — and life — with deep consideration of the past and a passion to relate it to the present. Reconstructionists have originated many of the core innovations of today's Judaism and lead efforts to make congregations and *havurot* even more groundbreaking, inclusive and relevant.

**ReconstructingJudaism.org**

[ReconstructingJudaism.org/Donate](https://reconstructingjudaism.org/donate)

# RECONSTRUCTIONIST LEARNING SERIES

*SPONSORED BY THE CHESAPEAKE AREA CONGREGATIONS*

## RECONSTRUCTIONISM: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

**Sunday, April 26 | 4 p.m. | Rabbi Jacob Staub**

Join Rabbi Jacob Staub for a discussion of our evolving Reconstructionist Jewish community.

## JUDAISM, THE NATURAL WORLD, AND YOU!

**Sunday, May 3 | 4 p.m. | Rabbi Daria Jacobs-Velde**

Judaism developed out of a deep connection to the wondrous cycles of birth, death and the rhythms of life on this planet. Yet most of us live so deeply immersed in the world of “disconnection” that we do not even see its impact on us. In today’s children—whose lives are generally even more disconnected from these rhythms—we can see the drastic impact of such a lifestyle with rising rates of suicide, obesity, mental health issues and numerous other challenges. Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast or prefer—or need—to be inside, come to this experiential workshop to learn some of the theory behind the importance of deep nature connection, as well as simple practices to help connect you and your loved ones to Judaism and the natural world.

## RADICAL INCLUSION

**Sunday, May 17 | 4 p.m. | Rabbi Gilah Langner**

Learn about one congregation’s experience opening our entire worship practice to non-Jews, as well as Jews. Kol Ami in Virginia is one of the few radically inclusive congregations in the country; we’ll discuss the process we went through and our experience over the last two years with our inclusiveness policy.

## PROGRESSIVE ISRAEL

**Sunday, May 31 | 4 p.m. | Idan Sharon**

Hear an Israeli Emissary’s discovery of progressive Judaism in Israel, and learn about progressive Judaism and progressive Zionist organization in Israel.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR CHAVER,  
ISADORE "SAM" SEEMAN, Z"L

1916-2020



Sam was a longtime member of Adat Shalom and the Reconstructionist Havurah of Greater Washington, our oldest havurah, which later became the Reconstructionist Havurah of Riderwood.

Thank you for your Torah, leadership and friendship in Chesapeake and throughout the entire Reconstructionist Community.

*Zikhrone Livrakha*

May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.



# PAM SOMMERS

## Adat Shalom



Pam Sommers grew up in Chicago and attended Anshe Emet Day School from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. She attributes her love of Torah, Haftarah and, especially, cantillation to her teachers there, particularly Hanna Lubowsky and “Uncle” Ben Aronin. Their inspiration led to her tutoring her sons Gabe and Greg on the road to their becoming B’nai Mitzvah, and eventually to her work as an accomplished tutor of well over one hundred young men and women at Adat Shalom and elsewhere.

A conservatory-trained pianist and singer, Pam began her career as a performing arts critic for *The Washington Post* and other publications. She eventually focused more and more on teaching and directing, which led to positions as music and drama teacher at Capitol Hill Day

School, The Maret School, Jewish Primary Day School and other local institutions. After Pam and her family joined Adat Shalom in 1993, she joined the choir and soon became a regular on the *bimah*, also singing in the chamber group and as part of a trio with her sister Lisa Sommers and Rabbi Rachel Hersh.

Working with young people is Pam’s passion, especially those in middle and high school. She created and directs *Tikkun Ha’Ir*, an immersive service learning program about hunger, homelessness and gentrification in DC. Participants spend 3 days living in a church, working at food kitchens and shelters, and engaging in simulations of homelessness and food insecurity. She directs *Chords of Glory: Performance with a Purpose*, an ensemble of sixth through eleventh grade singers who perform almost exclusively at shelters, senior centers and rehab facilities. She runs the *Teen Torah Takeover*, a biannual event in which teens lead the entire Torah Service. And she facilitates two *Rosh Hodesh* discussion groups for tween and teen girls.

And, together with Rabbi Sid Schwarz, Pam has led the five Adat Shalom Service Missions to Leogane, Haiti.



# FRED PINKNEY

## *Adat Shalom*

Fred grew up in the Detroit area, went to Hebrew school and had his Bar Mitzvah at the Conservative synagogue, Adat Shalom. He also attended Birmingham Temple, the first Jewish Humanist Congregation, with his parents occasionally.

After graduating from University of Michigan, he moved to Washington, D.C. to work for an environmental consulting firm and lived in a shared group house where he met Pam. They lived in New York before settling in Takoma Park, MD, where they considered joining Adat Shalom. Fred, firmly entrenched in Humanism, was impressed with Rabbi Sid Schwarz but told him he only had two problems – prayer and God. Rabbi Sid told him not to worry.

Fred's involvement at Adat Shalom took a quantum leap at a 2009 High Holiday service, when members were challenged to take ownership of a project. Rabbi Fred Dobb had proposed a vegetable garden; several months later ground was broken. Over the past 10 years, the Mishnah Garden has provided hundreds of pounds of food to shelters and Manna, a non-profit. The mission is to build community through studying Jewish agrarian roots and modern gardening, while



sharing the harvest. Highlights include building a composter, growing wheat and turning it into bread, and processing home-grown horseradish for Pesach. As part of Adat Shalom's Haiti Missions, Fred helped build Gan HaMazon, the Garden of Plenty, at our partner school/church in Leogane.

When not gardening, Fred enjoys working at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Annapolis, Maryland. His focus is on reducing fish contamination in the Anacostia River and Chesapeake Bay watershed. He is an avid softball player and aspiring jazz pianist.

# KEN STAUBS

## *Beit Tikvah*

Ken Staubs was born and raised as a Methodist in rural Anne Arundel County. As a child attending Sunday School, he knew even then that he didn't belong there and he'd often escape class, returning just in time for his mother to pick him up.

Ken's first introduction to Judaism came when he met his future wife, Karen, who told him she couldn't marry a non-Jew. The first Rabbi he approached dismissed him twice. After stumbling upon Beit Tikvah, student Rabbi Leila Berner enthusiastically agreed to help Ken in his Jewish journey. Some of his fondest memories include choosing his Jewish name, Noah Moshe, and being in the swimming pool at RRC to perform the mikvah rituals.

Beit Tikvah became home for Ken and his three daughters, Katie, Shelby and Heather. Ken and Karen had two more children, Savannah and Jacob, who all became active participants in synagogue life.

In 2016, curious over a family story about Native American roots, and to ascertain his membership in a tribe, Ken took a DNA test. However, there was no Native American ancestry. Instead, it showed that he had Eastern European Jewish roots, and found out that his mother's great grandmother was Jewish!



According to matrilineal descent, he was an official member of the Jewish tribe!

### **Statement**

"My family at Beit Tikvah (BT) has been an integral part of filling in the missing pieces in my life. I thrive on hearing everyone's stories about what life was like growing up in a Jewish household, and I coalesce their histories into mine. I realize that I am part of something much larger than what shows on the surface. The extended BT community has become my Jewish cousins, sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles, as I constantly learn from them and forge my own Jewish identity."

# BETTY & PETER SILVERGLATE

## CJC



Betty and Peter were raised in Jewish households, and Judaism has always been part of their identity. Jewish celebrations were a highlight of Betty's childhood and adulthood growing up in Connecticut. Betty and Peter met at a social dance in the Bridgeport, Connecticut Jewish Center. Soon after they were married, and moved to Monroe, Connecticut.

They were introduced to the Reconstructionist movement in 1987 when they joined Shirei Shalom, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Connecticut. Peter helped lead services at Shirei Shalom and served on its board. They joined Columbia Jewish Congregation (CJC) when they moved to Maryland. Their children, Lauren and Bobby, have both had their B'nai Mitzvah at CJC, and Betty became an adult Bat Mitzvah in 2004 at CJC, which she found to

be a very meaningful experience.

Betty has been involved with the Adult Education Committee for around fifteen years, as a participant and currently as a co-chair, along with Del Stanfield. She also served on the CJC Board for two years. Peter has read Torah and contributed drashes to CJC services.

Peter and Betty enjoy celebrating all the Jewish holidays at CJC. Betty enjoys Israeli dancing and Peter participates in the bible study group. They have both enjoyed participating in Chapter 2, the retirement group at CJC, as they have gone on many outings with them. They are active members of the Jewish Federation of Howard County and have gone to Israel twice under their auspices and once with Betty's family. They are also active members of AIPAC and Kulanu.



# RAYNA AYLWARD

## *Kol Ami*

Growing up, Rayna's father was a Catholic priest and her Jewish mother was a professed atheist – not the most promising start for a life in Judaism. But the call of the tribe's culture and history grew stronger as Rayna grew up. She lived in Israel twice and it was there that she came to fully embrace her Jewish identity.

Rayna's religious affiliation remained tenuous until her friends introduced her to Reconstructionism. She was impressed by the movement's respect for tradition, blended with its innovational freedom and inclusiveness. This spurred her to become a founding member of the Reconstructionist community, Kol Ami.

At Kol Ami, Rayna has served as president and in a variety of other leadership roles. Currently, she co-chairs Kol Ami's Care & Concern/Inclusion Committee. She's also studying for her Adult Bat Mitzvah in May!

Rayna's professional accomplishments include teaching English and serving as a U.S. diplomat overseas, heading a corporate foundation and serving as a presidential appointee in the U.S. Department of Education. She lives with her husband, Ed, in Annandale, VA,



and has a stepdaughter, Erica, son-in-law, Chris, and two "perfect" granddaughters.

### **Statement**

Kol Ami is like family to me – its warmth, energy, and inclusiveness are foundational to my life. It feels very natural to give back and support our members and ensure everyone feels welcomed and included. The inspired guidance of my co-chair, Toni Popkin, and the robust support of Rabbi Gilah Langner and President, Debbie Linick, makes the Care & Concern/Inclusion Committee a steady stream of caring during challenging times and a beacon of community solidarity in all times. This past year has been especially challenging due to the loss of several beloved members. As we mourn their passing, we feel strengthened by the caring bonds that unite us.

# TONI POPKIN

## *Kol Ami*



Toni grew up in Norfolk, Virginia, where her grandparents were founding members of a Conservative Synagogue. She attended the synagogue's Pre-school, Hebrew School, Sunday School, and became a Bat Mitzvah. Toni was very active in BBYO in her teenage years.

Her favorite family memories are of having large, multi-generational holiday meals. During those holiday meals, Toni learned to cook many Jewish family recipes and still has them written on small cards today.

After moving to NoVA in 1988, she lost touch with her Jewish roots. The Reconstructionist community brought her back after seeing a notification about a new Reconstructionist community forming in 2000. She went to see what it was all about and was sold!

Today, Toni lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with her service dog, Bud. Together, they do speaking engagements, education, and advocacy on a local, state, and federal level for people who have a disability. In her spare time, she does crafts of many types.

### **Statement**

Kol Ami has now become my family in NoVA. I've been honored to serve in many roles as a member, all of which I've done due to the lessons I learned in childhood of helping others in whatever way I can. I've also been included in everything Kol Ami does, despite having a disability. One of our founding values is inclusion!

I was honored to be the first person with a disability to receive the Eleanor Sue Finkelstein Award for working or volunteering in the Special Needs field from the Pozez JCCNV in 2019.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

# MARK LOEWENSTEIN

## *Mishkan Torah*

Mark grew up in Arizona, obtained a Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University, and taught at Purdue and Virginia Tech before taking a job at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, where he's currently a senior research economist.

Mark and his wife, Kangping, an intellectual property lawyer and ombudsman, have two children together. Simon attends Montgomery College and loves playing the guitar, while Eva is a freshman in the University of Maryland.

Mark was not a member of a synagogue for many years, but then he started shul shopping after having Simon and Eva. He found Mishkan Torah during High Holiday services one year and heard about Rabbi Jonathan Cohen's study session on the Hebrew Bible. After attending, Mark obtained a newfound appreciation of the Hebrew Bible, learning that there are different ways of approaching the Bible and one did not need to take it literally. Perhaps more importantly, the study session was his first introduction to Reconstructionism, which corresponded with the way he viewed the world.

An appealing feature of Mishkan



Torah to Mark was that the Hebrew School met on Shabbat mornings. So after dropping off Simon and Eva for school, Mark began attending Shabbat morning services regularly. His participation increased over time as his skills improved, and he has been gabbai on occasion.

In his time with Mishkan Torah, Mark has served in many volunteer roles. He has been on the High Holiday Honors Committee, the webmaster, and in charge of scheduling kiddush helpers. Mark has also chaired the Religious Committee, an assignment he kept until last year.

### **Statement**

I wish to thank the congregation of Mishkan Torah for honoring me as well as for the rich experience that has been afforded me over these many years.



# DAN BRAVMANN & ANN WITTIK BRAVMANN

## *Oseh Shalom*



Members of Oseh Shalom who attend the High Holiday Beit Service are usually surprised to discover that Dan, who serves as a lay cantor, used to go to work on the high holidays. That was before Dan found his synagogue home at Oseh Shalom. Now, Dan spends all day at Oseh Shalom on Rosh Hashana, singing in the High Holiday Choir during the Aleph Service and then serving as a lay cantor during the Beit Service.

Dan also enjoys reading Torah during the High Holidays and the annual synagogue retreat. He has served the congregation for four years as the financial vice president and he spends many hours each year preparing the congregation's budget and monthly financials. In his "day job,"

Dan works as a financial manager for RR Donnelley.

Ann has served as the Membership Chair for five years, and each year she organizes the New/Prospective Member Brunch, the New Member Shabbat, the Volunteer Brunch, and the Milestone Shabbat. Each of these programs are designed to help new members connect with the Oseh Shalom community and to keep existing members connected.

Ann can also be found at Friday Night Shabbat Services each week reading the synagogue announcements. She works as a workers' compensation attorney for the law firm of Cohen & Dwin.

### **Statement**

Ann and Dan appreciate the strong sense of community at Oseh Shalom, and they're glad to have been part of this community for the past 20 years. They'd like to thank all the many volunteers at Oseh Shalom who work tirelessly to make the community what it is today. They'd also like to send a special thank you to Cantor Charlie (who they will miss) and our "new rabbis" – Rabbi Josh and Rabbi Daria – for their spiritual leadership.

# GARY & MELODY MAGNUS

## *Oseh Shalom*



Gary and Melody Magnus have been members of Oseh Shalom for 27 years. Gary has been the community's handyman for more than 20 years. Over the years, he has led the floor replacement project for Oseh's entrance, efforts to re-paint the school, social hall and sanctuary, and much more. Gary also works with Oseh's security company, landscaper, and maintenance crew, and the day care center that rents space. He served as the unpaid Office Administrator for several months and hired two administrators. Gary's day job is working as a pharmacist.

Melody has also been involved in a variety of functions at Oseh. She has served on the community's

board, and she created the first Oseh website in the late 1990s and then re-invented it twice to keep it fresh. Melody is the "IT gal" for the Oseh Rosh Hodesh women's group and help organize group events.

Other than technology, Melody's other passion is social action. She co-leads the soup kitchen team, runs annual drives to collect school supplies for needy children and gifts at the holidays, and cooks for the winter shelter program. In her day job, Melody works as a webmaster/editor at the National Weather Service.

Last and certainly not least, Gary and Melody are proud parents of a wonderful daughter, Julianna, and an amazing son, Joshua.



# Oseh Shalom

עושה שלום במרומי...



On behalf of the Board and the entire congregation, Oseh shalom says Mazel Tov to our honorees: Dan Bravman & Ann Wittik-Bravman and Gary & Melody Magnus. Your selfless dedication to Oseh Shalom exemplifies what is best about Reconstructionist Judaism: creating sacred Jewish community and living Jewishly ethical lives. You embody all that's best about Oseh shalom.



Oseh-Shalom.org  
7515 Olive Branch Way  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 498-5151





Pam, your abundant love for MUSIC, young people, your dedication to bringing them to those in our local community who don't often have access to musical performance, are just 1 way you embody the spirit of this well-deserved honor. With ENORMOUS appreciation & gratitude, MAZEL TOR from the Chords of Glory families, we love you!



The reviews are in! Pam Sommers gets nothing but raves for her role as the extraordinary youth leader of Adat Shalom's Rosh Hodesh groups!

Todah Rabah, from all her young friends and their grateful parents.

"... best adult ever!"

"Coolest boomer there is!"

"Her talent soars! Definitely a 5-star performer!"

"She's the star of my movie!"

"The soul of a teenager with the wisdom of a grownup."

"She's the best mentor ever!"

"The Teen Whisperer!"

"Pam Sommers positively shines in her role as mentor and coach!"

"Even teens think she's cool!"

"What happens in Rosh Hodesh stays in Rosh Hodesh. But between us, she's an amazing role model!"

"She's awesome. She's ... Pam!"

"Super understanding and easy to talk to"

"The best director there ever was"

"She walks into a room and lights it up with her smile"

"Nice...helpful...one-of-a-kind!"

"She's everyone's best friend"

"She's a great, engaging teacher who actually makes learning fun"

Pam and Fred:

You both have contributed to Adat Shalom in so many ways. But your leadership on our five Adat Shalom Service Missions to Haiti has been most extraordinary. On behalf of Pastor Johnny, Jonny Jeune, the 200+ children at the NICL School that Adat Shalom supports and the 75+ Adat Shalom Mission participants:

*Merci Beaucoup/Todah Rabba*

— Your Adat Shalom Service Mission travelling buddies



**עדת שלום**

**ADAT SHALOM**

**Reconstructionist  
Congregation**



Thanks Mark for all your hard work and efforts at Mishkan Torah!

— Phil Williams, Ph.D., President of Mishkan Torah

We thank the following contributors for their support for this event:

Jesse Abraham

Avi & Shoshana Harris

Jackie Kling

Bunni & Pete Latkin

Carol Mott

Eileen Singleton

Marilyn Kresky-Wolff & Mark  
Wolff

Judy & Marc Young

מזל טוב Ann & Dan and  
Gary & Melody!

Thank you for all you  
do to keep Oseh strong  
and connected!

— John Riehl

מזל טוב

ANN & DAN

MELODY & GARY

Oseh Shalom is twice blessed again and  
again by all that you do, and by the values  
and commitment you model without cease.

You are so very “here” ... and we are so very  
grateful.

כל הכבוד

VAL



# Havaya Summer Programs congratulates all the honorees!

Havaya Summer Programs are all about the joy of summer camp with the freedom to be who you truly are. In our lively, welcoming, and diverse communities, kids explore Judaism in their own ways and become the best versions of themselves. It's no wonder that so many campers call us home!

**Learn more about these extraordinary and  
uniquely Reconstructionist summer camps at  
[www.HavayaSummerPrograms.org](http://www.HavayaSummerPrograms.org)**

**מזל טוב** and *Yasher Koach* to all  
the Hineni honorees!

Pam Sommers & Fred Pinkney

Betty & Peter Silverglate

Ken Staubs

Rayna Aylward

Toni Popkin

Mark Loewenstein

Dan Bravmann & Ann Wittik Bravmann

Gary & Melody Magnus

Thank you for all that you have  
done and do for your congregations  
and to help keep our Chesapeake  
community connected and moving  
forward. All your hard work is much  
appreciated!

*B'hatzlakha!*

Eric and Jackie Land

מי ימלל ??

Who can count  
the ways you have  
given to us?

From Seven Golden  
Buttons to the  
Mishnah Garden  
to Haiti and on and  
on...

With thanks & love,  
Carol Stern and  
Mim Eisenstein

To our marvelous Pam  
Sommers and Fred Pinkney,  
planting seeds of song and  
learning in the Adat Shalom  
community and growing  
our garden in many ways!  
Mazal tov on this most  
fitting honor.

With enormous apprecia-  
tion and love,

Rachel Hersh and Jonathan  
Epstein



**עדת שלום**  
**ADAT SHALOM**  
Reconstructionist  
Congregation



**In Celebration of  
Oseh Shalom's  
2020 Honorees**



**Dan Bravmann & Ann Wittik Bravmann  
Gary & Melody Magnus**

Our very best wishes to all the Honorees  
Ernest & Elmina Hilsenrath

May we gather next year in person, in health  
Grateful to Reconstructing Judaism for keeping us connected



Wherever you are in your journey,  
you are welcome here.

We are delighted to honor

**Betty and Peter  
Silvergate**

as this year's honorees!

May you continue to be an  
inspiration to the entire  
community.

To my beloved wife and partner Rayna Aylward: it is so wonderful that you are being honored for caring about, and being concerned with, the members of our community who need help and support. You have been giving me your care and concern for 25+ years and I don't mind sharing at all! Mazel tov my wonderful Raynaleh!

With thanks for all you do,  
Edward Bomsey  
Kol Ami

Congratulations to  
Ken Staubs!

Thanks for all your hard  
work and your dedication to  
Congregation Beit Tikvah!

— Ellie Eines

Mazel Tov

Melody and Gary

Ann and Dan

— Doris Kirschbaum

Dan Bravmann and  
Ann Wittik-Bravmann

Melody and Gary Magnus

In recognition of all your  
contributions, dedication and  
friendship to our Community at  
Oseh Shalom:

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach  
— Bonnie & Michael Cornell

Mazel Tov to Dan Bravmann  
and Ann Wittik-Bravmann  
for your hard work in  
sustaining Oseh Shalom.

— Diane & Raymond Wacks



*In a denomination known for its Social Action,  
We are inspired by ALL the HONOREES of Reconstructing Judaism's Chesapeake Region.  
Among these leaders are Kol Ami's Care & Concern Visionaries*

## Rayna Aylward & Toni Popkin



We celebrate you for the tireless Care & Concern you provide throughout our community and beyond. You are role models we should all seek to emulate.



% Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
4444 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington VA 22204  
571.336.5544 admin@KolAmiVirginia.org

מזל טוב

Gary and Melody!

Your ongoing work with communications, keeping the building working and staffed, cooking for communal events and all your many other efforts are truly appreciated. Oseh Shalom could not do it without you. Todah Rabah!  
Eric and Jackie Land

Dear Dan, Ann, Gary and Melody —

What would Oseh be without all of you? You do so, so much for our community!

With much gratitude for all you've given, Rabbis Josh & Daria



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Pam,

Among your many contributions to Adat Shalom, you give your time and talent to our Choir.

Thank you for your beautiful voice, sense of humor, comradery, and desire for excellence.

With congratulations and love,  
Your Adat Shalom Choir Peeps

Mishkan Torah is pleased to honor Mark Loewenstein.

Mark has stepped up to be our Webmaster. He keeps us all connected, enables Mishkan Torah to conduct its business, and is our main problem-solver.



Thank you, Mark, for everything you do for Mishkan Torah.

Congratulations to our  
fellow nominees for all of  
your hard work in your  
congregations.

Sincerely,

Betty and Peter Silverglate

Kol HaKavod, Peter and Betty Silverglate.  
Thanks for all you do for CJC!!

— Ron and Roni Berkowitz

Congratulations to Betty and Peter Silverglate  
in recognition of their leadership at CJC.

— Irma and Allan Paull

Betty and Peter Silverglate:

Mazel tov on your well-deserved recognition!

— Del and Ron Stanfield

Mazal Tov to  
Pam and Fred  
on this well-  
deserved honor.  
Thank you for  
all that you do  
to support Adat  
Shalom.

— Sheila Feldman



# Relevant Resilient Reconstructionist

Our communities have **so much to offer** – both to our own people, and to the larger world. Let's all **count our blessings**; be **present** to each other; maintain **perspective** (we've seen worse!); be **patient**; and stay **connected**.



Channeling **Pam Sommers**: let's keep finding ways to **nourish** people's bodies, and their souls, through this time! Let **education** and **tikkun olam** continue apace, when all else closes down. And when in doubt (or anytime): **sing!**



And channeling **Fred Pinkney**: there's never been a better time to **plant** your own Victory Garden! Practice **humility** in the face of what ails us. And: if we can mobilize to reduce covid, next, we can and must tackle and **reverse climate change!**

Well-deserved honor –  
and huge thanks –

תודה רבה ומזל טוב

To **Adat Shalom's Pam and Fred!**

To **all** our Chesapeake honorees, and organizers!

And to **all** who continue to build up our **region**,  
**movement**, our **people**, & our **world!**



-- The Scherlinders of Adat Shalom  
(Minna, Sara, Gilad, and Rabbi Fred)





The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Congratulates

**All of the Honorees**

For your Vision, Commitment and Caring  
Your devotion and support  
Help make it possible  
For our future colleagues  
To study in a rabbinical program  
That trains leaders to meet the needs  
Of the North American Jewish community  
In the 21st century

Rabbi Elliott Tepperman, President  
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Executive Director



Reconstructionist  
RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

Mazel Tov, Pam & Fred. Thanks for your dedication!

— Linda & Norm

Fred, thanks for creating our Mitzvah Garden

Pam, thanks for your work with our young members

— Sheila Blum

Fred and Pam. Nobody does it better. You make music and magic anytime, everywhere. — Phyllis K. Lerner

Gary & Melody

You never give up and you never seem to tire.

You put Oseh Shalom at the center of your time, effort and family.

How can we thank you but to send a **יִשָּׁר כּוֹחַ** to you and to hold you up as role models.

Be well and stay well,

Holly & George Stone

Kol Hakavod to Fred Pinkney and Pam Sommers

Over the years, each of you has demonstrated extraordinary generosity in sharing your time, talents and wonderful can-do spirit within our community.

We are delighted to honor you, and we are grateful for all that you have done and continue to do that sustains and enhances our community's wellbeing.

Thank you,

Shelley Sadowsky and Hal Segall

Co-Presidents, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist  
Congregation

Mazel Tov Mark on this award. Well  
deserved.

Gratefully, Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz Miller

Pam Sommers and Fred Pinkney are the heart and  
soul of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation.  
They literally make us sing and grow.

— Marci Greenstein

Mazel Tov to Ann and Dan, and Melody  
and Gary

— Cantor Charlie and Maryilyn Bernhardt

Congratulations to:

Melody & Gary

and

Ann & Dan

Your Oseh Shalom  
family is grateful  
for your dedication,  
commitment, and  
contributions to our  
congregation.

— Lynne and Steve



Mazal Tov, Mark, and thanks from your  
Mishkan Torah family!

— Rabbi Saul and Phyllis Oresky

Mazel Tov Pam and Fred. You are such a dynamic  
duo and contribute so much to Adat Shalom.

— Susan Kimmel

Congratulations and thank you to Dan, Ann, Melody &  
Gary for all you do. Our community would not be the  
same without you.

— Kelly, Ron, Aaron, Elijah and Samantha

To all of the honorees:

During this crisis, community  
and connection are critically  
important. Thank you for  
all you're doing to keep us  
connected and together.

— John Riehl

# EVOLVE

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- \* Dr. Ameet Ravital, "From Despair to Awakening"
- \* Aurora Levins Moralism, "Radical Inclusion"
- \* Rabbi Josh Lesser, "Preparing Our Communities for Conversations About Race"
- \* Rabbi Elliot Kukla, "The Holiness of Being Broken: Trauma and Disability Justice"

# EVOLVE

GROUNDBREAKING JEWISH CONVERSATIONS



## **Yasher Koach to Ken Staubs**

You are a volunteer *extraordinaire* and a tremendously valued member of our congregation.

You step up to serve whenever the need arises, and you take action to get things done.

We thank you for your steadfast dedication and commitment to our community.

With gratitude and appreciation for all you do,

**Your Beit Tikvah Community**



*Mazel Tov to all of the honorees this year!*

*Dan Bravmann and Ann Wittik Bravman, thank you for your leadership, and enhancing our warm and welcoming community;*

*Gary and Melody Magnus, thank you for improving our synagogue home inside and out, our web site and much more;*

*B'Shalom,  
Art and Linda Solomon*

A hearty **יִשֶּׁר כּוֹחַ** To Dan & Ann

For helping to keep Oseh Shalom a warm and vibrant community

Through their untiring commitment to family, community and faith.

When one looks up the word *Mensch* in the dictionary, your picture is there!

Stay well and connected,

Holly & George

**אִשָּׁת-חַיִּל, מִי יִמְצָא**

A Woman of Valor, who can find?

**תְּנוּ-לָהּ, מִפְּרֵי יָדֶיהָ; וַיְהַלְלוּהָ  
בְּשַׁעֲרֵים מַעֲשֶׂיהָ.**

Give her the fruit of her hands;  
and let her works praise her.

— Book of Proverbs, chapter 31

We take joy and pride in  
honoring two of Kol Ami's  
finest:

RAYNA AYLWARD

TONI POPKIN

and all the Chesapeake area  
2020 honorees.

— Jim North and Richard Ruth



**Thank you for all you do for Oseh Shalom!**

**Ann Wittik-Bravmann & Dan Bravmann**

**Gary and Melody Magnus**

**We are a better congregation thanks to your  
dedication and hard work.**

**Mazel Tov!**

**Adam & Shelley Reese**

In recognition of  
Rayna Aylward, Toni  
Popkin and Kol Ami's  
Care & Concern/  
Inclusion Team...

Chesed is your middle  
name and the warm  
and caring embrace  
you provide to our  
members in need  
couldn't be replicated!

With gratitude for  
all you do, Debbie &  
Michael Linick

Ann, Dan, Gary  
and Melody —  
כל הכבוד and  
תודה רבה for  
your loving  
and generous  
efforts.

— Seth and  
Karen

מזל טוב

Ann and Dan!

Thank you for all  
your tireless work  
for Oseh Shalom's  
membership and  
financial health.  
We appreciate  
everything you do!  
— Eric & Jackie Land

Pam Sommers & Fred Pinkney,  
for envisioning and creating  
the Mishnah Garden, and for  
devoted, patient, and loving  
teaching for Bat/Bar Mitzvah  
and study at Torah School to our  
grandchildren Mira and Ben Cohen.  
You are the best and we love you!  
— Carol Lite & Ken Cantor

To our women of valor,  
Rayna Aylward and Toni Popkin—  
you have gone above and beyond  
in your care and concern for an  
inclusive Kol Ami congregation.  
Yasher Koach — May you go from  
strength to strength!  
— Rabbi Gilah Langner

for Ann and Dan:

Finally! Honoring two of the  
most active and connecting  
and helpful people of the  
Shul. מזל טוב We love you  
both. Maryrita and Dan

for Gary and Melody:

Mazal Tov to both of you.  
Your ongoing contributions  
and inspiration to the  
community are beyond  
words. Mazal Tov. We love  
you both. Maryrita and Dan

מזל טוב

Pam Summers and  
Fred Pinkney

Your love for others  
and the earth is  
contagious.

It is an honor to be  
your friends.

— Vicki and Joel  
Breman

Pam and Fred,

Your family members, from  
Connecticut, Maryland,  
Michigan, and California, send  
you congratulations on this well-  
deserved honor.

We are so proud of you!

With admiration and love,

Gabe Pinkney

Greg Pinkney

Phyllis Sommers Akos

Lisa Sommers and Mike Izzo

Beth Sommers

Henry and Shelly Pinkney

Michael Pinkney and Brianna Lohr

David and Deepa Pinkney

# THANK YOU

Jesse Abraham  
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist  
Congregation  
Ken & Helen Avner  
Ed Bomsey & Rayna Aylward  
Deborah Badawi  
Robert Barkin  
Susan Beckerman  
Kelly & Ronald Benton-Klein  
Roni & Ronald Berkowitz  
Cantor Charles & Marilyn Bernhardt  
Sheila Blum & Fred Morse  
Goldie Blumenstyk  
Daniel Bravmann  
& Ann Wittik-Bravmann  
Joel & Vicki Berman  
Edward & Debra Brenner  
Daniel & Susan Cohen  
David & Roshana Cohen  
Columbia Jewish Congregation  
Congregation Mishkan Torah  
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Laurie Dubrow  
Seth & Karen Bonnie Eaton  
Ellie Eines  
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Sheila Feldman  
Joanne Fink  
Gary Freedman & Abby Gilbert  
William Frelick & Helen Lann  
Clare Geller & Geoffrey Egnal  
Sheldon & Susan Gnatt

Rebecca Goldfinger  
Chaz Miller & Arlene Gottlieb  
Rabbi Rebecca Gould & Beth Simons  
Marci Greenstein & Robert Stern  
Daniel Gubits  
William Halpern  
Kay Halpern & Len Rickman  
Shoshana & Avi Harris  
Caitlin Hayes  
Hazzan Rabbi Rachel A. Hersh  
& Jonathan Epstein  
Ernest & Elmina Hilsenrath  
Marc Litz & Allison Holtz  
Stephen & Susana Isaacson  
Rabbis Daria & Joshua Jacobs-Velde  
Joseph & Tami Jeral  
Linda Kanefield & Norm Schneider  
Valerie Kaplan  
Lynne Gaynes-Kaplan  
& Steven Kaplan  
Miriam Winder-Kelly  
Susan Kimmel  
Doris Kirschbaum  
Jackie & Arnold Kling  
Kol Ami: Northern Virginia  
Reconstructionist Community  
Jackie & Eric Land  
Rabbi Gilah Langner  
Bunni & Pete Latkin  
Phyllis K. Lerner  
Louise A. Lerner  
Robert & Lorraine Levan  
Joshua Levin & Debra Fried Levin  
Susan & Norman Levine



# THANK YOU

Andrew & Nikki Lincoln  
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Audrey Rothstein & Frank Lipson  
Carol Lite & Ken Cantor  
Mark Loewenstein  
Julianna Magnus  
Gary and Melody Magnus  
Lisa and Neil Makstein  
Lisa Kolker Max  
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    & Doreen Cantor Paster  
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    & Minna Morse  
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Rabbi Sidney Schwarz  
    & Sandy Perlstein  
Steven & Jody Shapiro  
Peter & Betty Silvergate  
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Arthur & Linda Solomon  
Nancy Beth Solomon  
Lisa Sommers  
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Karen Linder-Staub  
    & Kenneth Staub  
Miriam Eisenstein & Carol Stern  
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Louis Tenenbaum  
    & Deborah Greenspan  
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