



# THE SHPIEL

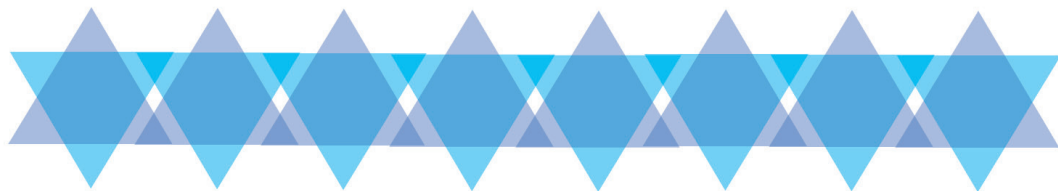
FEBRUARY 2021 | SHEVAT / ADAR 5781



## PURIM



*A Story of Salvation*



Milgroom

All meetings are held virtually via Zoom or YouTube unless otherwise noted.

# SLJC February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 <b>1 pm:</b> Adult Education Murray Siegel's program on Jews and Early Christianity	11 <b>4 pm:</b> Board of Directors Meeting	12 <b>7 pm:</b> Shabbat Service <b>8:30 pm:</b> Oneg Shabbat Meeting	13
14	15	16	17	18 <b>1 pm:</b> Sisterhood Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 EREV PURIM	26 PURIM	27
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## HIGHLIGHTS

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- Co-President, Geri Gould (480) 305-0123
- Co-President, Wende Levy (301) 503-1047
- Membership, Marilyn Koss (480) 940-1916
- Rabbi Irwin Wiener, D.D. (623) 640-5913
- Cantor, Ronda Polesky (480) 247-8408
- Music Director, Lana Oyer (602) 524-5936
- Graphics, Mike Milgroom (480) 802-7990

To submit to *The Shpiel* or for more information, please contact Geri Gould at (480) 305-0123, or gerijim@hotmail.com.



## In the Name of Love

Although February is usually associated with romantic love, two other major commemorations related to idealized love occur during this period. One relates to bravery and devotion to country. The other relates to a historical

event that enabled our people to survive the attempt at annihilation.

In 1943, a United States Army Transport ship was torpedoed by the Germans with whom we were at war. It was 12:55 a.m. when the Dorchester shuddered violently as the torpedo detonated on her starboard side. Dozens died at that instant. That, however, was not the end of the ordeal.

For many, donning a lifejacket and jumping into the water was their only hope of survival. In the eighteen minutes it took for the Dorchester to sink, Army Chaplains Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander Goode, Lt. John Washington, and Lt. Clark Poling helped the wounded, distributed life preservers and said prayers as they helped others to abandon the ship. When four terrified soldiers appeared without life jackets, the four chaplains gave them theirs. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," John Ladd, a survivor, later related. Minutes later the Dorchester bow rose above the surface and began its descent to the bottom. Many survivors said they saw the four chaplains braced against the slanting deck with their arms linked as the ship went down.

In 1948 Congress designated February 3 as "Four Chaplains Day." I must admit, when I read the story and when I sat down to record it again in my monthly message in the Shpiel, chills ran up and down my spine. Tears rolled down my cheeks because here, for all to learn of, was the true essence of what love is – love of country and love of humanity. They will be honored at our Erev Shabbat service on Friday, February 12.

Another episode in our history is featured in a story in the Bible, in the Book of Esther. An unknown woman and her uncle, Mordecai, found themselves relocated in a country called Persia after the First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonian Greeks and the people dispersed to far corners of the known world at the time. The woman found strength and courage, but above all, love for her people and the difficulties that were to take place, putting them all in jeopardy. She found the ability to muster the resolve to protect and defend the sanctity of life through her efforts.

This, too, is the essence of what love is – love of country and humanity. She, Esther, will be honored at our Erev Shabbat service on Friday, February 12.

The Four Chaplains, and a woman who became queen and savior of her people, personify the idealism of love. The feelings we have for each other, as we endure the never-ending difficulties of this pandemic, symbolize the love we share in both grief and joy. So, we too will reflect the different meanings of love during our February 12 service. 🕯️

## FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

**Oren Tabib** will present a Zoom talk on **April 10 at 3:00 p.m.** He is President and CEO of **Pioneer: One System One Truth**, and is a member of the regional board of the Israeli American Council. His topic will be **Media Bias against Israel**.

There has been a recent, pervasive theme in the international media that Israel is denying the Covid vaccine to the Palestinians. This is very misleading. Israel has provided enormous support to the Palestinians throughout the pandemic.

Under the Oslo accords, the PLO is responsible for the healthcare of their people, and their leadership has expressed that they have not asked for, nor do they want, vaccine from Israel. They are waiting to get four million of the Russian vaccines from the World Health Organization. All Arab citizens of Israel are receiving the vaccine, and Israel is vaccinating Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Here are two sources for the TRUTH about Israel and Palestinian — Israeli issues: **HonestReporting.com** and **CAMERA.org** (Committee for the Accuracy in Middle East Reporting).





## SLJC SISTERHOOD

The Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Sisterhood is proud to announce that the speaker at our next meeting on **February 18 at 1 p.m.**, will be Linda Coppleson. She is one of only a few women in the world who has trained to be a *soferet*, someone who is able to write, repair, and restore the Torah. She also writes mezuzot, megillot, ketubot, and she creates lifecycle art pieces.

She participated in the Women's Torah Project, writing twenty pages in the first Torah in history written entirely by a group of women scribes. Her experience has taught her that "being physically close to a Torah scroll as it is being written, seeing the letters and words emerge from the quill and appear on the parchment, is to feel the inexorable pull of history and tradition and elicit that elusive sense of belonging and connection to Jews and Judaism."

If you would like to participate in this Zoom meeting and hear Linda talk about the art and skill of writing the Torah, please email Esther at [librolady@hotmail.com](mailto:librolady@hotmail.com) for the Zoom link.



This year's fundraising event is the Sisterhood "Un" Card Party. Because we weren't able to gather in person, we still offer a cash raffle and wonderful prizes, thanks to our donors. **On February 8, we will pull the names of the winners of the raffle and prizes. Winners will be notified by phone. Thanks to all of you who participated! We were able to provide desperately needed support to many charities, agencies, and organizations in our community.**

### Sisterhood Membership Dues Form (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (month/day only): \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a check for \$25, payable to SLJC Sisterhood, to Suzy Ziegler, 139 W. Briarwood Terrace, Phoenix, AZ 85045.

# CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

## GERI GOULD & WENDE LEVY



It's February. The second month in the new year. And finally, there seems to be a glimmer of hope. Vaccinations have begun! Some of us will have had both the first and second shots by the end of this month. Others, hopefully, will have started the process. There may be a light at the end of this very long tunnel.

Throughout all these months of virtual everything, SLJC is trying to find ways to keep us all connected. Zoom and YouTube have certainly helped. We still offer our Shabbat services each month via YouTube, and we have offered several interesting programs under the auspices of our Adult Education and other SLJC organizations. There are more to come. For example, on **Wednesday, February 10 at 1:00 p.m.**, Murray Siegel will talk to us (viz Zoom) about Jews and the Early Christians.

On **Thursday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m.**, SLCJ Sisterhood is opening up their program to the entire congregation to hear (via Zoom) from a female Torah scribe, and the process of writing a Torah.

And in March, Rabbi Wiener will offer a lecture as well as lead us virtually in the seder service for the second night of Passover (before the food!). Details for both will become available closer to that time.

**What would you like to see from us?** We offered our first virtual Oneg Shabbat after last month's service. It has been suggested that perhaps we should try to have a program, such as a musical session — even a sing-along from home — or a storyteller, or an author discussion during these onegs to get the ball rolling for conversation. What about a pj's and bathrobe virtual oneg? Afterall, we are at home, and truthfully many of us watch services in pajamas already. Please don't be shy about sharing your ideas or referrals of folks who may have talents to offer. Please contact Wende (301.503.1047) or Geri (480.305.0123) with your suggestions.

In the meantime, for football fans, the Superbowl (February 7) and Valentine's Day (February 14) will soon be upon us. Remember our February service will take place on **Friday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.** via YouTube, and we will again offer a virtual Oneg Shabbat on Zoom immediately following the service. Keep up your guard to protect your health and the health of those around you. Please stay well and be careful out there. Maybe, someday, masks will be a thing of the past.



## SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

### TWO JEWISH BOYS HAVE A HIT

By Murray Siegel

On a cold night in early January 1961, were you listening to Murray the K on your radio? If so, you heard him promote a new record from a new group. His backing pushed the song to number 12 on the national charts. The song was *Please Love Me Forever* by Cathy Jean and the Roommates.

The Roommates did not really live with Cathy Jean. In fact, Cathy Jean never met with her backup singers until the song was a hit. The Roommates were born in 1957 when two Jewish teenagers, Steve Susskind and Bob Minsky, who loved to sing together, entered a talent contest at their Queens, NY junior high school. They placed second losing to another Jewish boy duo, Tom and Jerry.

The success at the contest led to a recording contract and the addition of two more Roommates. Their singing was melded with Cathy Jean's solo in the studio and *Please Love Me Forever* became a popular romantic slow dance. No real follow-up success caused the group to disband. Steve Susskind became a successful movie and TV actor, but died in an automobile accident in 2005, while Bob Minsky succumbed to cancer in 2006.



Whatever happened to Tom and Jerry? After having one minor hit song, they went to college and returned to their music in the mid-1960s. You may recall their many hits, when they used their real names, Simon and Garfunkel. 🎵

## DEVORAH HADASSAH

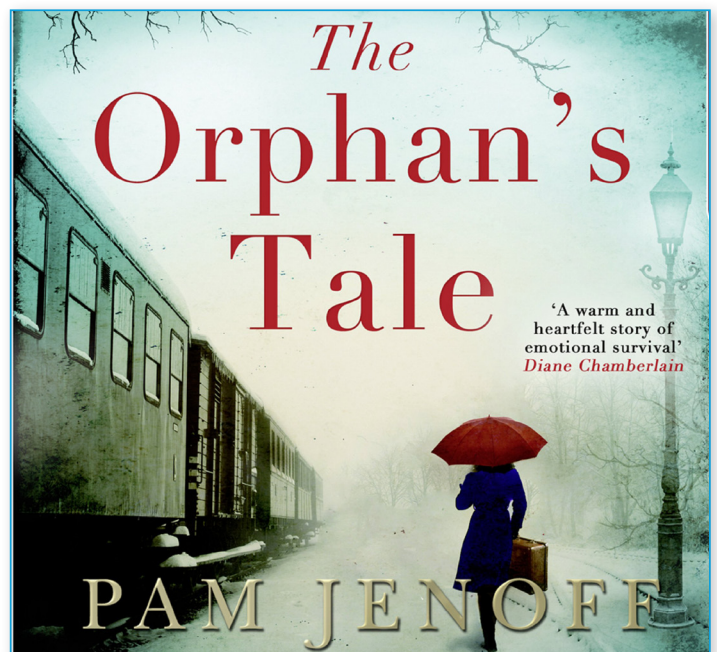
Our Ladies Literary Group will meet on **Wednesday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m.** to discuss *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff.

Our monthly food drive for JFCS is on Wednesday, February 17.

The upcoming Flick Chicks meeting date will be announced soon.

For more information about Devorah Hadassah, please contact Ruth Kovac at [ruth.devorah.had@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.devorah.had@gmail.com).

**Be positive and test negative.**









## by Rabbi Irwin Wiener

Several things come to mind when the holiday of Purim peeks through the maze of calendar days and dates.

For example, there is the understanding that it is unique in the Jewish experience. Nowhere in our celebrations do we commemorate victory with merriment. In fact, we are taught that we have a duty, an obligation, to not rejoice over the misfortune of others. Yet, here we are, rejoicing over the demise of villains determined to destroy us.

A Midrash describes the salvation of the Israelites from the clutches of Pharaoh when they are cornered at the Red Sea. There is nowhere to turn, no retreat, and only death in the path chosen. The Bible tells us that Moses lifted his hands over the water, and it parted. The Israelites are spared, but the Egyptians drown in pursuit. Then the angels cry out to God as to why there should not be celebrating and rejoicing, to which God replies that the Egyptians are also His children — certainly, no cause for jubilation.

While many think of ourselves as different, none went so far as to wish us harm for that reason alone. When Pharaoh decides to enslave the Hebrews, it is because he feared that we were becoming too numerous and lived in the most fertile part of the Nile delta. When the Israelites journeyed to their promised land, Amalek did not want us to falter because of our belief in the one God, but because they were concerned about their survival at being overwhelmed by our numbers.

Even when the mighty Roman Empire destroyed the lands of Judea and Samaria, it was because of insurrection and rebellion. There was a great deal of respect for our culture and religious practices. History tells us that many soldiers converted to Judaism for its element of connection and the value of life. It was our hate for one another that contributed to our destruction. The Talmud describes it as *Sinus Chinum*.

The equation changed when the Nazis systematically designed a “final solution,” which included the indiscriminate murder of the Jewish people wherever they were located because they were Jewish. The agenda was short, simple and direct. There was no pretense of them being “too numerous” or “too strong.”

Haman remarks in his diatribe to the Persian king that, “a certain people scattered about and dispersed among other peoples....” It is an invitation to resent people who are different. How many times have we seen hatred surface when we do not understand someone or find that person or persons so different that it is frightening? That is why we gravitate to like-kinds when settling somewhere or find ourselves in a controlled environment.

Purim also provides us with an opportunity to escape from reality. We dress differently; we masquerade as someone else, all in a frenzy to elude the terrible misfortune that awaits as Haman and his cohorts develop a scheme to rid themselves of the Jewish presence, not the Jewish people as such.

The Jewish people arm themselves and fight the corruption and evil that was demonstrated. After all, the Talmud teaches us that if someone comes to murder you, move first to kill him. Murder and killing are two different things. Our first obligation is to defend ourselves. If, in the process someone is killed, it is not the same as purposely setting out to murder that someone.

However, the most unique aspect of Purim is the dialogue we have regarding the purpose and supposed absence of God in things that seem to be evil. Maimonides debates this in his *Guide to the Perplexed* and in his *Mishnah Torah*. He talks about good and evil and the part played by God in both.

Purim is a holiday, the last in the Jewish sequence that allows us to examine our role in accepting what happens or in making the effort to extract from the experience the ability to allow our goodness to dominate our lives. Purim is a holiday that enables us to understand that we must take control of our destiny. Purim is a holiday that helps us comprehend the meaning of freedom as fully described in a holiday that follows just four weeks later — Passover, the ultimate expression of self-determination and the actual start of the Jewish holiday sequence.

Purim is the one exception that permits us to celebrate our deliverance in a way that enables us to escape to a world of make-believe. It is the stuff that dreams are made of. It is sweetness and happiness, giving us the ability to enjoy every moment of our lives in goodness and love.

Dance, be merry, laugh, hide, be someone else, and then remember that Purim is there to encourage us to a brighter tomorrow with all its noisemakers and dancing. The name of evil is drowned out by the tumult. Perhaps then, we will fully understand the essence of the story, whether true or not, that Isaiah taught us: “Cease to do evil, and learn to do good. Seek justice and relieve the oppressed.” Maybe that is why we particularly distribute charity at this time in our cycle of life’s journey.

During our isolation, it is important to remember that we can celebrate the goodness of life even as we endure some of the pains 🧨

## ADULT EDUCATION

**Wednesday, February 10, 1 p.m.**

### ***Jews and Early Christians***

Please join us to learn about our own Jewish history. Murray's talk will focus on many of the following issues:

- How Hanukkah Affected the Zealots
- Are Jesus and Mary Jewish Names?
- Moneychangers at the Temple
- Did the Jews Kill Jesus?
- Nazarene Jews
- Why Christians Separated from Judaism
- Unintended Consequences Following the Separation
- Why Jews Left the Faith After the Temple's Destruction
- New Testament Book of Mark – a Jew Writing to Jews
- Why Christians Persecuted Jews



## LONE SOLDIER PROJECT

### 700 HANUKKAH GREETINGS GO TO LONE SOLDIERS

Our Hanukkah Greetings were happily received and appreciated at the Michael Levin Lone Soldier Center. They posted several of the greetings for everyone to see and distributed the rest.



The coronavirus has made being alone in the country even more difficult, but fellow soldiers and the IDF officials are working hard to provide support.

Please visit [bit.ly/4-lone-soldiers](https://bit.ly/4-lone-soldiers), which will take you to an article in the *Jerusalem Post* focusing on the fascinating stories of four Lone Soldiers:

1. Corporal Yonah Cohen, *Amsterdam*
2. Corporal Ryan Berman, *Australia*
3. Sergeant Tomer Yosef, *Israel*
4. Private Spivak, *Ecuador*

# FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

## ANNIVERSARIES — *kol hakavod* — to a great year ahead together!

14 Sander & Anita Frindell	19 Tzvi & Gina Caplan
17 Deborah & Marc Israel	19 Paula & Milton Lewis

## BIRTHDAYS — *mazel tov* — another year older and another year wiser!

1 Nessa Memberg	10 Samuel Abramson	17 Ronald Codkind	21 Suzy Ziegler
2 Arlene Forgang	11 Janice Frankel	18 Ellen Fineberg	22 Fred Chafin
2 Linda Wasserman	11 Marc Israel	18 Len Schulman	25 Harvey Weiner
7 Arlene Santis	12 Marsha Levine	20 Ruth Friedman	26 Joan Silver
8 Michael Frischenmeyer	13 Roxanne Banta	20 Renee Politi	26 Nancy Stutman
	15 Betsey Silverman	21 Eleanor Miller	
	16 Diana Nelinson	21 Susan Reeves	

# FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

## *Zichronam livrachah* — may their memories be a blessing.

Abraham Amiton	Benjamin Fischer	Bernard Linder	Morris Sharff
James Amiton	Shirley Fray	Joseph Lubisch	Isabelle Sheffey
Jack Aronowitz	Justin Friedman	Samuel Miller	Helene Shulman
Melvin Becker	Augusta Friedman	Rose Mohr	Robert Smigel
Anne Berg	Maurice Gerson	Geraldine Nelinson	Bertha Smigel
Florence Berger	Betty Ginsberg	Jack Ornstein	Donald Spiel
Sheila Berger	Morton Goldfader	Joseph Pasternack	Dorothy Stone
Donald M Brill	Geraldine Goldman	Allan Price	Isaac Strahl
Ida Gilbert Brodsky	Marcy Goldstein	Louis Raizes	Maurice Weissman
William Buchsbaum	Frank Hasenfus	Mollie Rosendale	Norma Zacharias
Marjorie Buchsbaum	Cie Hirschhoff	Aaron Rosenfeld	Irving Zigman
Essie Cohen	Barbara Kaplan	Sadie Roth	Sylvia Zuckerman
Louis Cohen	Rose Kaplan	Marilyn Russell	
Robert Dubinsky	Irving Karp	Craig Sable	
Constance Dunayer	Norman Klein	Muriel Salita	
John Elias	David Kornetsky	Lucie Sandler	
Woody Fabert	Harriet Kruger	Dorothy Schaeffer	
Richard Feldman	Barnett Lazarus	Synthia Scheck	
Allan Richard Feldman	Sadie Lazarus	Louis Schulman	
William Feller	Barnett Levenson	Sylvia Sharf	



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

The congregation extends our condolences to Diane and Jack Zelinger on the unexpected loss of their grandson, Jason. May his memory be for a blessing.

The congregation extends our condolences to Lucy Geller on the recent death of her husband, Herb. May his memory be for a blessing.

SLJC wishes a speedy recovery to Wendy and Alex Goldstein.

We wish the Fein family a speedy recovery.

Please submit Community Bulletin Board posting requests to Geri Gould at [gerijim@hotmail.com](mailto:gerijim@hotmail.com).

## SLJC Donation Form

Please accept this contribution to the following fund, in honor/memory of:

**Fund:** ☐ Chapel ☐ Oneg ☐ Music ☐ Family Fund ☐ Flower ☐ Torah ☐ Silverman

Yahrzeit Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

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Remit to: Alan Behr, 25803 Eastlake Dr., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248 (Minimum donation of \$10.00 please)

Minimum donation of \$10 please. Minimum contribution to the Flower Fund is \$50.



# CONTRIBUTIONS

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions made in honor or memory of a special person or event. If you would like to make a contribution, please use the donation form on page 12.

## CHAPEL FUND

In memory of Jason Alexander  
Howie  
by Barbara & Elliot Reiss

## FAMILY & TORAH FUND

In memory of Jason, grandson  
of Diane & Jack Zelinger  
by Geri & Jim Gould

## MUSIC FUND

In memory of Anne Stedman  
by Nancy Stutman

## YAHREZIT FUND

In memory of Morris Stone  
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In memory of David Caplan  
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In memory of Sophie  
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by Barbara & Shel Silverman

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In memory of Maurice  
Weissman  
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In memory of Geraldine  
Nelinson

by Diana Nelinson

In memory of Shirley Fray  
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by Bobby Sachs & Sid Berger

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In memory of Rose Kaplan  
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In memory of Mollie Rosedale  
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Pasternack

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In memory of Beverly Lefton  
by Norman Lefton

In memory of Marilyn C.  
Russell

by Gail Dante

In memory of Louis Raizes  
by Sheldon Raizes

In memory of Frank Hasenfus  
by Gary & Karen Hasenfus

In memory of Louis Schulman  
by Sandy & Leonard Schulman

In memory of Maurice Gerson  
by Charles Gerson

In memory of Morris Sharff  
by Janey & Jeff Burnce

In memory of Ida Gilbert  
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by Lori Mangel

In memory of John Elias  
by Judy Elias

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Buchsbaum

by Charlotte Currens

In memory of Marjorie  
Buchsbaum

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by Faith Roth

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by Michael Kaplan

In memory of Florence Berger  
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by Colette Goldstein

In memory of George Mann  
by Ruth Friedman

## HAVURAH CHAI JEWISH SINGLES GROUP

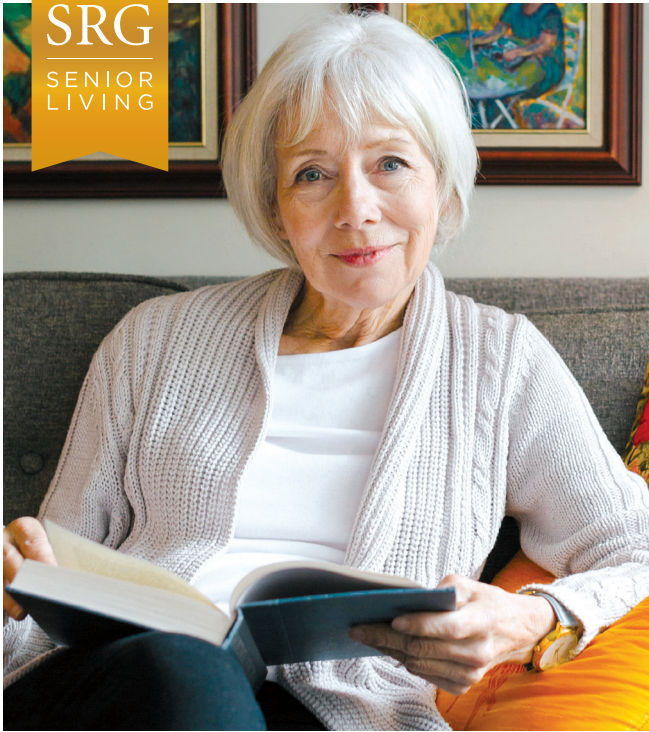
*We can't build a mountain or catch a rainbow fair.  
But let us be what we know best: a friend that's always there.  
Wishing you all a wonderful Valentine's Day.*

No matter what you are going through, there's a light at the end of the tunnel. It may seem hard to get to, but you can do it. Keep working towards it, and you'll find the positive side of things.

Speaking of positive things, Havurah Chai is looking forward to our first in-person event as soon as we are able to handle it safely. In the meantime, please reach out and make a call to a Chai friend, or contact Lainy Sardina at [lainysardina@gmail.com](mailto:lainysardina@gmail.com), (480) 895-0974.



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