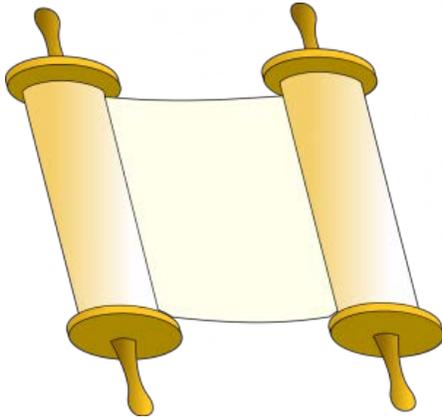


השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore
Congregation Beth Shalom
820 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115



Happy Shavuot

Annual Membership Meeting: See pages 11-14

CALENDAR

All events are remote using Zoom

Friday, May 15	Religious School	5 PM
Sunday, May 17	Annual Membership Meeting	7 PM
Thursday, May 28	Shavuot study session	7:30 PM
Thursday, June 4	Book Group	7 PM
Friday, June 5	Religious School	5 PM
Friday, June 12	Shabbat service	7:30 PM
Tuesday, June 16	Board meeting	7 PM
Friday, June 19	Religious School	5 PM

May - June 2020

Iyar - Sivan – Tamuz 5780

Jackie Laks Gorman, editor

From the President

To the members of Congregation Beth Shalom come these greetings from your president:

I hope these words find you and yours in good health and spirit despite the close confines called for by the current pandemic. We who serve on your Board are very conscious of the needs of many for spiritual comfort and pleasant conversation to help in these times. But we are also conscious of the grim realities of the situation, which may prevent large gatherings for the next several months and possibly even longer. In my last message, I noted that as a result of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, all of our activities would be virtual until at least July 1. Good sense and foresight demands that we also prepare for the possibility that gathering in large numbers in September/October may also be too dangerous for our community and that we may be faced with holding High Holiday services and other Fall holidays like Sukkot online, or gathering only in smaller groups as safety dictates. The Board has already begun to consider how best to create a meaningful, spiritual, and shared experience virtually if the need should arise. I will communicate any decisions we have to make regarding High Holiday services as soon as I can. I would love to join you all again under the roof of our synagogue, but only if it can be done without putting any of you in danger.

In the meantime, we have scheduled the following virtual events for you to share in online. I urge all congregants who can to attend our Annual Membership Meeting. Here is where we will discuss our Board and budget for the upcoming year and hear recommendations from the Nominating Committee for new Board members. If you have issues or questions that you wish discussed, either let me know in advance or speak up at the meeting!

- Sunday May 17: Annual Membership Meeting at 7 PM
- Thursday May 28: Shavuot study session at 7:30 PM
- Thursday, June 4: Book Group at 7 PM
- Friday June 12: Shabbat service at 7:30 PM

We also have a weekly virtual “coffee chat” organized by the rabbi at 10:30 AM on Tuesday mornings.

A word about our virtual meetings:

The Congregation’s online or virtual meetings are held on a platform called Zoom. Zoom was chosen for its availability and relative ease of use, but some congregants may not be familiar with how to use it. Here are the important points for joining the Congregation on Zoom:

For each event, we will send an email containing an email address and the Meeting ID.

Here is an example from services held last Friday:

Julie Adler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CBS Friday Night Shabbat Services
Time: May 8, 2020 07:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://adler.zoom.us/j/2462425315>
Meeting ID: 246 242 5315

To join the event, either copy and paste the link (<https://adler.zoom.us/j/2462425315> in the above example) into your browser or go online to zoom.us, click on “Join a Meeting” at the top, and type or cut and paste the Meeting ID into the request space. You may be asked for permission to allow Zoom to open, which you will have to allow. You can also simply click on the link from a smart device to be connected to the meeting.

Note that attending a meeting does not require you to download any apps or programs and that you can attend on a laptop, desktop, or smartphone. If you have questions about Zoom or need someone to walk you through the process, please give me a call at the number below.

Lastly (for now), if you are restricted in your movements outside your home (or know someone in the Congregation who is) and need help getting groceries or other supplies, please let us know at any of the Board emails on our web page or my phone number below. We all need to look out for each other in the months to come. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Shalom,

Rob Feldacker
(815) 762-0204

From the Rabbi

In Jewish tradition, we count the number of days from the moment of our liberation from slavery until the moment that we were gifted with the Torah. The counting is seven weeks long: Each new day begins at nightfall. We count upwards and as the days pass, the numbers get larger and larger as we get farther away from the realities of bondage. This year, even as we are counting up, we are also counting down. How many more days until we are “free” to move through the world as we once did so un-self-consciously? How many more days until we can go to the grocery store without bringing along a mask and maybe gloves?

We, as Jews, are counting up even as we join the international community in our collective countdown. The goal of both counts is to measure our progress as we move farther away from unpleasant restrictions and closer to the realities of freedom.

Amidst our countdown, though, anticipation is clouded with worry: *What if I or someone I love gets sick? How many losses will we incur? Will I be able to attend the important events scheduled in my calendar?* We worry about the front-line workers, our friends and family, our kids and grandkids, our aging parents and loved ones.

How will this count end? And when? So much is unknown and so many questions loom large in our minds.

As Jews, we know how the counting of the omer will end: with the holiday of Shavuot. We will eat cheesecake (some of us with Lactaid ...), we will study ancient texts, we will celebrate the end of our long years of wandering in the desert and our joyful receipt of the Torah, our

most sacred gift. Even as so much in our world feels unknown and scary, we can cleave to our tradition for solace. We can hold onto our traditions and we can hold onto each other. We may be meeting virtually instead of in-person during these next months, but we must not let our distancing be social or emotional—we can reach out to one another even as we keep our physical distance.

As our sages teach, *“Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v’lo atah ben chorin l’hivatel mimena”*—“You are not expected to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.” (Rabbi Tarfon, Pirkei Avot 2:21) Together, we will get through this.

— Rabbi Julie Adler

Thank you to Rabbi Adler and Harvey Blau for leading our remote Erev Shabbat service on May 8. A special treat was having various members of Koleynu perform solos during the service. It was wonderful to hear Rob Feldacker, Barbara Kaufmann, Roberta Maxfield, Josh and Laurie Rodriguez, and—in a surprise visit—Zach Weiss. If only we’d been able to follow it all up with an oneg.

Shavuot Study

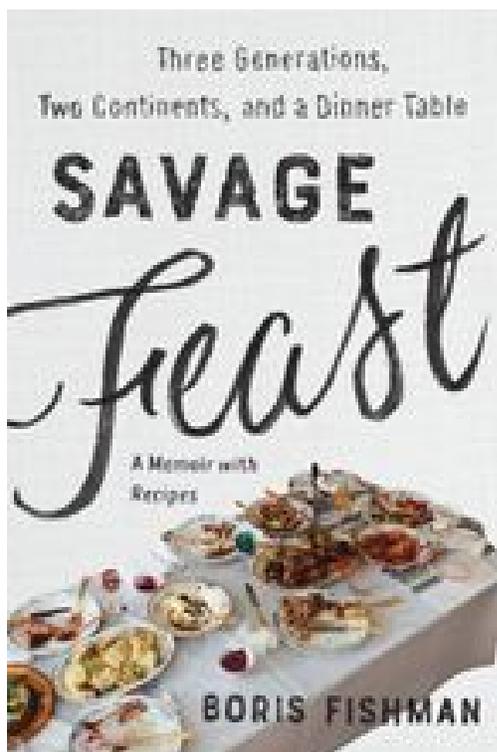
Our Shavuot celebration will take place on Thursday, May 28, at 7:30 PM, via Zoom. Our study will be entitled “I and/or We.” We will study texts about the nature of human relationships according to Biblical and Rabbinic sources. We will apply these texts to our current situation of social isolation and explore the ways in which our connections to one another can help us to cope with and understand the challenges of the world in which we now live.

A Zoom invitation will be sent out by email before May 28.

— Rabbi Julie Adler

Remember to join our virtual Coffee Chat every Tuesday morning for an opportunity to check in with fellow congregants. We “meet” every week at 10:30 AM on Zoom.
<https://adler.zoom.us/j/2462425315>

Memoir of Life & Food Next Book Group Read



Given that we have more time for reading these days, the Book Group is adding a June read to our season. The book is *Savage Feast: Three Generations, Two Continents, and a Dinner Table (A Memoir with Recipes)* by Boris Fishman. The *Washington Post* describes it as a “smorgasbord of humor, pathos, and emotional insight.”

Over the years, memoirs have been some of our Book Group’s favorites, and this book was a *Booklist* “Must Read Nonfiction Pick” in 2019. It’s organized around food, the eating of it, and the procuring of it, which was often difficult in Soviet Belarus where Fishman spent his early years. There are tales of the hunger older family members endured during World War II. There is his grandmother who was obsessed with bread, and his grandfather, a master black marketeer, who made sure there was food on the table.

Three generations emigrate to the United States when Fishman is nine years old. He and his family face the issues of most immigrants, including holding on to heritage while becoming American. Throughout the book, food is an expression of love and family; recipes are included.

Today, Fishman teaches writing at Princeton, from which he graduated.

Here are some reviews:

<https://www.npr.org/2019/02/26/698043711/boris-fishmans-savage-feast-is-part-memoir-part-cookbook>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/21/books/review/boris-fishman-savage-feast.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/a-tale-of-a-family-bound-by-food--and-hunger/2019/03/26/45ef6222-4f0c-11e9-8d28-f5149e5a2fda_story.html

Order the book, read it, and join us for what should be a lively discussion on Thursday, June 4, at 7 PM on Zoom. A link will be sent out ahead of time. You will have to provide your own nosh.

— Elizabeth Bass, Adult Ed chair

Adult Ed Recap

In the event of an epidemic or similar crisis, who should be helped first—the healthiest, the most socially valuable, the youngest, whoever walks in the door first? That was one of numerous ethical questions that Jewish scholars have addressed over the centuries, and that we addressed during our April 26 virtual Adult Ed session on Jewish views on triage and medicine.

Our presenters, bioethicist and physician Carol Gerson and her husband Rabbi Gary Gerson, built on material distributed in advance and then opened the session up to questions and discussion. Not surprisingly, we found that on the basic question of whom to help first, there were a variety of conflicting views from the scholars. But from very early days, there was agreement that those who presented a danger to the health of the community could be separated/isolated from the community.

Thanks to Rabbi Adler for putting together the forum, with its current relevance and historical insights.

— Elizabeth Bass, Adult Ed chair

Social Action Report

Our two volunteer commitments to DeKalb County food-providing organizations during this “stay at home” time have somewhat changed. The Salvation Army Food Pantry is open for those in need of food, but no one is walking the aisles and choosing products. Instead, pre-assembled boxes of groceries are being given out through a drive-by or walk-up system. The Salvation Army staff is working, but we are not sending volunteers into the building at this time. The Hope Haven homeless shelter still expects our once-a-month dinner, though the delivery of that has also changed. Volunteers are not going into their building with food. Instead, a ring of the doorbell will bring out a staff member and helpers to carry the meal into the kitchen/dining area.

I have families signed up until September for Hope Haven and will be in touch with those who have volunteered. Both Hope Haven and the Salvation Army are accepting monetary donations if you would like to help them during this difficult time. I ask that you designate on your check that it is to be used for *food*, and to also let them know you are a member or friend of Congregation Beth Shalom.

Thank you to Jane Lux for working at the pantry in February. Thank you to Missy Garman, Sandi Splansky, Irene Rubin, Derryl Block, and Steve Greenfield for providing a wonderful meal to Hope Haven in March, and to Jane and Steve Lux and Jackie and David Gorman for taking care of a delicious dinner this past month.

— Karen Sinason, Social Action chair

What's Happening at Religious School

Religious School has moved online! Now that we're learning virtually, we can take advantage of fun and educational videos from BimBam.com that are short (usually 5-7 minutes each) and topical. We watched one about Passover and one about Counting the Omer. We have also continued our Hebrew language instruction, adding more Hebrew letters and vowels to our repertoire each week, plus new vocabulary words in both modern Hebrew and from the liturgy. I look forward to our upcoming meetings on May 15, June 5, and June 19, all from 5 to 6:30 PM.

— Rabbi Julie Adler



Purim Celebration

On Sunday, March 8, blissfully unaware of the impending quarantine, CBS members met to celebrate Purim. The Religious School students made hamantaschen and put on a short spiel. We heard a retelling of the Purim story, debated the merits of Purim versus Passover, sang songs, and enjoyed a delicious potluck meal.

Special thanks to Caitlin and Jackie Gorman for bringing plenty of homemade hamantaschen; to Michael and Maya Adler for helping the Religious School students bake; to Amitai Adler for chanting an English version of the Megillah; and to Harvey Blau for leading us in song.

It's hard to believe that just two months ago, a few dozen people shared a single room in our building. Here's hoping that we can soon shake our groggers in celebration of being able to safely meet again.

— Jason Hanna, Ritual Chair



(continued)



Upcoming Virtual Program

On Thursday, May 14, at 7 PM (EDT), there will be a multimedia presentation by Seth Rogovy —artistic director of the Yiddish music festival Yidstock and author of *The Essential Klezmer*, a bestselling guidebook to Yiddish roots and soul music—in which he recounts the evolution of klezmer from Old World *shtetlekh* to New World nightclubs and concert stages. This live event will be presented via Zoom and will stream live on the Yiddish Book Center's Facebook page. Space is limited. If you'd like to reserve a virtual seat in the Zoom audience—which will allow you to submit questions—registration is required, using the following link:

[Register for this program](#)

Thanks to Elizabeth Bass for passing this on.

Chatter

Rabbi Adler has been featured in the national media in the past months. In February, the *New York Times* had an article that discussed her work as the director of the Brit Milah Program of Reform Judaism (the rabbi's "other" job). She said, "What an honor to be quoted in the *New York Times*!" And in March, she was quoted in the *Forward* about circumcision during the Covid-19 pandemic. Here are the links:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/28/nyregion/circumcision-bris-mohels-women.html>

<https://forward.com/news/national/442655/jewish-parents-circumcision-brit-milah-coronavirus-covid/>

Jason Hanna will be taking on the responsibilities of chair of the NIU Philosophy Department.

David and Jackie Gorman's daughter, **Caitlin**, received her MS in Sport Management from NIU this May. She has been working as the grad assistant in the NIU Athletics Department's Compliance Office and will be on the job market when things get back to normal and the nation's college athletics departments end their hiring freezes.

Laurie and Josh Rodriguez have a lot of news to share about their children. **Sariah**, a student at Brigham Young University in Idaho, was recently appointed as a dance instructor for campus dance events. Though events are now on hold, she is looking forward to continuing in this role when events resume.

Their son, **Benjamin**, has chosen to attend Oberlin Conservatory this fall. He is looking forward to studying cello with Dmitry Kouzov.

Rae, 16, Josh and Laurie's youngest, was invited to do the stage lighting for the play *Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* with Children's Community Theatre and was doing an amazing job before everything closed down. She is also one of the main crew people at DeKalb High School.

Our congregation continues to be well-represented in the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra (which hopefully will be performing again soon). **Courtney Hanna-McNamara** and **Laurie Rodriguez** play first violin, **Ben Rodriguez** plays cello, and **Jason Hanna** plays bassoon.

Harriett Kallich, a former member of our congregation, has a new address, which should be used if anyone wants to send her cards and letters: Harriett Kallich, The Cedars, 620 Ocean Avenue, Portland, ME 04103.

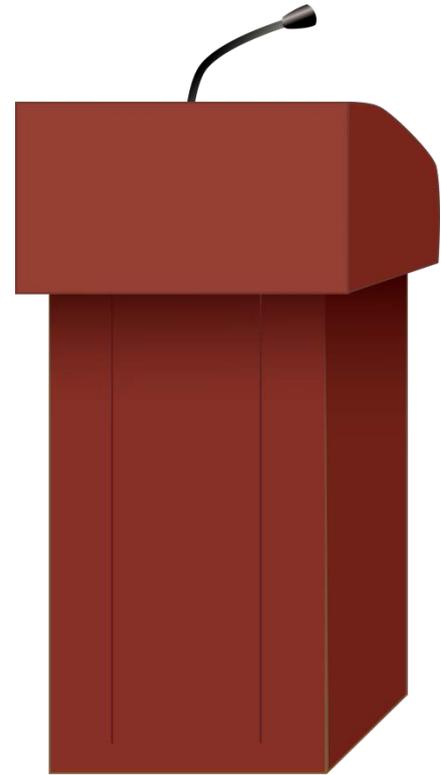
Congregation Beth Shalom

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 17

7 PM

All congregation members are invited to participate (via Zoom) in our Annual Membership Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee appears below. The proposed 2020-2021 budget, along with an explanatory narrative, appears on the next pages. Both will be voted on at the meeting.



Nominating Committee Report

The following are nominated, each for a two-year term:

Harvey Blau, Secretary/Membership
David Gorman, Buildings & Grounds
Jason Hanna, Ritual
Linda Mogren, Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted:

Nominating Committee:
Rob Feldacker
Melissa Garman
Carol Zar

Congregation Beth Shalom

Proposed Budget 2020-2021 Narrative

To all Members of Congregation Beth Shalom,

Here is the budget proposal for Congregation Beth Shalom for the fiscal year 2020-2021, presented by the CBS Board. Last year, we budgeted to use both member dues and income from investments and donations to pay for our expenses. As the financial statements included demonstrate, our budget for 2019-2020 is ending better than initially planned. This is largely due to larger than expected donations from generous members of our community. While we will spend more money this year than was brought in through dues and donations, the loss is not as great as was initially planned. In addition, our various investments were doing quite well until the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic severely affected the global economy. Like everyone else, our investments have lost value over the last few months and are currently down about 9 percent from the start of the year.

We still feel that our long-term financial position is in keeping with our plans to support and sustain the operations of the congregation. We thus recommend for your acceptance the included budget for 2020-2021. It is almost exactly the same as the previous year's budget in its revenue and expense projections. The Board concluded that this was the wisest choice given the uncertainties about what the next year will bring.

Respectfully submitted, after discussion and approval by the Board of Directors,

Jeff Hecht, Treasurer

Congregation Beth Shalom / NIJCC
Budget Proposal for FY 2020-2021

Congregation Beth Shalom Budget Proposal	Budget 2019-2020	Actual As of 3/31/20	Projected Year End 2020	Projected Difference	Proposed Budget 2020-2021
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Revenue

General Fund	\$ 49,650	\$ 65,429	\$ 65,536	\$ (15,886)	\$ 49,650
Dues	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,693	\$ 39,800	\$ (800)	\$ 39,000
Donations	\$ 9,000	\$ 25,301	\$ 25,301	\$ (16,301)	\$ 9,000
Events	\$ 1,200	\$ 293	\$ 293	\$ 907	\$ 1,200
Gift Shop	\$ 200	\$ 142	\$ 142	\$ 58	\$ 200
Miscellaneous	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250
All Other Funds	\$ 6,800	\$ 8,446	\$ 8,446	\$ (1,646)	\$ 6,800
Building Fund	\$ 400	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 100	\$ 400
Cemetery Fund	\$ 400	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 100	\$ 400
Community Fund	\$ 400	\$ 409	\$ 409	\$ (9)	\$ 400
Food Pantry Fund	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,571	\$ 6,571	\$ (1,571)	\$ 5,000
Fox-Mabel Fund	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
Koleynu Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rabbi Fund	\$ 100	\$ 33	\$ 33	\$ 67	\$ 100
Rabbi Discretionary Fund	\$ 100	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ (300)	\$ 100
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Religious School Fund	\$ 200	\$ 233	\$ 233	\$ (33)	\$ 200
Total Revenue	\$ 56,450	\$ 73,875	\$ 73,982	\$ (17,532)	\$ 56,450

Expenses

General Fund	\$ (71,850)	\$ (55,545)	\$ (72,392)	\$ 542	\$ (71,850)
Advertising	\$ -	\$ (20)	\$ (20)	\$ 20	\$ -
Bank Charges	\$ (100)	\$ (71)	\$ (71)	\$ (29)	\$ (100)
Building and Grounds	\$ (7,000)	\$ (4,656)	\$ (7,000)	\$ -	\$ (7,000)
Events	\$ (4,900)	\$ (6,301)	\$ (6,301)	\$ 1,401	\$ (4,900)
Food Pantry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Gift Shop	\$ (200)	\$ (129)	\$ (129)	\$ (71)	\$ (200)
Government	\$ (10)	\$ (10)	\$ (10)	\$ -	\$ (10)
Insurance	\$ (3,300)	\$ (2,279)	\$ (3,300)	\$ -	\$ (3,300)
Lease	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office	\$ (1,340)	\$ (496)	\$ (496)	\$ (844)	\$ (1,340)
Personnel	\$ (50,000)	\$ (37,500)	\$ (50,000)	\$ -	\$ (50,000)
Professional	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Religious School	\$ -	\$ (65)	\$ (65)	\$ 65	\$ -
Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Utilities	\$ (5,000)	\$ (4,018)	\$ (5,000)	\$ -	\$ (5,000)
Uncategorized	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
All Other Funds	\$ (5,500)	\$ (7,332)	\$ (7,332)	\$ 1,832	\$ (5,500)
Building Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cemetery Fund	\$ (500)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (500)	\$ (500)
Community Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Food Pantry Fund	\$ (5,000)	\$ (7,279)	\$ (7,279)	\$ 2,279	\$ (5,000)
Fox-Mabel Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Koleynu Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rabbi Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rabbi Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ (54)	\$ (54)	\$ 54	\$ -
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Religious School Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ (77,350)	\$ (62,877)	\$ (79,724)	\$ 2,374	\$ (77,350)

Congregation Beth Shalom / NIJCC
Fund Summary Report for FY 2019-2020

Fund	Beginning July 1, 2019	As Of March 31, 2020	Gain/Loss Year to Date
Building	\$ 36,177.86	\$ 36,455.40	\$ 277.54
Checking	\$ 10,688.29	\$ 10,988.29	\$ 300.00
Savings	\$ 24,312.70	\$ 24,385.85	\$ 73.15
Short-Term	\$ 1,176.87	\$ 1,081.26	\$ (95.61)
Cemetery	\$ 41,834.13	\$ 38,912.44	\$ (2,921.69)
Checking	\$ (118.72)	\$ 181.28	\$ 300.00
Savings	\$ 2,214.76	\$ 2,221.42	\$ 6.66
Short-Term	\$ 39,738.09	\$ 36,509.74	\$ (3,228.35)
Community	\$ 1,527.70	\$ 2,036.70	\$ 509.00
Checking	\$ 1,527.70	\$ 2,036.70	\$ 509.00
Food-Pantry	\$ 4,198.84	\$ 3,495.20	\$ (703.64)
Checking	\$ 2,844.86	\$ 2,137.15	\$ (707.71)
Savings	\$ 1,353.98	\$ 1,358.05	\$ 4.07
Fox-Mabel	\$ 5,361.06	\$ 5,572.59	\$ 211.53
Checking	\$ 1,538.12	\$ 1,738.12	\$ 200.00
Savings	\$ 3,822.94	\$ 3,834.47	\$ 11.53
General	\$ 26,407.18	\$ 36,354.25	\$ 9,947.07
Checking	\$ 12,800.64	\$ 22,706.76	\$ 9,906.12
Savings	\$ 13,606.54	\$ 13,647.49	\$ 40.95
Koleynu	\$ 2,100.57	\$ 2,253.77	\$ 153.20
Checking	\$ 1,042.24	\$ 1,192.24	\$ 150.00
Savings	\$ 1,058.33	\$ 1,061.53	\$ 3.20
Rabbi	\$ 662,208.21	\$ 603,518.52	\$ (58,689.69)
Checking	\$ 5,519.73	\$ 5,552.73	\$ 33.00
Short-Term	\$ 127,496.16	\$ 117,138.29	\$ (10,357.87)
Long-Term	\$ 529,192.32	\$ 480,827.50	\$ (48,364.82)
Rabbi-Disc	\$ 751.94	\$ 1,098.16	\$ 346.22
Checking	\$ 751.94	\$ 1,098.16	\$ 346.22
Rainy-Day	\$ 39,514.56	\$ 37,476.74	\$ (2,037.82)
Savings	\$ 13,915.45	\$ 13,957.32	\$ 41.87
Short-Term	\$ 25,599.11	\$ 23,519.42	\$ (2,079.69)
Rel-School	\$ 12,612.94	\$ 12,845.94	\$ 233.00
Checking	\$ 12,612.94	\$ 12,845.94	\$ 233.00
TOTAL	\$ 832,694.99	\$ 780,019.71	\$ (52,675.28)
Checking	\$ 49,207.74	\$ 60,477.37	\$ 11,269.63
Savings	\$ 60,284.70	\$ 60,466.13	\$ 181.43
Short-Term	\$ 194,010.23	\$ 178,248.71	\$ (15,761.52)
Long-Term	\$ 529,192.32	\$ 480,827.50	\$ (48,364.82)

As of March 31, 2020