



Chai Lights

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Rabbi's Message

Heroic Stories Have Meaning Today

By Rabbi David Lerner

Over the span of this publication, we will celebrate two major holidays on the Jewish calendar: Purim and Pesach/Passover. As indicated by their proximity, these two festivals have much in common. First, they both start with the letter “p,” which may seem trivial, but the Hebrew letter “pay” comes from the Hebrew word *peh*, which means mouth. Something that makes these holidays uniquely similar is that the rabbis mandated for us to read their stories out loud. For Passover, we read of our Exodus from Egypt out of our worn and wine-stained Haggadahs, and for Purim, we read about the heroic story of Esther out of the Megillah. More than any of the other holidays, the *stories* of Purim and Pesach are foundational to our Jewish identity. So, what is it about these stories?? Well, thank you for asking!

The narratives of both Purim and Pesach fall within a genre common to the Jewish experience through the ages: “they tried to kill us, we won... let’s eat.” This repeated theme is both tragic and triumphant—we Jews have quite the complicated and challenging ethos holding these two conflicting emotions, but we somehow make it work. Perhaps this is why there are so many Jewish psychologists... but by holding up these two holiday narratives, we are expected to connect with both our oppression *and* our salvation. Sometimes, depending on our circumstances when we celebrate these holidays, it is easier to connect with one or the other. It seems that in recent times, and particularly since the horrors of October 7th, we are faced with a round of tough challenges. We are confronted by both **Haman** – the genocidal maniacs calling themselves Hamas and the Islamic Republic of Iran who just want to see us wiped out, and Pharaoh – the force of systemic antisemitism that has been allowed to take hold in mainstream society as it did back in Egypt.

By celebrating the upcoming holidays, we are given a blessing, a unique opportunity. While being provided the space to connect with our collective fear and shock over the decline of society to this point, we speak and sing a message of hope. As we read at the seder table, והיא שעמדה לאבותינו... *v’hee she’amda lavoteinu* – that in every generation a threat has risen against us, yet **every time** – every time – we have prevailed. Accordingly, it is taught that King Solomon used to wear a ring with an acronym on it that stood for the phrase: gam zeh ya’avor: “this too shall pass.” But while we are here, in this moment in time, we must acknowledge our power to be like Queen Esther and use our voice and whatever strength we have, to fight and change society for the better. We must also have the **commitment** to put our differences aside like the Jews of Shushan and unite for this common cause – there is both comfort and strength in a community standing together. I encourage everyone to join the temple initiatives through which we are taking a stand against the threats to our community. And lastly, we must have the **faith** of Nachshon, the Israelite prince in the Exodus story who dove right into the Sea even before it split. For he knew, despite all the fear induced by Pharaoh’s approaching army, that G-d’s covenant with the Jewish people could never be broken. Even when things look desperate, and when the pain is real, through our **power, commitment, and faith** - *gam zeh ya’avor* – we will prevail. We must say out loud and proud with our *peh*: *Am Yisrael chai!* The Jewish people are strong and will certainly persevere.

May it be a joyous and hopeful dual holiday season for us all.

President's Message

Volunteerism is for Everyone. You Just Need to Find Your Perfect Fit.

By Nancy Hochhauser, President

"A handful of people do everything," says leadership of most organizations when asked how they recruit new volunteers.

Volunteering can be a fulfilling and meaningful experience at Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David. It's normal to feel apprehensive at first but then you quickly feel like you're contributing to the health and well-being of the temple and a "volunteer high" comes over you. And you're hooked! Sometimes you just need a little push, like I had back in 2012 when I was approached to be a Sisterhood co-president. At first, I was overwhelmed but quite honestly today when I look back I was grateful that I was asked.

Volunteerism is for everyone, you just need to find the perfect fit for your unique strengths and talents. You don't need to be the general manager or coach (unless you want to be), but being an active part of a team (committee) can be a very rewarding experience because you help to make things happen.

Do you love writing, editing or are great at follow up and nudging people to meet their article deadlines? **Then joining the *Chai Lights* staff is the perfect fit for YOU.** Please contact Ellis Simon at ellisbobsimon@gmail.com.

Do you love using design software to create invitations or flyers for other organizations? What about brainstorming on the most effective ways to distribute information more effectively and efficiently? Do you have the skills to update websites or know how to create and post content on social media to reach specific target audiences? **Then the Communications Committee is the perfect fit for YOU.** Please contact Jonathan Winderman at jwind9@yahoo.com.

Do you love throwing dinner parties or planning special family events from soup to nuts? Do you like finding the best deals, schlepping, creating seating charts and researching new kosher food options? **Then the Events Committee is the perfect fit for YOU.** Please contact Elisa Matas Skolnick at mskoln4130@aol.com.

Do you love spotting the misspelled words on a restaurant menu? **Then the Memorial Book Committee is the perfect fit for YOU.** Please contact Nanci Moskowitz at nancim Moskowitz@yahoo.com.

Do you love seeing the fruits of your labor? Do you enjoy contributing ideas in a group setting with the ultimate goal of raising money for the synagogue? **Then the Fundraising Committee is the perfect fit for YOU.** Please contact Barry Silverman at bjsilver@optonline.net.

Do you enjoy sharing your love of reading with others? Do you enjoy learning new things? Are you a great researcher who enjoys finding fun and unusual things to do in your spare time? **Then the Sunday Morning Breakfast Committee is the perfect fit for YOU.** Please contact Sheldon Grossman at msg6565@aol.com.

Do you enjoy driving morning, noon and night and aspire to be an Uber driver? **Then the NEW Mitzvah Mobile Committee is the perfect fit for YOU.** Please contact Nancy Hochhauser at nancycbsbd@gmail.com.

Donating your time is good for the soul. It helps to fight loneliness, makes you happy, helps you build a community, try new things and maybe even find your purpose in life. Hop on board the "Volunteer High" journey. I promise that you won't be disappointed.

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Comments & suggestions encouraged. Newsletter articles 350 words or less accepted in Microsoft Word. Send to cbsbdooffice@gmail.com
Attention: Ellis Simon

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Breach

By Jonathan Winderman, Communications Committee Chair

Back in October, the genealogy site **23andMe** announced a data breach of their site. The company issued a statement that the breach occurred sometime between May and September 2023 and that they were working with a third-party forensic team and federal law enforcement to investigate the breach. What they did not disclose until mid-January was that the hackers appeared to deliberately target people with Ashkenazi Jewish or Chinese heritage. This was not a small breach either. Hackers gained access to 6.9 million users' data, about half of 23andMe's customer database.

We live in a world where not a week goes by where we don't hear of some significant data breach, often from large retail chains or financial institutions. However, this one seems more ominous. The same day the breach was made public, **Wired** reported that data, including names and home addresses of over one million people with Jewish ancestry and 100,000 with Chinese ancestry, had been posted on a hacking forum

days earlier. The report added that the information was being sold for amounts between \$1 and \$10.

A victim of this breach who has filed a lawsuit against **23andMe**, who discovered he had Ashkenazi heritage last year through the site, is worried that he may now become a target since antisemitic acts have spiked since the Israel-Gaza war. In an increasingly digital age, where almost every aspect of daily life is run by computers, is it time to worry? Is it really as Kanye West would say "Death Con 3 on Jewish People?" I don't think so. There are always bad people looking to do harm on the dark web. The internet is filled with the vilest elements of our society. Both The California Attorney General's office and the FBI are investigating, which is a good thing, because hackers survive by anonymity and the combination of law enforcement and civil suits should help bring them to justice. *In the meantime, change your passwords.*

Shinshin Shira

Our Israeli Ambassador

Our Israeli ambassador this year has been Shira Yaron who has been working with the JLC to share her experiences and feelings for her homeland with our children and shul, popping up at Saturday morning services to give the congregation an update on what is happening in her country.

Shira lives in Tel-Mond, a small town in the center of Israel. She likes to do sports of all kinds – running, surfing, volleyball and gymnastics. She has also been playing the guitar for six years and is about to finish her ninth year in the Scouts. During the past year in Israel, she was a counselor to 9th graders and conveyed her Jewish values to them.

Shira has three siblings: Maya, Ori and Yonathan. She says they have the most amazing special bond and that they are all best friends. When she was a year old, her family relocated to Vancouver, Canada for seven years, then returned to Israel. Thanks to the relocation, she speaks English fluently, but never lost her Hebrew. Shira says that she fell in love with Israel's uniqueness, views, culture and people which she freely shares with us. Thank you, Shira, for being part of CBS-BD this past year.

Chanukah Party Featured Food, Raffles and Fun

By Helene Parsons

The 2nd annual Rockville Centre Menorah Lighting took place on Thursday, December 7 on the Village Green.

The JLC sang songs accompanied by Sha Batzby on guitar and Cantor Xan. Malina Micillo played Hatikvah on the violin. Immediately following the menorah lighting, over 80 congregants and friends came back to the temple and enjoyed sandwiches from Ben's, latkes, salads and jelly donuts. Many thanks to Elisa Matas Skolnick and her Events Committee for all of their hard work putting the party together.

The celebration featured raffles, with a Chanukah theme, including toys, games, wrapping paper and dreidels. A 55" Samsung TV, donated by Home Appliance in Oceanside, and the coveted parking spot were auctioned off by Rabbi Lerner. The night also featured an ugly sweater contest and entertainment by DJ Pace.



The JLC Takes Root For Tu B'Shvat

By Brandon Melendez, JLC School Board Chairperson

In January, the students of our Jewish Learning Center at Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David branched out from Passover Seders to Tu B'Shvat Seders. During our Tu B'Shvat Seder, students learned all about the New Year of the Trees and our budding young congregants really had the opportunity to show how much their Yiddishkeit has been blossoming. The students were able to plant parsley, which might be used in that other seder you may have heard of and then blew bubbles with their wishes for a fruitful New Year for the trees.

The entire event was truly unbe-leaf-able and was produced by several people we would like to thank. Nanci Moskowitz and Sha Batzby procured the food for the event, while Principal Nina Pasternack provided the soil, pots, parsley seeds and bubbles. A special thanks also to the Jewish National Fund who provided us with the haggadahs. Additionally, JNF had trees planted in the



Children's Forest in Israel in honor of each of our JLC students, sponsored by CBS-BD and Rabbi Lerner. Each child received a certificate to mark this donation. The JLC students sent a beautiful thank you card illustrated by JLC volunteer Ayla Melendez and a \$36 donation to the Rockville Centre JNF in gratitude for their support. Looking towards the future, we cannot mask our excitement for the upcoming festivities for Purim! We won't tell you the whole megillah now but our kids are working hard on a shpiel to steal the show and have our whole community swinging from the rafters with joy.

Our JLC is always looking to grow, not just on Tu B'Shvat, so if you have a friend, child, grandchild who is looking for a wonderful, fun, and ruach-filled Jewish learning experience, please reach out to enroll them in our Jewish Learning Center by contacting Principal Nina Pasternack at jlcpincipalcbsbd@gmail.com.


Kiddush Committee

By Nanci Moskowitz and the Kiddush Committee

Hello My Fellow Congregants,

I am writing this article to say: Come sponsor a Kiddush!

Each week after Shabbat services we spend a relaxed and friendly time enjoying good food and conversation. Sponsorship is available for a donation of \$100 to CBS-BD plus the cost of food. Dairy, meat, Chinese, Italian, sushi and more are all available. We would love to see you and share your simcha. You can sponsor any event: birthday, anniversary, baby naming, etc. Also, you can sponsor a Shabbat service because we are most fortunate to have a beautiful synagogue to daven in with a wonderful rabbi, cantor, Torah reader and the friendliest of congregants. Just call the temple office and arrange a date. We will do the rest. Thank you for participating, and we look forward to schmoozing with you soon.

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Sisterhood Programming Delivers

By Tracey Simon, Co-President

Each year, Sisterhood promises programming that runs the gamut from fundamental to fun, and so far, we are delivering, much to the delight of our members. Author Meryl Ain came for a visit on November 19 to discuss her latest book, *Shadows We Carry*, a sequel to *The Takeaway Men*. She also commented on the current state of antisemitism.

We joined with five other regional Sisterhoods for the annual joint program via Zoom on November 28. This year's program was an "Israel Night," featuring Israeli-American comic and author Joel Chasnoff. Because of everyone's interest in what was going on in Israel post-October 7, Joel opened with a discussion of current events, then segued to a humorous personal look of Israeli life.

On December 4 we celebrated with our paid-up membership dinner in the Knesset Room. Nearly fifty members dined on a delicious Asian-Fusion buffet, arranged by Caryn Morgenbesser, assisted by Elisa Matas-Skolnick. After dinner, we honored Ashley Presser with this year's Torah Fund pin for her work



Mentalist Josh Kurzban and Tracey Simon, Sisterhood Co-President appreciating the support of sisterhood members

organizing and updating our Judaica Shop. Then we marveled at the mind-bending performance of mentalist Josh Kurzban.

Our thoughts turned back to the situation in Israel on January 25 when Sisterhood co-sponsored a program with the **Never Again Committee** with guest speaker

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Good and Welfare

By Jill Kaplan

Happy Birthday: Jay Abrahams, Charles Abrams, Jules Abramson, Jay Adler, Susan Adler, Stephanie Ausubel, Marilyn Barry, Sha Batzby, Alan Berman, Ilene Brodman, Barbara Brooks, Talia Brooks, Ira Casson, Andrew Cohen, Nancy Cohen, Gary Cohen, Barbara Colodner, Sherie Coyner, Cyd Disler, Judith Faltischek, Jeffrey Feil, Dan Freedman, CeCe Friedman, Jack Friedman, Mel Friedman, Dr. Steven Friedman, Maxine Geller, Barry Goldberg, Marla Goldberg, Alyce Goodstein, Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein, Naomi Goodstein, Dayna Greenberg, Jason Greenberg, Joel Greenberg, Dr. Martin Greenberg, Linda Grossman, Sheldon Grossman, Dr. Neil Hammerman, Barry Hochhauser, Judy Hoenig, Steven Kanowitz, Michael Karp, Bruce Katz, Sheila Kendal, Emil Kesselman, David King, Ilene Knobel, Steven Lander, Dr. Ian Lerner, Jesse Levine, Lily Levine, Lawrence Levine, Martin Levine, Andrew Levy, Myra Levy, William Lieberman, Sheryl Lilienthal, Heidi Lobelson, Sandy Lobelson, Lisa

Mack, Sherie McBrien, Alexander Micillo, Kala Micillo, Steven Milberg, Audrey Milk, Lawrence Mlawski, Carrie Moffett, Nanci Moskowitz, Ezra Presser, Rhoda Ralph (95!), Donna Redler, Michelle Reinharz, Howard Rubenstein, Robin Sackstein, Connie Salwen, Ira Salwen, Jane Scherer, Bruce Schreiber, Carol Schulz, Linda Schwartz, Nancy Schwartz, Sonia Schwartz, Mindy Shenker, Michael Sherr, Barry Silverman, Judith Silverman, Elisa Matas Skolnick, Karen Skolnick, Mark Skolnick, Muriel Levine Smith (98!), David Strahl, Howard Stein, Joan Sidney, Gloria Lynn Turetz, Leon Vilinsky, Rita Vilinsky, Allen Weiser, Douglas Wikle, Darnell Williams, Deborah Magnus-Williams, Elliot Winter, Joanne Wikle, Lise Zeloof.

Happy Anniversary: Barbara & Charles Abrams, Jay & Susan Adler, Alex & Cyd Disler, Hon. Jeffrey & Alyce Goodstein, Sy & Phyllis Entin, Robert & Francine Fish,

(continued on page 8)



What Makes Music Jewish?

By Cantor Weiser

Abridged from Shabbat Shira Sermon



A cantor's career is dedicated to Jewish music but...what actually makes music Jewish?

I think most would agree on a few quintessentially Jewish pieces right off the bat. The Shema. Debbie Friedman's Misheberach. Perhaps the instantly recognizable setting for Kol Nidre. The folk song Hava Negila. Adon Olam. These are just a few pieces that come to mind instantly. But is Springtime for Hitler more or less Jewish than a Carlebach Chassidic niggun? How about Adam Sandler's Chanukah Song? Speaking of which, is Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer not a disguised Chanukah song for the ages? It's about an ostracized reindeer who can't fit in because of his big nose but who transforms into a hero when he leads a pack of his eight reindeer adversaries from darkness into light... Now what about the 1897 Union Hymnal, the first musical prayer book of the Reform movement in America, which was translated almost entirely to English, written for four piece choral harmony and organ, and which contained almost no Jewish composers?

Ironically enough, out of all of these pieces listed, it was only The Hymnal that arose in synagogue due to a coordinated and intentional effort put forth by rabbis and Jewish thought leaders deciding what should be deemed Jewish. No surprise, Jewish music is as multi-faceted and wide-ranging as its people, who reflect an ever-evolving religion, ethnicity, culture, and so much more. As much as we love our "traditions," it's exceptionally rare to come across a piece of "traditional" music that has not undergone significant transformation from its original form, that is, if it's even possible to trace it back to an original form.

Case in point, the Shema was composed at a time (19th century) and place (Vienna) by a cantor (Salomon Sulzer) who strove to assert sophistication, creativity, and innovation into worship settings and have those superlatives be associated with Jewishness. It was, in fact, Sulzer who was the first to compose an entirely sung-through service for cantor and choir, a radical departure from the regular congregational davening. That was then. Now, the Shema reflects quiet yearning for peace and presence as it pertains to our relationship with ourselves and our connection with a higher force.

Debbie Friedman's Misheberach, too, was once considered radical; her music was initially not even intended for synagogue worship, but rather, it built steam in the 1970s within the Jewish camp and adult musical retreat scene, specifically in service of nurturing Jewish community and promoting accessibility into Jewish life outside of synagogue walls. At first, when it made its way into the synagogue along with (gasp!) the guitar, many people viewed her music as, at best, lowbrow, and at worst, dangerously anti-establishment. What a difference a few decades make.

Continuing down the list, the Kol Nidre prayer, for which the Erev Yom Kippur service is named, was actually banned from services in the early part of the 20th Century only to come back into the mainstream in the 1970s. It was banned for a multitude of reasons, primarily because it spooked non-Jews who perceived it an incantation, especially given its repetitive nature and the fact that G-d does not appear anywhere within the text. As such, the early editors of the prayer books likely didn't want to ruffle any feathers or cause concern. Now, it's an essential part of High Holiday practice.

Next, one of our most well known and beloved folk tunes, Hava Negila, rose to ubiquity from near obscurity. As Abraham Idelsohn, "Father of Jewish Musicology," tells the story, he was in pre-state Israel at the turn of the century, collecting melodies from immigrant communities in Jerusalem, and a particular melody from a Satmar Chassidic Ukrainian community caught his attention as an excellent match for an upcoming parade march. (As an aside, many of these Eastern European communities would set their beloved homeland melodies to Hebrew so as to solidify their new national identity.) This particular melody was slow and even a little haunting because of its pace but Idelsohn detected a certain catchiness within it so he gave it a rhythmic facelift and it indeed became joyful and exuberant when more upbeat. Seemingly overnight it became a hit with communities far and wide embracing it within synagogue and for their simchas.

Indeed, most Jewish music does not actually have origin entirely within the Jewish population. We are a people who appreciate a good musical borrow.

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Building Bridges Through Books Fighting Antisemitism Through Education

By Karen Skolnick, Chairperson Holocaust Book Drive, Never Again Committee

In 1945, when the gates of the concentration camps were opened, the world was horrified by the atrocities against six million Jews. A cry went out NEVER AGAIN! Now, with the surge of antisemitism throughout the world, it is critically imperative that we combat this insidious disease and surge of hate, born from ignorance of history, and declare “NEVER AGAIN!”

Out of this desperate need Congregation B’nai Sholom-Beth David formed the Never Again Committee. Research demonstrates that Holocaust education has significant positive effects in decreasing antisemitism and all forms of HATE. Using this research as a driving force, committee members contacted Superintendent Matthew Gaven of Rockville Centre Schools which led to very productive meetings with district administrators. As a result of this outreach, we have partnered with the school district to assist in the new enhanced Holocaust Education Curriculum as mandated by New York State laws. The school district has gratefully accepted a gift of up to \$15,000 for class sets of books selected by staff members to coordinate with the enhanced curriculum.

Books will be donated in Blessed Memory of individual Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust. Each child’s name, their history and where they perished will be detailed on a bookplate placed inside the covers

of the donated books. Our Hebrew School students will assist in attaching these information labels to each book. Congregants are encouraged to send information on children known to them and who they wish to be memorialized.

This project is a unique opportunity and can serve as a National Model for potential cooperation between synagogues and local school systems. Please support this vital endeavor by contributing to the Holocaust Book Drive and be as generous as you can. We thank those who have already so graciously contributed. Your contributions can help expand our efforts to other local school systems.

Education is the key as we BUILD BRIDGES THROUGH BOOKS. Books have always served as a bridge to knowledge, a bridge to understanding, a bridge to tolerance and forging a bridge to peace! Now, we need to take action to combat the significant surge of antisemitism, prejudice and hate and declare “NEVER AGAIN!”

***Note:** Rabbi Mier Kahani, American Orthodox rabbi educated in Israel, founder of the JDL, published “Never Again! A Program for Survival,” 1971*

Good and Welfare

(continued from page 6)

Dr. Brandon & Samantha Berman-Melendez, Marvin & Virginia Meyers, Ilyse & Steven Milberg, Dr. Ashley & Seth Presser, Howard & Deborah Rubenstein, Mark & Robin Sackstein, Bruce & Ronni Schreiber, Dr. Robert & Linda Schwartz, Ellis & Tracey Simon, Marcia & Richard Talesnick, Leon & Rita Vilinsky, Joanne & Douglas Wikle.

Get Well

Margaret Grossman, Linda Schwartz, Ethel Oppenheimer, Lawrence Levy, Rabbi Lerner and Robert Ames.

Condolences

To the Lazarowitz and Strauss families on the passing of our beloved longtime member, Sandy. May her name always be for a Blessing.

Mazel Tov

To Dr. Ashley & Seth Presser on their son Elias becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

To Ellis & Tracey Simon on the birth of their first grandchild: Samuel Herbert Blum, and to proud parents Emma Simon and Jonathan Blum.

Wishing you all a joyous Purim and Passover filled with family & love, good food & good friends.



Todah Rabah

By Connie Salwen & Pauline Gibney

Thank you for your cooperation in using the donation form printed in this newsletter, large sheets of paper or Yahrzeit cards when making your generous donations. The donation form is also available in the temple office. Please be sure to write legibly! Donations received after the list for this issue has been compiled will be included in the next issue of Chai Lights. Acknowledgements will be sent out immediately upon receipt of donation.

You can also make donations online at <https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/payment.php>. A list of funds and opportunities to support CBS-BD can be found at https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/support_opportunities

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IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

IN HONOR OF

Bar Mitzvah of Mark Wikle;

Ira Salwen filling in so well

in Shabbat services

Sharon & Jonathan Glickman

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy & Sheldon Lazarowitz

Linda Gold & Phyllis Gold Rosen

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Herb Friend for organizing

group to see *Harmony*

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Lisa & Larry Mack

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Receiving aliyah on Shabbat

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IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

Jane Scherer

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

IN HONOR OF

Rhoda Ralph's special birthday



Thank You - Todah Rabah

(Continued)

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

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Carol Schulz

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

Anne & Mel Siegel

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

Muriel Smith

IN MEMORY OF

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IN HONOR OF

Bar Mitzvah of Mark Wikle,
grandson of Ellen & Martin
Levine

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Richard Perl binder

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Rabbi's Fund

Lynn & Jay Abrahams

TZEDAKAH

Gary Bergman

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Lerner for his beautiful
words to our son Justin and
his fiancée

Claire Gordon

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Samuel Grossman;
Sister, Sylvia Lillian Perlmutter

Jay & Barbara Kaplan

TZEDAKAH

Ellen & Martin Levine

IN HONOR OF

Assisting in tying tzitzit for
our grandson Mark Wikle at
his Bar Mitzvah

Sheryl & Bart Lilienthal

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Florence Maslow;
Father, Irving Maslow

Jane Scherer

IN MEMORY OF

Husband, Bob Scherer

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Lerner's beautiful words
about Bob after my aliyah

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Mother, Susan Resnick;
Mother, Gloria Casson;
Father, Philip Resnick;
Sandy Lazarowitz



Thank You - Todah Rabah

(Continued)

Jean & Gary Cohen

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Herbert Cooks

Barbara & Michael Colodner

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Anne Colodner;

Father, Lee Colodner;

Father, Meyer Maltz

Cyd & Alex Disler

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Marshall Rosen;

Father, Louis Disler

Judith Eller

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Sophie Langer

Harlan Ellis

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Pearl Ellis

Bonnie Friedman

IN MEMORY OF

Husband, Keith Friedman

Sandy & Steven Friedman &

Family

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Mildred L. Goldman;

Father and grandfather,

William Friedman

Cece & Jack Friedman

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Isidore Greenspan

Dana & Mel Friedman

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Syd Friedman;

Friend, Robert Schwartz

Melissa Goldman

IN MEMORY OF

Grandmother, Sally Hackel;

Uncle, Murray Flender;

Grandmother, Fannie Goldman;

Grandfather, Myron Goldman

Joel Greenberg

IN MEMORY OF

Sister, Phyllis Greenberg

Judy & Martin Greenberg

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Esther Greenberg

Martin Greenberg

IN MEMORY OF

Wife, Joanne Greenberg

Alyssa & Arnold Greenwald

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Helen Greenwald;

Aunt, Jeanette Greenwald;

Father, Irving Greenwald

Linda & Bob Grossman

IN MEMORY OF

Grandfather, Isaac Pekarsky;

Father, Ben J. Goldstein;

Great-grandfather,

Abraham Pekarsky;

Cousin, Jay Lord;

Friend, Libby Kaufman;

Brother-in-law, Ken Krenzel;

Brother, Alan Goldstein;

Mother, Frances Grossman

Barbara & Jay Kaplan

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Irving Kaplan

Barbara Kotin

IN MEMORY OF

Husband, David Kotin

Ellen & Martin Levine

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Mildred Levine

Carol & Andrew Levy

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Paul Levy

Paul Levy

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Stanley Levy

Harvey Marx

IN MEMORY OF

Wife, Nancy Marx;

Mother-in-law, Lila Savada;

Grandmother, Ella Marx;

Mother, Erna Marx;

Father-in-law, Morton Savada;

Brother, Jeffrey Marx

Ginnie & Marvin Meyers

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Ray Meyers



Thank You - Todah Rabah

(Continued)

Vivian Mintzer

IN MEMORY OF

Husband, Robert Mintzer

Nanci Moskowitz

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Sylvia Chassen

Blumberg;

Aunt, Lillian Begun;

Aunt, Janice Kaye;

Grandmother, Rose Blumberg;

Grandfather, William Blumberg;

Father, Morton Blumberg

Ramon Musiker

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Anna Musiker

Judy Perlman

IN MEMORY OF

Mother-in-law, Ida Perlman;

Father, Max Salenson

Alice Purus

IN MEMORY OF

Daughter-in-law, Peri Lisa

Purus;

Father, Samuel Bolen

Rhoda Ralph

IN MEMORY OF

Daughter, Pamela Ralph Alkow;

Husband, Irwin Ralph

Margaret & Delroy Richards

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy & Sheldon Lazarowitz

Sheila Schneider

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Ruth Schoolsky

Vivian Simon

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Harry Stein

Muriel Levine Smith

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Barnett Zuckerman

Rita & Leon Vilinsky

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Max Traurig;

Sister, Ruth Kirsch

Davida Zener

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Samuel Axel;

Mother, Rosalind Axel

Jewish Learning Center

Sandy & Steven Friedman

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

IN HONOR OF

Sy Entin's milestone birthday;

Nancy Hochhauser, Elisa Matas

Skolnick & Chanukah Party

Committee for a wonderful

event;

95th birthday of Rhoda Ralph

Connie & Ira Salwen

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

IN HONOR OF

Birth of great-grandchild to

Cece & Jack Friedman;

95th birthday of Rhoda Ralph

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Richard Perl binder;

Linda Schwartz;

Ethel Oppenheimer

Joanne & Douglas Wikle

IN HONOR OF

Bar Mitzvah of Mark Wikle;

Principal Nina & JLC teachers

on occasion of Bar Mitzvah of

Mark Wikle;

Janet Jeddah on the occasion of

Bar Mitzvah of Mark Wikle

Kiddush Fund

Melissa Goldman

IN HONOR OF

My birthday

Jill & Steve Lander

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Milton Lander;

Mother, Mildred Lander;

Father, Michael Lefcourt;

Mother, Ruth Lefcourt;

Sandy Lazarowitz



Thank You - Todah Rabah

(Continued)

IN HONOR OF

Anniversary of Elisa & Marty
Skolnick;
Samantha & Brandon Melendez
and Christine & Emillio Grillo
as Casino Night honorees;
Anniversary of Phyllis &
Sy Entin

Larry Levy

IN MEMORY OF

Aunt, Henrietta Zuckerman;
Cousin, Peter Sachs;
Aunt, Thelma A.S. Levy;
Uncle, Samuel M. Zuckerman;
Cousin, Gertrude Besunder;
Uncle, Sydney H. Zuckerman;
Cousin, Joyce Z. Sachs;
Aunt, Anna L. Keilson;
Friend, Lester Wilensky;
Great-grandmother, Sarah
Esther Blumenstein;

Father, Morton J. Levy;
Cousin, Marvin Sachs;
Aunt, Hannah L. Tannenbaum;
Aunt, Lillian R. Levy;
Aunt, Sadie Zuckerman;
Cousin, Lester S. Goldstein;
Uncle, Arthur M. Goldstein;
Uncle, Leonard H. Levy;
Grandmother, Ida Jeannette
B. Levy;
Uncle, Harry L. Levy;
Grandmother, Jean Goldstein;
Cousin, Libby Lazar;
Uncle, Dr. Oscar Tannenbaum;
Aunt, Mollie Blumenstein;
Sandy Lazarowitz

Helene & Robert Parsons

IN MEMORY OF

Son, Wesley Steven Parsons

Jane Scherer

IN HONOR OF

Larry Levy and Barbara &
Jay Kaplan for beautiful kiddush
they sponsored

Sisterhood

Marlene Agorino

IN HONOR OF

Breakfast program

Linda & Bob Schwartz

IN APPRECIATION

Library Fund

Lynn & Jay Abrams

IN MEMORY OF

Sandy Lazarowitz

What Makes Music Jewish?

(Continued from page 7)

Take Adon Olam. Without words, what does it conjure?
If you're thinking 'German Drinking Song' pour yourself
a Hefeweizen because you are absolutely right!

In America, we tend to be sensitized to certain musical
customs and principles and register them as "authentic,"
but it's important to realize that "authentic" represents
only a snapshot in time and place. We are a people who
have been defining and redefining our communities,
values, and even the places we call home for as long as
we've been in existence. The more we investigate the

context around the "Jewish" songs we have come to know
so well, the more it becomes clear that it is our Jewish
stories that give rise to the "animating spiritual force" of
our music. We are a fiercely resilient and adaptive people
perpetually in search of our Promised Land where we will
be able to thrive on our own terms. As such, our music
reflects our collective triumph, turmoil, longing, despair,
and ultimate hope every step of the way. Jewish music
is intrinsically tied to the experience of being Jewish,
perpetually looking back and to a brighter future ahead.



How to Prepare for a Bat/Bar Mitzvah

By Malina Micillo

Congregant and former JLC student, Malina had her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David on June 18, 2022

After eight years of Hebrew school, it is finally time: You're having a Bat/Bar Mitzvah! There are only twelve months left until your big day, and you don't know where to start? Perfect. That's why I'm here to tell you how to prepare.

In Hebrew school you have learned to read Hebrew, and you have learned about your culture and religion. Now it is time to put all your knowledge to use. Get ready - It's a bumpy ride but it's all worth it in the end.

The two most difficult things you will be learning are your haftorah and Torah portions.

The haftorah is a story, and each has a different story with a different meaning. The Torah portion is read directly from the Torah, a large scroll that contains the history, laws, and teachings of Judaism. The haftorah and Torah portion are specific to the date of your Bat/Bar Mitzvah on the Hebrew calendar. That is why it is crucial that you pick a date and stick with it. In your haftorah, you will see the Hebrew letters and vowel symbols that you have learned in Hebrew school. However, when you read from the Torah, there are no vowels. Imagine reading in English with no vowels. This will definitely take a lot of practice and some memorization. You will also see additional symbols called "trope." Like vowels, trope are little symbols under the letters. The trope tells you what tune to chant. A Bat/Bar Mitzvah tutor will help with the prayers, Torah, and haftorah portion you will need to know. You meet with the tutor weekly for the entire year. I recommend asking for recordings to help hear the tune of the trope. If you read music, ask for sheet music. This definitely helped me.

You will meet with the rabbi to discuss important matters along the way. Thankfully, your rabbi will be on the bimah with you. When you meet, coordinate which prayers you will be leading and which the rabbi will lead. You might know some from Hebrew School such as Sh'ma/V'ahavta, Adon Olam, Ashrei, and Ein Keloheinu. To help you practice, attend any Saturday morning service and chant along.

About nine months before your big day, begin your Bat/Bar Mitzvah project in which you do a good deed that contributes to the community. For my project, I held a fundraiser to raise money for **The Playing for Change Foundation** that brings music programs to kids all around the world. For your project, do a fundraiser or volunteer

somewhere; either way, the most important thing is that you feel strongly about your project and want to share it with others.

The last big item on your to-do list is to write a speech that explains your haftorah portion and why it is personally important to you. My rabbi likes to say that "there are no coincidences in Judaism," meaning your Torah portion and haftorah are given to you for a reason. You just need to find the reason. About two to three months before your Bat/Bar Mitzvah, research your haftorah and speak with people who can help you analyze it, such as your rabbi or teachers. This helps you identify the parts of the haftorah you choose to speak about. For my speech, I wrote about Jewish women using their voices, specifically Miriam (Moses' sister). This was personal because my Hebrew name is Miriam and both my Jewish Great-Grandmas used their voices to help others. I hope to be just like them.

Although the day is about you, your family is very involved. The greatest honor is to be given an Aliyah. Since you are doing the last Aliyah when you read the Torah, there are others given out to your closest family and friends. If you want to honor people who don't know Hebrew or are not Jewish, there are ways for them to participate including English readings like the **Prayer for Our Country** and opening the ark. For example, my Catholic half siblings opened the curtain on the bimah, and my Catholic grandparents walked with me in a procession around the room.

During this process, you also learn the customs of leading a service like wearing a tallit, saying a Kiddush, supplying yarmulkas for your guests, and walking in a procession with the Torah. Attending Shabbat services every week will provide a good visual of everything you will be doing. A few days before your Bat/Bar Mitzvah, you will have a rehearsal with the rabbi to practice everything that will happen in order, like when to sit on the bimah or down with the congregation.

After eight years of Hebrew school, it was finally over: I had my Bat Mitzvah! It was one of the greatest accomplishments of my life. Some people see it as the end of Hebrew school, but I see it as the beginning of my pathway in Judaism. In the eyes of the synagogue, I am now an adult, I am forever changed and I hope you will be too. Good luck and Mazel Tov!



CBS-BD Calendar

March 2024

Mar 1 Shabbat Across America and dinner 6:15 PM
Mar 2 Comedy Night 8:00 PM
Mar 10 Rosh Chodesh Adar II; Daylight Saving Time begins
Mar 11 Rosh Chodesh Adar II
Mar 21 Ta'anit Ester – fast 5:30 AM – 7:37 PM
Mar 23 Erev Purim
Mar 24 Purim: Megillah reading & costume parade 9:45 AM
Mar 25 Sisterhood seminar on Jewish Pop Culture 7:30 PM

April 2024

April 6 Lucas Groman Bar Mitzvah
Apr 18 Yom Ha'aliyah
Apr 22 Ta'anit Bechorot; Erev Pesach: 1st Seder, light candles 7:22 PM
Apr 23 Pesach Day 1: 2nd Seder, light candles after 8:28 PM; Omer 1 Passover Community Seder
Apr 24 Pesach Day 2; Omer 2
Apr 25 Chol Hamoed Pesach; Omer 3
Apr 26 Chol Hamoed Pesach; Omer 4
Apr 27 Chol Hamoed Pesach; Omer 5
Apr 28 Chol Hamoed Pesach, light candles 7:32 PM; Omer 6
Apr 29 Pesach Day 7, light candles after 8:35 PM; Omer 7
Apr 30 Pesach Day 8, Yizkor; Omer 8

May 2024

May 4 Sydni Williams Bat Mitzvah
May 6 Yom Hashoah
May 8 Rosh Chodesh Iyar
May 9 Rosh Chodesh Iyar
May 12 Mother's Day
May 13 Yom Hazikaron
May 14 Yom Ha'atzmaut
May 17 Cantor Kabbalat Shabbat
May 22 Pesach Sheini
May 26 Lag B'Omer
May 27 Memorial Day

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

Mar 1 5:30 PM	Apr 19 7:22 PM
Mar 8 5:38 PM	Apr 26 7:29 PM
Mar 15 6:45 PM	May 3 7:37 PM
Mar 22 6:53 PM	May 10 7:44 PM
Mar 29 7:00 PM	May 17 7:51 PM
Apr 5 7:07 PM	May 24 7:57 PM
Apr 12 7:15 PM	May 31 8:03 PM

Mincha/Ma'ariv/ Havdalah Times

Shaleshudes between Mincha and Ma'ariv/Havdalah

Mar 2 Mincha 5:00 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 6:22 PM	Apr 20 Mincha 7:00 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:19 PM
Mar 9 Mincha 5:00 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 6:31 PM	Apr 27 Mincha 7:00 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:28 PM
Mar 16 Mincha 6:15 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 6:22 PM	May 4 Mincha 7:30 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:35 PM
Mar 23 Mincha 6:15 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 7:47 PM	May 11 Mincha 7:30 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:42 PM
Mar 30 Mincha 6:30 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 7:54 PM	May 18 Mincha 7:45 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:52 PM
Apr 6 Mincha 6:45 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:02 PM	Mar 25 Mincha 7:45 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:59 PM
Apr 13 Mincha 6:45 PM Ma'ariv/Havdalah 8:11 PM	

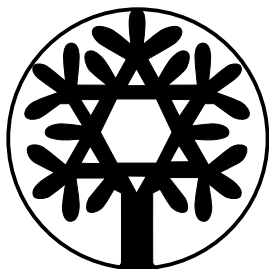
Regularly Scheduled Services and Events

-Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM Fridays
-Shabbat morning: 9:00 AM
-Weekday Shacharit: 9:00 AM Sundays (Chapel), 6:55 AM Mondays and Thursdays (Chapel), and 7:00 AM Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (via Zoom). 6:45 AM Rosh Chodesh
-Weeknight Mariv: 8:00 PM (via Zoom)
-Sisterhood Mah Jong: 7:30 PM Tuesdays



94 North Village Avenue
Rockville Centre
516-548-7131





CONGREGATION B'NAI SHOLOM-BETH DAVID

100 Hempstead Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-2822
(516)764-4100 - fax (516)442-0466
www.cbsbdrvc.org

SELLING YOUR *CHAMETZ*

During the weeks before Passover, it is our tradition to sell the *chametz* in our homes in order to fulfill the commandment of not owning any *chametz* during the Pesach holiday. We will have certificates available **in the office** for you to fill out and sign. Please call in before coming so Rabbi Lerner can make himself available to assist in the transaction (and perhaps schmooze for a minute or two).

In addition, this year especially, Kosher for Passover food has become financially inaccessible to many families who wish to observe the holiday. It has been a longstanding tradition at CBS-BD to accompany your Chametz form with a check for *tzedakah*. This year, your donation will go to the Gural JCC Kosher for Passover food bank to help families in need. If you wish to accompany your sale with *tzedakah* for this holiday season, please make the check payable to "CBS-BD Rabbi's Discretionary Fund."

Please fill out this form and return to the office no later than the evening of April 21. We look forward to celebrating a joyous and redemptive Passover holiday. May you and your families be healthy and well.

DELEGATION OF POWER TO SELL *CHAMETZ*

This is to certify that Rabbi David J. Lerner is my agent in selling any/all *chametz* that may be in my possession, knowingly or unknowingly, by Monday, April 22, 2024 8:00 AM.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS(ES)/LOCATION(S):



CONGREGATION B'NAI SHOLOM-BETH DAVID

100 Hempstead Avenue
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-2822
(516) 764-4100 - fax (516) 442-4066

www.cbsbdrvc.org

DONATION FORM

Please use this form to submit donations to the Temple. Your donation will go to the Fund you designate or to the General Donation Fund. Donate via check (include with this form) or Credit Card. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to those you designate, and your name will be listed in the *Chai Lights* Newsletter. Donation opportunities and their description are listed on the back of this form.

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Day Phone # _____

_____ Evening Phone # _____

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____ Email: _____ Cell Phone # _____

Please check where your donation is to be applied:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvement Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrew School Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiddush Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Temple Torah Fund | | |

Other Donation Opportunities:

- ☐ Cemetery Plot ☐ Estate Contribution ☐ Fundraising Events ☐ High Holy Day Tickets ☐ Kol Nidre Pledge
☐ Memorial Plaque ☐ Sanctuary Seat(s) ☐ Temple Brick(s) ☐ Tree Of Life
☐ Other _____

Donation in Honor of – list name(s) and event(s) here:

Donation in Memory of – list name(s) of deceased(s) here:

I want the acknowledgement of my donation(s) sent to:

Name #1: _____

Address #1: _____

Name #2: _____

Address #2: _____

If paying by Credit Card, fill in the information below:

Name on Credit Card: _____ Type: (i.e., American Express, VISA): _____

Number: # _____ Security Code (on back): _____ Expiration Date: _____



CONGREGATION B'NAI SHOLOM-BETH DAVID

100 Hempstead Avenue
Rockville Centre, New York 11570-2822
(516) 764-4100 - fax (516) 442-4066
www.cbsbdrvc.org

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider the comprehensive listing below when donating to the Temple. Be sure to indicate where you want your donation to go by filling in the donation form (opposite side)) and making a notation on your check or when donating on-line.

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: Used by Cantor to promote Judaism and Jewish culture through musical events and activities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND: Maintains, repairs improvements to the building and property.

GENERAL FUND: Used for Temple upkeep & bill payment, i.e., electric, water, cleaning, maintenance.

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND: Learning Center salaries, books and supplies.

KIDDUSH FUND: Subsidizes cost of the kiddush for Shabbat & holidays

MEMORIAL FUND: "In Memory" for a Yahrzeit.

PRAYER BOOK FUND: Used to replace/resupply/repair books. Contact Temple office for cost.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: Gifted to Rabbi to use for those in need and supports Youth Group activities.

SIMCHA KIDDUSH FUND: Subsidizes Simcha Shabbat Kiddush.

SISTERHOOD: Subsidizes Sisterhood programs.

TEMPLE TORAH FUND: Used to clean and maintain Torah scrolls.

OTHER DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

CEMETERY PLOT: Inquire of President.

ESTATE CONTRIBUTION: Inquire of President.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS: Dinner Dance, Auction, Casino Night, Special Events.

HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS: Per committee.

KOL NIDRE PLEDGE: Per committee.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Nameplate and light added to memorial plaque.

SANCTUARY SEAT(S): \$360/per (payable \$120 per year) plus annual maintenance.

TEMPLE BRICK(S): Memorialize a loved one or celebrate a simcha with a personalized brick imbedded in the walk before the front steps on Hempstead Avenue), \$200 each.

TREE OF LIFE: Purchases leaves on the tree on the lobby wall to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a simcha, \$200 each. Used for General Funds.

Sisterhood Programming Delivers

(continued from page 6)

Dr. Mitchell Bard, Executive Director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise. Dr. Bard gave a short history lesson about the Middle East region, then laid out what was missing from media coverage of the current fighting and the misinformation being disseminated. The program was arranged by Lisa Berman.

On a lighter note, on January 29 our own Jill Kaplan presented "Do You Know...?" a talk about the origins of diverse things, habits, and traditions in our everyday lives that we take for granted, such as black holes, bridal veils, and barber poles.

Remember: Purim starts Saturday evening, March 23, so if you haven't ordered your shalach manot baskets, you still have time.

Our spring programming promises to be outstanding as well. Mark your calendars to save the following dates:

Sunday, March 17 – A return visit by author Brad Kolodny to discuss his book, *The Jews of Long Island: 1705-1918*.

Monday, March 25 – Cantor Alexandra Weiser will present Jewish Expression and Experience, a look at how Jews influenced the arts, particularly Broadway, featuring musical highlights.

Sunday, April 14 – Seth and Ruth Stern will talk about their family's memoir, *Speaking Yiddish to Chickens: Holocaust Survivors on South Jersey Poultry Farms*.

Saturday, May 11 – Sisterhood Shabbat.

Thursday, June 6 – Women's League of Conservative Judaism/BQLI's "Women of Achievement" event. This year we're pleased to announce we're honoring Jill Kaplan!

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