



# The Israelight

*Congregation Beth Israel of Media  
A Reconstructionist Jewish Community*

## Leadership

*from the desks of the Council of Past Presidents (CPP)*

**Unleashing Your Inner Leader** Throughout Jewish history, from the time of Moses, our greatest leaders have been reluctant to step forward. They hesitated, doubted their abilities, and questioned their worthiness. Yet, it was their very humility and willingness to serve that made them exceptional leaders.

Today, **Beth Israel needs leaders like never before.** Our community faces challenges and opportunities that demand a new generation of individuals willing to step up and guide us. We need leaders who are compassionate, empathetic, and committed to making a difference in our community.

But what if you feel you're not qualified? What if you don't have the experience or expertise to lead?

These are common concerns, and they're often the very things that hold us back from our full potential.

True leadership doesn't demand having all the answers or being the expert in every situation. Instead, it's about summoning the courage to face the challenges our community faces, inspiring others to join us, and working together to achieve our shared goals.

Leadership is a journey of growth and discovery. It's about learning from your mistakes, celebrating your successes, and constantly evolving as a person and a leader.

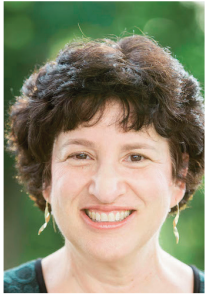
In the coming weeks, starting now on page 3, we'll be sharing the stories of past leaders who have been willing to step outside their comfort zones and embrace leadership roles. They'll share their personal experiences, challenges, and triumphs, offering valuable insights and inspiration for anyone considering leadership roles.

We invite you to come with us on this journey of leadership exploration. Discover your hidden strengths, learn from experienced leaders, and recognize the potential within you to make a positive impact. Remember, leadership is not a privilege reserved for a select few. It's a calling that can be embraced by anyone who is willing to step forward and serve.



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Rabbi's Column Rabbi Linda Potemken



NOVEMBER 14TH MARCH  
& HOLDING THIS MOMENT

My decision wasn't final until the day before, for practical and for emotional reasons. If I go, might there be formal words spoken that aren't my words, my truth? If I go, with all the hatred and guns in this country, will it be safe? If I go, how will I manage an already ridiculously busy week?

But how can I not go? The March is for Israel. The people of Israel are living through a hellish war. That includes my beloved family members with whom I am in ongoing contact. The March is to Free the Hostages. I'm praying nightly for the hostages, this is a march in their honor, standing for their safe release. I need to go stand with others for them. The March is against anti-semitism. Sadly, tragically, that is also quite relevant.

Just as my decision to go was made at the last minute, so was my decision to join the Peace Bloc which was made of many groups including the Reconstructionist movement, Americans for Peace Now, T'ruah - the rabbinic human rights group, J Street, Partners for a Progressive Israel, Ameinu, Habonim Dror and many others. Messages included: "Defeat Terror; Protect Civilians; Pursue Peace" There were signs with pictures of the kidnapped hostages. There was pain and anger. There was hope. I was grateful to be with them. While I didn't agree with every speech or choice of speaker at the rally there were many who I appreciated, who addressed my heart and concerns.

I thought about what a difference it would make if at every pro-Israel rally and at every pro-Palestinian demonstration people carried signs that called for an end to antisemitism and to islamophobia. I was glad that there were signs on Nov 14th that acknowledged Palestinian pain, that were clear that Hamas does not speak for all Palestinians, that called for both Israelis and Palestinians to be free from Hamas.

It has been so easy to drift into despair since October 7th. The grief that so many of us have been carrying is immense and it is hard to imagine a path forward to peace and safety for all. I believe that most of us might benefit from focusing on healthy soul soothing activities, that could include prayer, friendship, engaging with nature, the arts, Torah study and most especially,

the Jewish practice of engaging in chesed – acts of loving kindness. Savoring acts of chesed that we receive, that we bestow on others or witness is a good balm for the soul in hard times and in all times.

Where do I find hope? The solidarity at the march felt hopeful. On the way back I stopped at a rest stop along I95. It was packed with people who had been at the march. It was extraordinary to see such a huge, diverse swath of the Jewish community at a rest stop along 95. There were teenage girls dancing in the parking lot. This display of peoplehood was affirming and uplifting. Days later at BI, I led a service where we celebrated a baby naming. The next day I led our kids in Hebrew School and then met with our teens. The next generation gives me hope. I want to continue to practice and raise up the best of my Jewish Torah values, to give me strength and to pass along to those who will lead us all in the future.

This problem is bigger than all of us. But Chanukah is coming this month and that too gives me hope. Chanukah means dedication. So let's join together to dedicate ourselves to shining our light on one another and outward to the world and to be uplifted as we live in accordance with our values. Let's support one another, to bring goodness and chesed into the world. The world needs your goodness. Somehow that is hopeful.

Rabbi's Note

Rabbi Nathan Martin



Friends, we continue to direct our thoughts and prayers to Israel at this time. I share a brief excerpt from "An Evening Prayer in Times of Conflict" by Jacqueline Goldfinger.

Praise be to you, Adonai,  
Ruler of the Universe, from the tallest  
mountain to the deepest valley, from my  
weeping heart to my clenched fist.

Your Greatness can hold all of my anger and despair as it can hold all of my hope and joy.

Your Unifying Glory binds my wounds.

Your Divine Love is a healing balm.

Blessed are You who brings laughter in times of sorrow, love in times of loss, community in times of isolation, and peace in times of war.

May we continue to find spiritual sustenance in our community at this trying time.

*(continued from page 1)*

### **Reflections on Leadership at BI by Michael Fishkow**

"What do you get when you put two Jews together?" -- Three opinions!

Have you ever wondered why anyone would volunteer to join, let alone lead, a group like the Board of Directors of a synagogue? In this series, we delve into the experiences of several current and former board leaders, hoping to inspire you to consider taking on a leadership role at Beth Israel.

BI offers us a wealth of opportunities for personal growth, encompassing diverse spiritual, educational, and social action endeavors. Yet, an often-overlooked opportunity for growth is the development of leadership skills. Like the other practices, BI provides a supportive environment for you to embark on a journey of learning and growth.

For adults, the workplace often serves as the primary setting for acquiring leadership skills. People often confuse management with leadership, but they are distinct concepts. Management involves orchestrating people to achieve a specified objective.

Leadership, on the other hand, is the ability to influence, motivate, and empower others to contribute to an organization's success. As a leader, you need to create a shared vision of the desired outcome and its impact, and then support people as they work to achieve those outcomes.

As you know, BI is a volunteer organization, and a BI leadership role is about more than just saying thank you. Our volunteers are motivated by seeing the impact of their actions and want to see their efforts make a difference. A big part of leadership is getting people to step forward by explaining the potential impact of their actions and then raising up that work once it's completed.

It's important to recognize that it's not the leader's responsibility to have all the solutions. Instead, a BI leader should facilitate discussion to ensure that the board or committee thoroughly understands the problem at hand and can articulate how a successful solution would be assessed.

While you could certainly glean these leadership principles from devouring dozens of leadership books, Beth Israel offers a unique opportunity to practice these skills in an environment where everyone is invested in your success and where experienced mentors (former leaders) are readily available to guide you.

There are a couple of aspects of leadership that are truly unique to Beth Israel. Through the practice of studying our sacred texts, Jews have developed the ability to hold two seemingly conflicting ideas up and find ways to honor both. This is evident when the board is operating at its best. Our Rabbis help us view our work through a Jewish lens, adding Jewish context to some of the more difficult decisions the Board wrestles with. It is hard not to be humbled and connected by this experience. As leaders, you are stewards of a nearly 100-year-old synagogue, and as such, a vital link between the Jewish people's past and future.

Over fifteen years have passed since I served as President of the Board. That leadership experience at BI instilled in me valuable lessons that I have continuously applied in my work and interpersonal relationships. I am grateful for the opportunity to share just a few of my many takeaways regarding leadership at BI.

### **from John Greenstine**

Being a leader at Beth Israel is like learning to ride a bike, age 5. It's initially terrifying, as there's no instruction manual or YouTube video to convince you that gravity can be defied. Or, that there'll be enough time, energy or conviction in your life to make it work. But suddenly, you realize you've been balancing and defying gravity all along, and the new role puts fresh wind in your hair and a new perspective on yourself and your community.

I started as a leader at BI nearly 30 years ago. I wasn't frightened at the time, because the role I was asked to fill was well within my comfort zone. Sort of like riding with training wheels. As time went on, I took on more challenging tasks, because it was fun and I could see the impact I was making. I began to look for opportunities to "ride down steeper hills" and scare myself a little bit, because I knew others had my back if I needed help. And, I keep looking for new ways to engage. I find the time and energy required because my reward has always been greater than the effort.



Dear Friends,

We had a fantastic Fourth Friday back in October. There was abundant nosh and schmoozing to start the evening. Our service was fantastic and highlighted with "Adon Olam" sung to the tune of "Under the Boardwalk". The dinner was delicious and prepared by five of our Congregants. Three dozen of us were able to attend the inaugural event.

Guess what? We have our second Fourth Friday this month. It will be held on **Friday, December 22**. Our schedule will be: 5:45 Nosh and schmoozing 6:30 Service and activity 7:30 Dinner  
I hope you will be able to participate.

Would you like to help with this event and/or other BI activities? In the list that follows, you'll find many ways to support your congregation's programs and governance. Take a look:

- 1) **FOURTH FRIDAY COOKING OR PLANNING:** If any of you would like to join the cooking or planning team, or help in any way, please contact me at [mrosenberg14@comcast.net](mailto:mrosenberg14@comcast.net)
- 2) **CHANUKAH CELEBRATION:** We are planning a Chanukah Celebration on December 8th. Since the evening will start with Tot Shabbat, we are hoping this to be a multi-generational event. Would you be interested in helping out with this event? Do you have children or grandchildren who would enjoy celebrating with you?
- 3) **CALLING ALL TECHIES:** Are you a techie? We are looking for volunteers to help with zoom at our services and events. Many members of our Congregation can not attend in person and would love to be there virtually. Training would be included so perhaps you could help out in this way.
- 4) **GREETING OTHERS:** Every in-person service needs a greeter or two to welcome our Congregants and keep them safe. Again, training is available. If this interests you, please sign up here:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094bada629abfac61-door#/>
- 5) **DRIVING MEMBERS TO EVENTS:** Maybe you could help out by driving members who are unable to drive to Beth Israel. All you would need for this would be a vehicle and a bit of time. This would be on an as-needed basis so you wouldn't feel the need to make a long term commitment.
- 6) **RECRUITING LEADERS:** Another way to help would be to volunteer to be a member of the Nominating Committee. In addition to members of the Council of Past Presidents, we need to have three members at large to help feed our leadership pipeline. Your responsibility would be to help us search our Congregation for people who can step into leadership roles.

As you can see, there are multiple ways you can bring a sense of belonging to the Beth Israel community. Please consider stepping up and becoming more familiar with our Shul. I am hoping you will consider this request. Again, my email address is [mrosenberg14@comcast.net](mailto:mrosenberg14@comcast.net)

With gratitude, Mark

## BI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Mark Rosenberg

Executive VP

*open*

VP, Finance

Larrye Loss

VP, Communications

Sea Amundsen

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership

Hebrew School Education

Religious Practice

Social Action

Adult Education

Facilities Co-ordinators:

Immediate Past President: Emma Lefkowitz

Council of Past Presidents: Jennifer Lenway

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Jackie Gelman, Lynn Cashell

Lisa Blaskey deCamp, Natalya Zhukovskaya

Larry Hamermesh

John Greenstine

Marion Hamermesh, Rich Remenick

Elaine Feldman, Ron Romoff

Emma Lefkowitz

Jennifer Lenway

Marissa Band, Harry Chen, Jeff Golan, Adam Nicol,  
Jonathan Washington



**Come dance! Israeli Dancing at BI taught by Andi and Sharon! December 13 7:00** We will meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month** from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary. Ring and enter at the main entrance or phone Sharon. (RSVP to SharonLKleban@gmail.com; she will send her cell number)



No partner or experience is needed. The evening will include both beginner/liturgical dances and intermediate/modern dances. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes and bring your own water bottle. You may bring your own smile or one will be provided for you :) Contact andiwallach@gmail.com or sharonkleban@gmail.com for more information.



### REMINDER - PLEASE DON'T PROP OPEN ANY EXTERIOR DOORS AT BETH ISRAEL

Unfortunately in the world in which we live, it is necessary to consider the security of our building and our congregants. When we prop open doors, we expose ourselves to anyone with bad intent. If you do not currently have a fob for entry into the building, please contact our Safety and Security chair, Alan Ross, or our administrator, Mikayla Losanowych, to get a personalized fob for entry. Please don't prop open any exterior doors or leave the main entrance door in the unlocked (orange button) mode at Beth Israel.

As usual, check your email for more information and for zoom links.

### RABBINIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

The RLC will meet this month. This committee acts as a support by relaying congregant concerns to the rabbis and by offering a sounding board to the rabbis. If you have any concerns that you'd like the committee to address, please send your comments to Rabbi Linda or Rabbi Nathan or to the chair of the committee, Julian Yates: jyates@udel.edu

### How to Reach our Rabbis

By phone: (610) 566-4645, choose option 1 if Mikayla does not answer. A voice message left for either Rabbi will reach them quickly.

By e-mail: Rabbi Linda: ravltp@bethisraelmedia.org Rabbi Nathan: rabbinate@bethisraelmedia.org

Not sure who's 'on' this weekend? Check the calendar, easily available at bethisraelmedia.org and on the penultimate page of this Israelight. Also, each rabbi's e-mail account responds with a message indicating which rabbi is 'on.'

In cases of a real emergency...

Senior Rabbi Linda's and Associate Rabbi Nathan's home phone numbers can be found in the Member's Area of our website under How to Reach Our Rabbis and in our Directory.

**The Rabbinic Liaison Committee** exists in most Reconstructionist communities to ensure the maintenance of a good working relationship between the rabbis and the congregation. While congregants are always welcome and encouraged to discuss questions or concerns directly with Rabbi Linda or Rabbi Nathan, they may at times feel more comfortable talking to the Rabbinic Liaison committee. Issues raised by congregants are discussed confidentially and, when appropriate, are shared with a Rabbi in a constructive manner. To discuss a question or concern with a lay member of the committee please feel free to contact: Julian Yates (jyates@udel.edu) Deb Erie (debjoerie@gmail.com), Emily Levine (emily@emilysquireslevine.com), or Linda Cohen (lhc@comcast.net).



**Chanukah and Shabbat Celebration**  
**Beth Israel of Media**  
**FRIDAY, December 8**

**5:45 p.m.**

**\* Tot Shabbat**

**6:15 p.m.**

**\* Menorah Lighting and Blessings**

Bring your menorah & candles & we'll light together

**\* Shabbat Candle Lighting and Blessings**

**\* Chanukah singing (with BIMAS and the BI Chorus)**

**6:30 p.m.**

**\*Dinner**

Sandwiches and sufganiyot provided;  
Please bring potluck salads

**7:30 p.m.**

**\*Ma'ariv Service Around the Table**

So that we have enough chairs & food

RSVP at this link: [Chanukah Dinner](#)

(or to [mikayla.losanowych@bethisraelmedia.org](mailto:mikayla.losanowych@bethisraelmedia.org))



Rabbi Nathan attended the Memorial Scrolls Trust Gathering honoring Holocaust scrolls rescued from Czechoslovakia



Beth Israel's Survivor Scroll



[goodpurpose.org/shapes-in-space-cata-retrospective/](http://goodpurpose.org/shapes-in-space-cata-retrospective/)

### SATURDAY MORNINGS

December 2	Rabbi Nathan	Gershon Scholem
January 6	Rabbi Ilyse Kramer	Franz Rosenzweig
February 3	Rabbi Helen Plotkin	Abravanel

9:45 Services 11:45 Kiddush & potluck lunch Torah Treks 12:30 – 2:00

Each program is independent. Come for all the sessions or attend selectively. There is no charge for lunch or the study sessions and RSVPs are not necessary. Whether you are able to attend services or not, whether or not you are able to contribute to the pot-luck, whether or not you've engaged the texts before, you are welcome to come for lunch & study. Streaming will be available.

Teachers and topics TBA

NEW!

BEIT MIDRASH - Text Study with a teacher and a study partner (bring one or find one there.)

In the sanctuary

7:30 - 9:30

3rd Wednesdays October - May

Once a month we'll get together in the sanctuary for some old fashioned learning on contemporary issues. Our rabbinic intern, Nora Chernov, will be the main teacher but our Rabbis and members of our congregation will also teach. Following some introductory remarks, we'll sit and study with a chevruta (study partner), exploring translations of fascinating and relevant texts. On October 18 Nora and R. Linda will lead an exploration of Collective and Individual Responses to Climate Change through texts from Torah portion *Noach*. If there are topics or texts that you'd like to explore, please send your ideas to [R. Linda](#), [Nora Chernov](#), or [Marion Hamermesh](#).

### The Torah of Now: Challenge and Response

What guidance does Jewish tradition give us for thinking about some of today's most difficult issues? Stay tuned to hear about selected Friday night services that will include a speaker and discussion that will bring wisdom to our understanding of a challenge of contemporary life.

### In the Senior Rabbi's Study

*Meditation and Text - An Alternative Spiritual Practice*

December 1 We will gather at 2:15 and begin at 2:30

These sessions will take place in the sanctuary on weekday afternoons and begin with a word of Torah to ground the practice. Come explore mindfulness through a Jewish lens. If you are able, **RSVP to Rabbi Linda**.

Also in the planning stages:  
The Annual Raz Lecture

Opportunities to talk about Israel

*Mussar (closed group but... interested? Please contact Rabbi Linda for more information)*

Thursday December 14 . at 12:30

The 3rd Thursday of each month September - June

### Learning with Rabbi Richard Hirsh

3 Thursdays in 2024 on Zoom details tba

The Adult Education Committee supports the work of the Anti-Racism Co-ordinating Committee (p 10) and the Beth Israel Green Torah Group (p 12)

Are you interested in helping to plan and implement Adult Ed at BI? Please contact [marion@hamermesh.com](mailto:marion@hamermesh.com)



<b>Mourner</b>	<b>Mourning</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Yahrzeit 2023</b>	<b>Yahrzeit 5784</b>
Richard Strauss	Erna Strauss	Mother	December 02	19 Kislev
Adam Alper	Helene Alper	Grandmother	December 03	20 Kislev
Joshua Waterston	Nat Waterston	Grandfather	December 03	20 Kislev
Gwen Miriam Sigler	Miles Harold Sigler, M.D.	Father	December 05	22 Kislev
Dr. Larrye Loss	Genevieve Loss	Mother	December 05	22 Kislev
Rae Roeder	Florence Aberman	aunt	December 05	22 Kislev
Vitali Eskenazi	Klara Eskenazi	Mother	December 05	22 Kislev
Judy Goodrobb	Leon Goodman	Father	December 06	23 Kislev
Lydia Kendis	David Kendis	Grandfather	December 06	23 Kislev
Sarah Amundsen	Jennifer St. John	aunt	December 07	24 Kislev
Deborah Dymond Markman	Leslie Dymond	Mother	December 10	27 Kislev
Mary Ellen Maatman	Gerald Maatman	Father	December 10	27 Kislev
Linda Potemken	Marcia Feldman*	Friend	December 12	29 Kislev
Linda Cohen	Burton Cohen	husband	December 12	29 Kislev
Benjamin Arnold	Noah Arnold*	Brother	December 12	29 Kislev
Samuel Arnold	Noah Arnold*	Brother	December 12	29 Kislev
Zachary Arnold	Noah Arnold*	Brother	December 12	29 Kislev
Reisa Mukamal	Noah Arnold*	Son	December 12	29 Kislev
Steven Arnold	Noah Arnold*	Son	December 12	29 Kislev
Susan Robinson	Norman Robinson	Father	December 13	1 Tevet
Gwen Miriam Sigler	Anna Aser	Grandmother	December 14	2 Tevet
Marilyn Drukin	Franya Lichtman*	Mother	December 15	3 Tevet
Deborah Erie	Elsie Magnus	Grandmother	December 16	4 Tevet
Jeremy Loomis	Ruth Loomis	Grandparent	December 17	5 Tevet
Deborah Erie	Samuel D. Erie	Father	December 17	5 Tevet
Steve Plotkin	Murray Plotkin	Father	December 18	6 Tevet
Ronald Levine	Morton Levine	Father	December 19	7 Tevet
Jeremy Loomis	Chantal Loomis	Sister	December 21	9 Tevet
Susan Meyer	Lois Sauve	Mother	December 21	9 Tevet
Joyce Romoff	Jessica Miriam Weizer	Niece	December 22	10 Tevet
Kevin Nash	Myrtle Nash	Mother	December 24	12 Tevet
Randi Raskin Nash	Myrtle Nash	Mother-in-law	December 24	12 Tevet
Richard Block	Jack Block	Father	December 25	13 Tevet
Andrea Bruno	Rita Pollinger	Mother	December 25	13 Tevet
Philip Mansky	Joseph Mansky	Father	December 25	13 Tevet
Samuel Starker	Hyman Starker	Father	December 26	14 Tevet
David Cashell	Charles Naylor	Stepfather	December 26	14 Tevet
Joshua Waterston	Warren Reier	Uncle	December 31	19 Tevet

\*after a name indicates that there is a plaque.

Yahrzeit begins at sundown the evening before the date shown.





### General Fund

*Lynn and David Cashell* in honor of Andy Coleman's retirement, from Lynn and David Cashell.  
*Debbie Wile and Karen Giglio*

### Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

*Katherine Sibley and Joe Horwitz* in honor of Rissa and Stan's 60th Wedding Anniversary! xox Katie and Joe.  
*Ryan Platt*, in gratitude to Rabbi Linda for all she has done up to and including officiating at his wedding.  
*Deanie Heller*

### Torah Fund

*Laura Lee Blechner and Chris Pragman* in memory of Marion Finkelman, beloved mother of Natalie Finkelman Bennett.  
May her memory be a blessing and comfort to you, Andy, Lucas, and the whole family.  
*Laura Lee Blechner and Chris Pragman* in memory of Helene Gumerman, beloved mother of Susan Robinson.  
May her memory be a blessing and a comfort to you, Ross, Nora, and the whole family. From  
*Laura Lee Blechner and Chris Pragman* in memory of Selma Squires, beloved mother of Emily Squires Levine.  
May her memory be a blessing and comfort to you, Ron, Anna, Phillip, and your whole family..

We send our condolences to Susan Robinson and family on the passing of her mother Helene Gumerman, a BI member.

We send our condolences to all the families in Israel who are mourning the losses of the October 7th attack and its aftermath.

REFUAH SHLEIMAH There are many in the BI family in need of healing. Our blessings go out to everyone in need of refuah - healing of body and/or healing of spirit. Join us at Shabbat or weekday services where we pray for healing.

Please be sure to let the Rabbis know when you or someone in the congregation is in need of a blessing for healing.

*Your generous support not only enables Beth Israel to provide a robust variety of programs that foster the spiritual needs of our community, your support also enhances our ability to bring about tikkun olam through our social action initiatives. Your generosity is appreciated now more than ever. Please consider honoring a friend or a loved one through a contribution to any of our designated funds.*

*DID YOU KNOW... if you're going to make a contribution by check to a restricted fund, like the Rabbi's Discretionary or Social Action Funds, that it's better for you (and for us), if you make your check payable to "Congregation Beth Israel of Media." You can always note any special purpose for the contribution in the memo line of your check. Why? "Congregation Beth Israel" is the correct payee. Also, by noting the special purpose, if any, on your check, we can make absolutely certain that your donation is directed to the appropriate fund, your account is properly credited, and your end-of-year tax letter is accurate. Like you, the rabbis, administrative staff, directors and officers of BI are absolutely committed to making certain your donation is put to its intended purpose. Please help us help you to make certain that happens. Thank you.*

**FINANCIAL HARDSHIP?** For those of you who may need some assistance for your small business or other financial issues that have arisen from the pandemic, consider consulting the following resources: The Hebrew Free Loan Society of Philadelphia: <https://hflphilly.org/> Grants, loans, other resources: [jewishtgether.org](http://jewishtgether.org) run by the Jewish Federations of North America.

ARCC will continue to support the community in the monthly practice of learning, through sending out monthly modules that people can engage with individually or with a study buddy (chevruta). The module will go out 10 days in advance.

ARCC is exploring ways in which BI might partner with other groups on engaging in the issue of criminal justice as a focus for our antiracism work this year. Look for more opportunities to learn about this.

ARCC supports our partnership with FUSE.



Friday February 9, at 7:30 services, guest  
rabbinical student Koach Baruch Frasier

Saturday January 13, 7:00 pm  
followed by discussion and socializing.

ARCC is presenting **13th** as part of our ongoing anti-racism work. The movie is an in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality.

Trailer link: <https://www.themoviedb.org/video/play?key=K6IXQbXPO3l>

BI is taking the lead to expose "hard history."

Presented with the **Anti-Racism Coordinating Committee**

### **ANTIRACISM DISCUSSIONS THE EXPLORATIONS CONTINUE**



JUSTICE, JUSTICE YOU SHALL PURSUE  
DEUTERONOMY 16:20

BI CONVERSATIONS ON ANTIRACISM

Please check your email for the modules that are delivered to your inbox. Each module includes a Jewish text, an antiracism resource and several questions to contemplate. The material is sent for you to explore at your convenience. The community will then gather on zoom for a facilitated discussion of the module, 7-10 days after you first receive it.

The next module will be in March since there are these activities in January and February.

*How would you like BI to engage in this work? To share your thoughts or for more information contact any member of the ARCC - Harry Chen, Deb Erie, Michael Fishkow (chair), Julie Mayer, Katie Sibley, Rabbi Linda.*

**Harry Chen has succeeded Louis Friedler as CEI tutoring coordinator.** Louis was instrumental in setting up and maintaining the successful after-school tutoring program. Harry will work with Whitney Wright, the new CEI education leader. Harry will continue his tutoring and maintain contact with other tutors and CEI staff.

**On Monday, October 30, SAC delivered** delicious entrees, pasta dishes, vegetables, salads, hard boiled eggs, desserts, and even Halloween treat bags to the clients at the Life Center of Delaware County in Upper Darby. Organizer Lynn Cashell our cooks, bakers, and candy makers: John Greenstine, Lois Deutsch, Jane Laffend, Reisa Mukamal, Mark Rosenberg, Kathy Fink, Lydia Kendis, Elaine Feldman, Candy Berlin, Carol Briselli, Katie Sibley, Deb Erie, Randi Raskin Nash, Linda Cohen, Marilyn Verbits, Judy Kinman, Amy Strauss, Larrye Loss, and Judy Goodrob. Many thanks to Joe Deutsch who delivered the food and also helped to serve some of it.

**SAC finished its successful High Holidays Food Drive** with a huge windfall of food from our congregants. We coordinated with the Jewish Federation and its Mitzvah Pantry effort, which also requested grocery cards. We gathered nearly 100 bags of food and \$600 in grocery cards, all going to the Media Food Bank. Ala Hamilton Day coordinated this effort.

**A Better Start for Babies** is launching its 2023-2024 campaign, following its successful program this year, supplying its goal of 150 bags of vital baby supplies. SAC members Julie Mayer, Judy Kinman, Susan Klein, Carol Briselli and John Greenstine are working with Lisa Karlin of Ohev Shalom's SAC and ChesPenn development officer Tamara Fox to review, update and launch our plans, which include reaching 200 bags or more in 2024.

### Annual Winter Coat Drive

Drop off dates:

Sunday, November 19, 11 am – 1:30 pm

Sunday, December 3, 11 am – 1:30 pm

Please look through your closets for winter wear items for men, women and children who really need our help to stay warm. Bring your clean and gently used items – or new things – to BI on Sunday, 11/19 or 12/3. The donated clothing will be delivered to the Chester Eastside Ministries, which has been the recipient of past BI coat drives.

**\*\* Chester Eastside has specifically asked for children's coats in sizes 2t, 3t, 4t, 5-6, 7-8, 10-12, 14-16 up to a size XL for girls and boys \*\***

If you have any questions, please email  
[natalia\\_lz@yahoo.com](mailto:natalia_lz@yahoo.com)

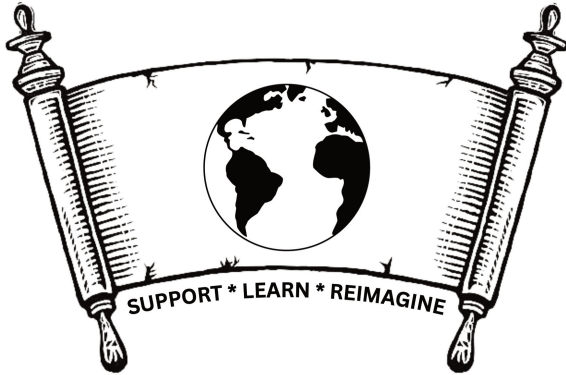
Thank you all for your help!  
Bowen-Zhukovskaya Family



Please remember to donate personal care items and toiletries for the homeless shelters and the Community Action Agency. The collection box is on the main floor, under the coat rack. Thank you –



## BETH ISRAEL'S GREEN TORAH GROUP



As we face climate change, overshoot, inequity, and many other global challenges, participate in Beth Israel's new Green Torah group to:

- ✿ Exchange mutual support
- ✿ Deepen our understanding of the current predicament
- ✿ Imagine ways to move towards a peaceful, sustainable future

Each session will be lead by one of our BI rabbis and Robin Schaufler

First Sundays, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

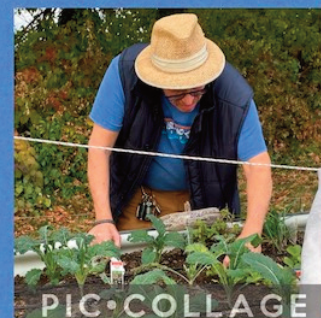
October 8, November 5, December 3

For more information, contact Robin Schaufler

E: [robin@likethebird.com](mailto:robin@likethebird.com) c: 650-906-1784



## BI Community Garden





November 5 was a very busy day at BI. The Green Torah group met and the Chorus r rehearsed.

Earlier in the day, a hardworking crew (Jackie, Dave, and Candy) worked on the lovely garden that surrounds the new sign.



While this terrific trio was tending to the flowers, the Hebrew School students were playing a lively soccer game on the same front lawn

Photo of this inaugural soccer game by Jessie Regan Mann



### **The BI Community Garden continues to thrive!**

Thanks to a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, we were able to add a 4th raised bed, an irrigation system, fencing, and more vegetable plants.

The produce has been donated to the Media Food Bank and members have used some of it to prepare meals for the food services sponsored by the Social Action Committee.

David Cashell, gardener

We had 2 Tot Shabbat events in November, our regular monthly Friday evening gathering on November 9 and an informal playtime on Saturday, November 18. It was so nice to spend Shabbat with old friends and new, and to celebrate the naming of Miriam Davidson Wolf with her family and our community.

This month we're also partnering with the Kaiserman JCC to bring their "J on the Way" program to BI. We're hosting their Storytime & Crafts with Emma on November 30 from 5:30-6:30. It's \$8 per child. Register at [phillyjcc.com/jontheway](https://phillyjcc.com/jontheway)

In December our Tot Shabbat program will be on Friday, December 8, when we'll join the rest of the congregation for a Hanukkah celebration.



## SAVE THE DATE

February 13 6:30

Dinner & Courageous Conversation

Topic: The Ohev Shalom connection to historical Chester race riots

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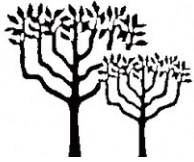
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GROCERY CARDS ARE IN STOCK AT BETH ISRAEL —YES! I shop at Acme or Giant and I'm happy to purchase gift cards through BI! (for every card purchased, BI receives \$5 - it adds up and makes a difference!) Let Mikayla know if you'd like to purchase some. Phone 610-566-4645 or send her an email: [mikayla.losanowych@bethisraelmedia.org](mailto:mikayla.losanowych@bethisraelmedia.org)



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>26</b> Kislev 13 Thanksgiving Break - No Hebrew School	<b>27</b> Kislev 14	<b>28</b> Kislev 15 7:00pm Membership Committee Meeting (On Zoom)	<b>29</b> Kislev 16 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	<b>30</b> Kislev 17	<b>1</b> Kislev 18 4:19pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Service (On Zoom with Rabbi Nathan)	<b>2</b> Kislev 19 Vayishlach 9:45am Shabbat Service (In Person with Rabbi Nathan) 11:45am Shabbat Potluck Lunch 12:30pm Torah Treks Study 5:27pm Havdalah
<b>3</b> Kislev 20 9:30am Hebrew School Session 10:00am Executive Committee Meeting (on Zoom) 10:00am Gan Session 1:00pm Green Torah	<b>4</b> Kislev 21	<b>5</b> Kislev 22 4:00pm Strategic Planning Meeting (on Zoom)	<b>6</b> Kislev 23 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	<b>7</b> Kislev 24 Erev Chanukah	<b>8</b> Kislev 25 Chanukah 4:19pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Tot Shabbat (In Person - Hanukkah Theme) 6:30pm Community Shabbat/Chanukah Dinner 7:30pm Chanukah/Shabbat Celebration led by Rabbi Linda (in person)	<b>9</b> Kislev 26 Chanukah Shabbat Mevarchim Vayeshev 9:45am Shabbat Service (On Zoom with Rabbi Linda) 5:27pm Havdalah
<b>10</b> Kislev 27 Chanukah 9:30am Mitzvah Mail Program 10:00am Mechina Session 10:15am Board of Directors Meeting (in person) 1:00pm Chorus Rehearsal with Alicia DePaolo (in sanctuary)	<b>11</b> Kislev 28 Chanukah	<b>12</b> Kislev 29 Chanukah 7:00pm Israeli Dancing (in person)	<b>13</b> Tevet 1 Chanukah Rosh Chodesh Tevet 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	<b>14</b> Tevet 2 Chanukah 12:00pm FUSE Steering Committee with Rabbi Linda (closed group) 12:30pm Mussar with Rabbi Linda in person (closed group; contact Rabbi Linda for more information)	<b>15</b> Tevet 3 Chanukah 9:30am Religious Practices Committee Meeting (on Zoom) 4:20pm Candle Lighting 7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Nathan (on Zoom)	<b>16</b> Tevet 4 Miketz 9:45am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Nathan (in person) 5:28pm Havdalah
<b>17</b> Tevet 5 9:30am Hebrew School - Learning About Shabbat 10:00am Congregational Meeting (in person in the sanctuary) 12:30pm Rosh Chodesh Meeting (in the Green House)	<b>18</b> Tevet 6	<b>19</b> Tevet 7 7:00pm Membership Committee Meeting (On Zoom)	<b>20</b> Tevet 8 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom) 7:30pm ADULT ED TEXT STUDY: BEIT MIDRASH in the sanctuary with a teacher and a study partner. 3:45 Meditation in the sanctuary	<b>21</b> Tevet 9	<b>22</b> Tevet 10 Fast of Tevet 4:22pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Fourth Friday Shabbat Celebration	<b>23</b> Tevet 11 Vayigash 9:45am Shabbat at Home (at home and offline) 5:31pm Havdalah
<b>24</b> Tevet 12	<b>25</b> Tevet 13	<b>26</b> Tevet 14	<b>27</b> Tevet 15 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom) 7:30pm SAC Meeting (on Zoom)	<b>28</b> Tevet 16	<b>29</b> Tevet 17 4:27pm Candle Lighting	<b>30</b> Tevet 18 Vayeichi 9:45am Shabbat Service led by Meira Pitkapaasi, Randi Raskin Nash, and Andy Coleman (on Zoom) 5:36pm Havdalah
<b>31</b> Tevet 19	<b>1</b> Tevet 20	<b>2</b> Tevet 21 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting (on Zoom)	<b>3</b> Tevet 22 8:30am Morning Spiritual Practice (on Zoom)	<b>4</b> Tevet 23	<b>5</b> Tevet 24 4:33pm Candle Lighting	<b>6</b> Tevet 25 Shabbat Mevarchim Shemot 9:45am Shabbat Service (in person) 11:45am Potluck Shabbat Lunch 12:30pm Torah Treks Study 5:42pm Havdalah



***Congregation Beth Israel of Media***  
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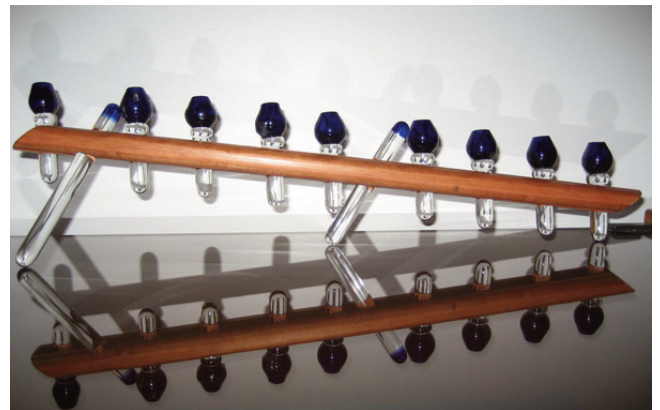
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The Israelight is published on the first of each secular month. All submissions must be received by the editor by the 15th of the preceding month to guarantee inclusion. Articles may be submitted by mail to the synagogue office or by email to:

[Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org](mailto:Israelight@bethisraelmedia.org)

Next Issue: December - Deadline: **December 15**



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