

July-August 2023 | Volume 67, Issue 6 | Tammuz-Av-Elul



July Worship Schedule

Friday, July 7 Shabbat Pinhas

6:30 pm Family Shabbat Worship – *Livestream, Facebook Live*

Friday, July 14 Shabbat Matot-Masei

7:30 pm Shabbat Worship – *Livestream, Facebook Live*

Friday, July 21 Shabbat Devarim

8:00 pm Shabbat Worship at the Little Shul in Philadelphia. There will not be Shabbat Services at Beth Or that night and no Live Streaming. Bus leaves Beth Or at 4:45 pm and will return at 10 pm. (RSVP required)

Friday, July 28 Shabbat Nahamu

5:30 pm Shabbat In Our Park Dinner on the Flitter Family Terrace (**RSVP required**)

6:30 pm Shabbat In Our Park on the Flitter Family Terrace

August Worship Schedule

Friday, August 4 Shabbat Ekev

6:30 pm Family Shabbat Worship – *Livestream, Facebook Live*

Friday, August 11 Shabbat Re'eh

7:30 pm Shabbat Worship – Livestream, Facebook Live

Friday, August 18 Shabbat Shoftim

7:30 pm Shabbat Worship – Livestream, Facebook Live

Friday, August 25 Shabbat Ki-Tetze

7:30 pm Shabbat Worship – Livestream, Facebook Live





Table of Contents

From the Rabbi's Desk/ Rabbi Gregory S. Marx 1
President's Corner/ Leslie Weiss 2
From the Rabbi's Desk/ Rabbi Jason Bonder 3
From Cantor Jaime Murley 4
Welcome new Executive Director & Assistant Rabbi 5
Religious School News & Important Dates 6
Purchase Lulav/Etrog6
Early Childhood Education 7
Member Engagement8
Youth Engagement9
Social Action10
Volunteer Spotlight: Meals That Matter & Tarshis Gift Shop 11
Brotherhood12
Sisterhood 13
Events14-15
Celebrate Your Simcha 16-17
Chai Lights/Oneg & Flower Donations 18
Memorials & Contributions 19-20

"Now What?"

Rabbi Gregory S. Marx, Senior Rabbi

Wilmeod Sissoon was a 37-year-old stay-at-home mother and wife when she decided to bike cross-country to raise money for the National Lung Association.

She didn't even own a bike. After training informally for a year and raising nearly \$7,000, she set off from Seattle, WA to Washington, D.C. She had plenty of adventures including sleeping at a Crow Indian reservation and attending the inauguration of a new chief. Twelve years later. Sissoon told researchers that the bicycle ride was still one of the most amazing times of her life.

Yet, when she returned home, she fell into a long funk. "I'd done this fabulous thing. Now what?" she recalled. "I found it difficult to handle the daily



Rabbi Gregory S. Marx

From the Rabbi's Desk

responsibilities of grocery shopping and taking care of the kids." She watched a few of her fellow riders get divorced and saw a therapist for depression.

This is not uncommon with so-called "peak experiences." They are euphoric and utterly thrilling when they happen, but the off-ramp is often steep and perilous.

I think about Moses, who led the people of Israel out of Egypt, who stood up to Pharoah and experienced the "rush" of the waters parting at the Sea of Reeds and the exaltation of revelation at Sinai. Then, he was left to wander for 40 years. It must have been a funk for him, as well. In fact, the Torah tells us how he often lost patience with the people, which can be a sign of depression.

Being your rabbi for these past 35 years, has been a peak experience in my professional life. I have found my meaning, purpose, joy and yes, my greatest challenges in being your rabbi. Now, like Wilmeod Sissoon, I will find myself saying to myself in the not too distant future, "Now what?"

Having just visited Jerusalem with our congregation, I stood before the Western Wall and realized something remarkable which will help me answer that question.

Our ancestors built the Temple to enable holy moments on the mountain top. God's presence was known to those who brought the sacrifices. The message of the Temple was to inspire the people who stood on the mountain and then empower them to bring God's mission out into the world. The point of the Temple was to manifest Godliness in an earthly structure, and from there, to the entire world.

As I begin my final year, full of moments of celebration and reflection, know that I will carry the memories, lessons, classes, moments of comfort and joy with me for the rest of my life. Like our ancestors who were inspired by the Temple to bring God's presence into the world, so I have been lifted up by you and will take you wherever I go.

You have inspired me with your devotion to each other. You have comforted me when I have seen you reach out to each other in the hardest and most painful moments of life. You have brought me joy when I see a parent cry with tears of happiness before the open ark as their child accepts the Torah. And yes, we have connected to the Jewish homeland, the State of Israel. We are forever bound together in faith and fate.

So as I begin the final lap of my journey with you, know that the race is not yet over. I hope not to fall into a funk but will joyfully and with full heart watch from the sidelines as Beth Or climbs ever higher and digs deeper in faith and devotion under new Rabbinic, Cantorial, Executive and Lay leadership.

President's Corner

"With Gratitude, Optimism is Sustainable"

— Michael J. Fox

Leslie Weiss, Beth Or President

Six years ago I received a call from the nominating committee asking if I'd assume the role of Vice President. I clearly remember this discussion and the thoughts that raced through my head. I did some quick calculations and determined there was a good chance I'd be the President to lead the congregation during a major transition with the impending retirement of Rabbi Marx. I obviously agreed to become a Vice President, time ticked away and voila, I am now the President of Congregation Beth Or. Wow!



Leslie Weiss

So, who is this woman who is now your President? I am the proud mother of Sydney, a special education teacher, and David, an economic consultant, and the wife of Evan, an anesthesiologist. We are long time members, and both our children had their B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmation at Beth Or. We love to travel and explore the world and I'm always happy to share stories with other travelers. I am a pharmacist by education, working for a major pharmaceutical company in Regulatory Affairs. I have 30 years of leadership experience which I plan to rely on over the next 2 years!

"With gratitude, optimism is sustainable" — Michael J. Fox



I am sharing this inspirational quote from Michael J Fox because it reflects my optimism as we embark on this dynamic time in our congregational history. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am confident the future of Beth Or is bright and exciting. We have a dedicated Board of Trustees and Officers who are working closely with the clergy and staff to ensure we continue to build and strengthen our community. The Executive Committee was so excited to roll up its sleeves and get started, they agreed to spend an enlightening May morning at my home to plan for the upcoming year.

I want to extend a warm welcome to Robin Minkoff, our new Executive Director and Rabbi Melissa Lefkowitz, our new Assistant Rabbi. I also want to congratulate Cantor Murley on becoming our Cantor and Rabbi Bonder for becoming our future Senior Rabbi. There will be many upcoming events over the next year to celebrate Rabbi Marx before his retirement. Look for details in the September Spotlight.

Please find time to introduce yourself by phone, email or in person because I truly want to get to know our congregants and hear how best we can meet your needs and understand where your volunteer passion lies.

Rest and recharge during the summer and get ready for a busy fall at Beth Or.

— Leslie



Rabbi Jason Bonder

Two Lights

Rabbi Jason Bonder, Associate Rabbi

Above the ark in our sanctuary, there is a beautiful phrase from the 97th chapter of the book of Psalms:

אור זרע לצדיק ולישרי לב שמחה

Light is sown for the righteous and for the upright of heart, gladness.

In the center of those words sits our *Ner Tamid* — our eternal flame. The light which emanates from that structure represents the Eternal Flame once kindled and guarded in ancient times by the *Kohanim* — the Priests who worked in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The ancient Temple was destroyed twice in History, yet that light shining above our ark is a profound statement that we, the Jewish people, are still here.

In addition to our physical reminder of the ancient Temples, we also have a day on the Jewish calendar to commemorate the destructions of those Temples. The day is called *Tisha B'Av*. If you are unfamiliar with this day on the calendar, you're not alone. Unless you've spent time at Jewish

Summer camp, it's likely that you've missed it because it never falls during the academic year when our children are in Religious School. Since the day is absent from our learning calendar, it is fair to ask if *Tisha B'Av* is as important for us today as it once was.

The next time you are inclined to ask that question, go to our sanctuary, look at the Eternal Flame, and turn 180 degrees.

When you do, you will see another eternal light of sorts in our sanctuary. At the very center of our stained-glass windows sits a simple piece, with six stones piled on top of one another. A yellow six-pointed star lays beside the pile with the word "Juif" — the French word for "Jew" — inscribed on the star. The majority of the stained glass is empty space, with lines that make the glass look broken. Amidst that broken emptiness, one can observe our lonely world as if looking at it from outer space. Perhaps from God's vantage point. This powerful work of art commemorates the Holocaust. Each of the six stones represents one million Jewish people who were murdered in that catastrophe.

Week after week, as we pray, sing, mourn, celebrate, and hope together as one community in our sanctuary; that window at the back of the sanctuary, reminds me that we, Congregation Beth Or, sit between two lights. The light emanating from our eternal flame shines through from Jerusalem thousands of years ago. The light from the window is the light we refused to let die during the Holocaust. Here and now, in our House of Light, we are at the point of Jewish history where these two lights intersect. It is on our shoulders to ensure that the light of Jerusalem continues to shine bright. It is also on our shoulders to make sure that we continue to shine a light on antisemitism and threats wherever they may be. On this *Tisha B'Av*, which begins on the evening of July 26, I encourage you to listen to this song, written by Hirsh Glick, called "The Jewish Partisans' Anthem." It is a reminder of why we must shine our light for years to come. Here is one translation of the song's opening lines, as seen at the Jewish Partisans' memorial in *Giv'atayim*, Israel.

Say not, it is the final road we tread Cloudy skies will pass and sun will shine instead Believe that freedom's hour will appear Our steps will tell the world that we are here.

From the Rabbi's Desk

Week after week, as
we pray, sing, mourn,
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that we, Congregation
Beth Or, sit between
two lights.

New Musical Initiative Coming to Beth Or



Cantor Jaime Murley

With my role as "Interim Cantor" coming to a close, and my new position of "Cantor" on the horizon, I am excited about sharing some new initiatives I am introducing next year.

The first was announced in last month's Spotlight article, and I am thrilled to announce that since then, I have had over 40 inquiries into **Israeli Dancing** at Beth Or! Israeli dancing will take place on Tuesdays, October 10, October 24, November 14, and November 28 from 8 pm - 9 pm. Please save the dates and mark your calendars!

The next adventure I'd like to announce is a congregational trip to **Song Leader Boot Camp** in St Louis, MO from February 18-20, 2024. SLBC provides powerful Jewish leadership training for clergy, Jewish educators, early childhood specialists, teen leaders, Jewish camp staff, as well as veteran and new song leaders. Led by nationally renowned music artists such as Rick Recht, Billy Jonas, Eliana Light, Chava Mirel, and Rabbi Josh Warshawsky to name a few, SLBC teaches participants specific skills and strategies to inspire transformative change in their Jewish communities. The SLBC National

Conference held every February, is soaked in inspirational Jewish music and communal singing. Participants do NOT need to sing or play an instrument to fully explore all that SLBC has to offer. Music is just one of many vehicles for connection and inspiration that is explored at SLBC conferences.

I am looking forward to joining together with members of the Beth Or community to learn from this amazing opportunity. I envision a transformative experience that brings a core group of congregants together, who can in turn come back to Beth Or and share the inspiration we gain at the conference with the congregation. If you or your teen would be interested in joining me, please email me at *jmurley@bethor.org*, so that I can give you more information.

One final initiative I'd like to announce in this article is the forming of a **Multi-Generational Choir**. While we will always have separate choirs for our youth and adults to shine, singing the music that is best suited for them, I would like to start another choir in which grandparents, parents, children and people of all ages can sing together. What better place to launch this new choir than at my installation service on Friday, October 27, when we will be led by nationally renowned Jewish musical artist Noah Aronson?! If you are not already in one of our choirs, and the idea of a multigenerational choir speaks to you, please let me know! We will start rehearsing after the High Holy Days.

I look forward to all that 2023-24 has to offer! Thank you for helping me realize all of my musical dreams here at Beth Or!!



Welcome New Executive Director and Assistant Rabbi

Silver Linings

Robin B. Minkoff, Executive Director

Judaism places great emphasis on the mitzvah of *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming people into our home and creating sacred connections by making them comfortable and giving them our full attention. The Beth Or community excels at *hachnasat orchim*. Since I arrived on June 12, I have been warmly welcomed in many thoughtful ways.

I was first introduced to Beth Or and its hallmark of welcoming and connecting in March 2020 when the Executive Directors of area congregations began meeting online, weekly, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on our normal operations, and to share best practices as we moved into a new era. Amy Abrams stood out among our peers. With clarity of mind and purpose, she offered insights about how Beth Or was moving forward and imbued us with a sense confidence in the possibility that our respective congregations would grow stronger in facing adversity.



Executive Directors, Robin B. Minkoff and Amy S. Abrams

I am privileged to succeed Amy, an Executive Director par excellence who I am grateful to know as both a colleague and friend. As I take the mantle of responsibility from her, I look forward to creating new sacred connections throughout Beth Or and to helping our community continue to go from strength to strength.



Looking Forward to Meeting You

Melissa Lefkowitz, Assistant Rabbi

My name is Melissa Lefkowitz and I am honored to serve Congregation Beth Or as assistant rabbi. I received my rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where I have been residing the past four years. It was in Los Angeles where I met my husband, Rabbi Kevin Lefkowitz. He received his ordination from the Conservative Movement from The Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. We are thrilled to welcome our first born in late October, long after the High Holy Days.

I am originally from Newton, MA, where my family remains as long time members of Temple Beth Avodah. It was on that bimah where I celebrated Shabbat every week as a preschooler, became a Bat Mitzvah, and most recently where our wedding was officiated. I was instantly drawn to Beth Or after hearing similar stories from those who began attending in their youth and later raised their own families in the congregation. We are so thrilled for the opportunity to grow our family in this holy community.



Rabbis Kevin & Melissa Lefkowitz

I am a graduate of Bates College, and upon graduating spent two years working at Temple Israel of Boston growing their young adult programming. During my time at HUC, I have served congregations in Ridgecrest, Calabasas, and San Luis Obispo, California, as well as most recently in Austin, Texas.

I am passionate about advocating for those who are often marginalized in Jewish spaces, Jewish study, and about all things related to food (both Jewish and secular). I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have trusted me with this great responsibility and have welcomed us into the community with open arms. I look forward to learning and teaching Torah and building relationships with each and every one of you.



Important School Date

Sunday, September 10Community Opening Day



Religious School **NEWS**

A Time for Every Season

Aaron Nielsenshultz, Director of Religious School and B'nai Mitzvah Training

Many of us are familiar with the idea first written in the book of *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes) that says, "There is a time for every matter under heaven" (3:1); this idea was made famous in "Turn! Turn! Turn! Turn!" by The Byrds, too. We all know it in our lives: as the seasons go by, as the years turn, things change; I think about it as one school year ends and I look forward to the beginning of the next school year.



Aaron Nielsenshultz

And speaking of time, this summer is going to be a long one for the Religious School. Because of the way the holidays fall this year, we can't start Sunday and Hebrew school until October. Can you



CONGREGATION BETH OR

believe it? That is by far the latest I've ever started school. It presents some challenges for sure, and it also allows us to spend more time getting ready for the year to come.

In order to bridge that gap between when school usually starts—the beginning of September — and our very late start this year, we're planning a big open house event on **Sunday, September 10**. All of our auxiliaries and clubs will be present, and all of our teachers will be in their rooms. Returning students, new students, and even prospective students and members will be invited to come in and meet the teachers, see their rooms, and get excited for the year to come.

So enjoy the rest of your summer, and get ready to come back to Beth Or. We'll be glad to open the doors for you!

If you would like to purchase your own **Lulav and Etrog** for your sukkah

Send a check for \$50 payable to Beth Or along with your name, email and phone number to the office, attention Barbara Murtha, by September 5.



Thank You Teachers!

Sara Baum, Early Childhood Director

Merriam-Webster defines the word "foundation" as: A basis (such as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands or is supported.

The foundation of our Early Childhood Center is the teachers. They support our program, the children and each other. Without their commitment and hard work, the CECE would not be what it is today. They come in each day and share their knowledge, love and creativity with our students. I feel blessed to be a part of this amazing staff. Thank you!









Sara Baum





Camp Chaverim • Summer 2023

Welcome to Camp Chaverim! We welcome this summer with smiling faces! This year's camp theme is **ONCE UPON A TIME**. We are off to great adventures and sharing some of our favorite stories. The children will participate in a variety of activities including nature, art, music, sports, mystery readers, tumbling, story-walks, and much more! The children at the CECE are sure to have a magical time this summer!



Camp begins on Monday, June 19 & ends on August 11.

Reconnecting on 1 *Tishrei* and September 10

Jillian Peskin, Director of Member Engagement

Rosh Hashanah falls on the 1st of *Tishrei*, and the official re-opening of the building on Sundays falls on whatever the first Sunday is after Labor Day but is not a High Holy Day. These are two of my favorite days in September because the building is back to being full of life after a quiet summer.

This year Sunday, September 10 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am will be the 2nd Annual Welcome Back Reconnection Fair! In addition to kicking off Religious School, there will be many people to meet and many things to learn about on this day. We are inviting every Beth Or committee, group and C4C club to have a table or a representative. I encourage every Beth Or congregant to come out and see what we have to offer for 2023-24.



Jillian Peskin

The fair will take place on the front portico, into the lobby and out into the lot (weather permitting) — so you don't have far to walk. The Shmear café will be open for business with their delicious bagels and coffee, too! You can find out about Tai Chi club or hear more about what APEX (Adult Programming Experience) has to offer, join the Religious School committee or swing by our table for new members. There will be something for everyone!

In addition to all of these fun things — you can see all the friends you may have missed all summer as well as meet new friends. Our children will see friends from camp and school.

Both the 1st of *Tishrei* as well as September 10 are important days for our community to reconnect and kick off the year together. Mark your calendar — I can't wait to see you!



A Year in Review

Rachel Shapiro, Youth Engagement Advisor

Wow! What an absolutely amazing year we had! Some of the fun youth events included a trip to the Aquarium, Gaga, the first annual Family Cornhole Tournament, Gamechangerz, Kona Ice and lots and lots of pizza. Thank you to all who attended and supported the youth programs this year. Our teens had a blast doing social programs and many mitzvot including trips to JRA, bag packs and more! Check out the infographic below to see some of the other highlights of the 2022-2023 religious school year.

I want to thank you all for the amazing few years I've had at Beth Or. It was my pleasure to work with everyone from the CECE, Religious School, Clergy, the Board, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, students and parents. Building many lasting relationships and



Rachel Shapiro

watching our teens grow each year has been one of the many highlights of my time here. While being thankful for the lessons, relationships, and experiences I have made, I am looking forward to the next chapter. Thank you for making me feel part of the family that is Congregation Beth Or!

Whether you are going to camp, on vacation or just relaxing, I hope everyone has a safe, fun, and exciting summer!



CHAI ACHIEVERS (all year long!)

The Beth Or Knitting Circle is a devoted group of Sisters who achieve the remarkable 12 months of the year! They call themselves knitters, sewers, crafters, and hookers and have a sense of humor with every purl stitch and needle they thread. Their leader, Faye Benshetler, is recognized for her dedication and commitment, and newcomers are welcome to join their lively and productive daytime and evening gettogethers. Faye gives a shout-out to her fellow Sisters: Barbara Spilove, Debra Steinberg, Dina Levin, Dottie Singer, Ellen Harper, Ellen Tannenbaum, Felice Kahn, Janet Lorraine, Jody Walker, Karen Weiss, Lois Lambersky, Marlene Belkin, Marlene Cohen, Sue Kapel, Theresa Knee, and Vivian Lichtman.

From September 2022 through May 2023, the Knitting Circle achieved the following:

- Mitzvah Circle 8 afghans, 50 hats, 23 scarves, and other items
- **CHOP** 87 hats
- Fox Chase Cancer Center 95 port pillows, 46 fleece blankets (and three boxes of books for their library)
- Doylestown Hospital 26 afghans,
 11 infant hats
- Bucks County SPCA 20 cat-sized fleece blankets

We thank all who carve out time for this meaningful effort and touch lives through their handiwork.



Veterans, Here We Come!

Every December 25, aka Beth Or MITZVAS DAY, we invite you to spend a couple of hours with fellow congregants as we take on some social action activities that usually include the following:

- Cooking for KleinLife seniors
- Making 'tie-knot' blankets for local hospitals
- Putting together and delivering candy baskets for about a dozen local police stations
- Looming mats using plastic bags for those without a roof over their heads
- Brightening the day for patients and staff at St. Christopher's Hospital

This year, we want to add U.S. veterans to our list of recipients. One idea is to provide veterans with personal care kits, a friendly smile and holiday cheer. If you would like to get involved, please be in touch with us!

We wish everyone a great summer as planning begins for our Fall Social Action collections.

Social Action Co-chairs

Susy Krimker, susykrimker@gmail.com and Margie Chachkin, chachkin@aol.com

Project Planet Earth

One of the many things the Beth Or Building and Grounds Committee focuses on is our environmental footprint. Per Committee Chair Alan Kober, more than 95% of all CFL, halogen, and fluorescent bulbs inside and outside Beth Or have been replaced with LED bulbs. This results in significant savings in electricity. Additionally, Beth Or maintains an energy management system that controls the set points for the building's 25 thermostats. The set points are entered time-based on the expected occupancy of the different areas of the building. For instance, if we expect the Social Hall to be occupied from 9 am to 12 pm on a particular winter day, the thermostats that control the heat in that space will be set to, say, 700 F at 8 am and then set back to 600 F at 12:30 pm. This control system is good for Planet Earth and yields marked savings for Beth Or.

VOLUNTEER

Meals That Matter

By Beth Rabinowitz

The name, Meals that Matter, is truly the definition of the program.

Can you believe there have been over twenty five thousand meals prepared in Beth Or's kitchen? These delicious meals are then transported and distributed through KleinLife. As Toby Sterling and I take over this very important Mitzvah, which was led by Caren Gutman for over ten years, we recognize how critical these meals are for the families who they serve.

Did you know there is a difference between hunger and food insecurity? Everyone gets hungry, but not everyone has the financial security to purchase food on a consistent basis. Food is more expensive than ever and trying to buy food that is considered healthy, on a limited budget, is even more challenging. Food insecurity does not discriminate as it affects college students, families with ever changing financial situations and homebound elderly who are on fixed incomes.

Meals That Matter cooks approximately one hundred and fifty meals per month. There are two types of meals which rotate each month. A fish meal includes a delicious piece of seasoned fish, a dessert and a vegetable or potato. There are a variety of pasta meals which also contain a vegetable and dessert. Around certain holidays we add in festive desserts, such as Chanukah themed cookies and Hamantaschen. Each meal is kosher style, frozen and includes a list of directions within the packed meal.



Many thanks to Caren Gutman, Beth Or's Meals that Matter chair for over a decade. Caren recently passed the baton to Beth Rabinowitz.

So as you can see, these meals really do matter!! Each month there are approximately 10 to 20 volunteers cooking in the Beth Or kitchen. We also love to assist in Bat/Bar Mitzvah projects. Having kids cook just adds to the mitzvah of the program. I personally love being part of the monthly event, especially because I have met such wonderful people at Beth Or.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Beth Rabinowitz, Meals that Matter chair, bberman19@comcast.net. New volunteers are always welcome!

Honoring Tarshis Gift Shop Volunteers





In loving memory of Debbie Schwartz, z"l, Sisterhood commissioned this beautiful stained glass art piece honoring past, present and future Tarshis Gift Shop volunteers. The Schwartz family recently unveiled the art and dedication plaque, which is on display at the Gift Shop entrance.

Beth Or Brotherhood

Live Longer, Be Healthier and Happier, and Join in Brotherhood Activities

Stu Briefer, Brotherhood President



Stu Briefer



Yes, I boldly stated it – "Live longer, be healthier, and join in Brotherhood activities." We need human connection. The pandemic showed us how to stay home and connect with a computer. Now, let's get back out and show up in person.

Friends are good for your health. Friendship, community activity and participation leads to greater health, positive feelings and connection. Come to CBO for the activities and show up for your friends.

My name is Stu Briefer, and I am the Brotherhood president for the next two years. Over the next few months, you will get to know me a little better. My wife and I have been members of CBO for over 30 years.

A Harvard University study stated that 15% of men have three or fewer close friends, and 50% have no one outside of their household to share concerns, fears, and happiness. Men enjoy family, work and gathering with friends to participate in a religious community. Brotherhood offers all three — Beth Or is a congregational family. I know that I can call on people at CBO and they can call on me when they need me. Brotherhood offers the time and space to check in, see each other, exchange ideas, and lend social support to each other and the community. Beth Or social connections give us pleasure and promote our long-term health. Dozens of studies have shown that people with social support from family, friends and their community are happier, have fewer health problems and live longer.

It has been said that we overschedule our calendars to compensate for the lack of social interaction. But in doing so, we're not leaving any time for these informal interactions.

Brotherhood offers an annual Car Show, annual Fundraiser Dinner/Entertainment night out, and monthly meetings to share business topics and, more importantly, what is happening in your life. Brotherhood has Steak in the Sukkah, a beer garden at Sushi, Sake, Sukkah, Bagel Breakfast meetings, guided presentations from the clergy at our meetings, Blood Drives, Social Action activities, JRA food delivery, support of youth programs and education, ushering for High Holy Days, welcoming back students for a new school year, Eagles watch parties on the big screen at CBO with wings and food, Brotherhood Shabbat led service, and much, much more.

Be healthier, be happier, show up for your friends, show up for your family, and show up to share in the joy of our strong Beth Or Brotherhood community. I will be here. Will you join me?

See you soon.

KOSHER WINE SALES

Now you can purchase kosher wine all year long & benefit Beth Or! Use the Beth Or affiliate link on *kosherwine.com: http://bit.ly/BethOrBrotherhood* or click the KosherWine symbol on the bottom right side of the Beth Or website home page, "Connect With Us" section.



5% of all sales given back to Brotherhood to benefit Beth Or programming!

Questions? Contact info@bethorbrotherhood.org.

Beth Or Sisterhood

How Will My Story Begin?

Kim Kaffey, Sisterhood President

Let me first introduce myself. I am Kim Kaffey, and I am starting my journey as the next president of Beth Or's Sisterhood. I am honored to be joining the ranks of all the amazing and wonderful women who came before me. My family and I have been members of Beth Or since 2001, after we moved here from Buffalo, NY. I have two incredible children who grew up in this congregation attending preschool and religious school, becoming b'nai mitzvah and being confirmed, as well as participating in the Junior Choir and BOFTY. I have been married to a wonderful man for 29 years, who has been extremely supportive of me and all the time I have spent here participating in a variety of committees/activities for Sisterhood and Beth Or in general. This place is basically my second home!!

Dolly Parton once said, "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader."

So, how does my story begin? It begins with my "Sisters", the women who are currently members and the women who have yet to join. I hope you will consider becoming a part of this amazing group of beautiful and strong women. "Dream more" by sharing your ideas for new and inspiring activities. Come "learn more" with us during Torah to Go and our book discussions. "Do more" by participating in our fun events and programs; even help plan them! "Become more" as you meet new people, make new friends and enrich your spirituality at our Sisterhood Shabbat service and Shabbaton. We are stronger together. With all of your support, I look forward to leading Sisterhood during my term as president. I hope to see everyone throughout this upcoming year!!!



Kim Kaffev





Proceeds Benefit Beth Or Sisterhood Programs

Summer hours are by appointment only.

Please call Holly Green at 215-886-4787 to schedule your appointment today.

Discounts available for Sisterhood Members & Beth Or Staff | Great Monthly Sales & New Arrivals

Beth Or **Events**

HOLIDAYS & SHABBAT

Shabbat Dinner & Worship at the Little Shul in Philly

Friday, July 21 • 4:45 pm – 10 pm

Join Rabbi Marx, Rabbi Lefkowitz, Cantor Murley and your Beth Or friends for a unique Shabbat experience at the Little Shul in South Philly. We will travel together from Beth Or to Tacconelli's Pizza for dinner, then move on to the Little Shul for Shabbat worship and return to Beth Or. Cost: \$36/person includes bus, dinner (pizza,



salad, soda) & gratuities. Dinner is BYOB for beer & wine. Due to space restrictions, this program is limited to the first 40 people who RSVP. Please note: There will be no Shabbat Worship at Beth Or on 7/21 and the service cannot be livestreamed. See your weekly email or the website to RSVP.

Shabbat in our Park

Friday, July 28 • Dinner, 5:30 pm; Service, 6:30 pm

Join us for an outdoor family Shabbat worship experience, BBQ picnic-style on the Flitter Family Terrace and our beautiful groups! Enjoy Burgers (veggie, too!) and hotdogs grilled by the clergy and staff. Gluten-free buns will be available. Drinks & desserts are provided by Sisterhood. Water Ice is served by Brotherhood. Please bring a dairy-free side dish to share, such as salads, veggies, fruit, chips, potato salad, cold slaw, etc. (No pork or shellfish) After dinner, the clergy will lead a song-filled Shabbat service. BYO picnic blankets & folding chairs to set up o the grounds. There will be limited seating available at tables under the tent on the terrace. This event will move indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate. Check your weekly email or the website calendar listing to RSVP in advance.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Red Cross Blood Drive Friday, July 28 • 12 pm – 5 pm

The Red Cross needs our help. Blood supplies continue to be at a dangerously low level. Be a hero for patients in need and help save lives! All Beth Or members and their families, friends and neighbors age 17+ (16 with parental consent form) are able to participate. Appointments are required. Register directly on-line for your appointment time (click on the links on the Beth Or website event calendar listing) or contact Stu Briefer, smbriefer@gmail.com/215-661-9990 and he will sign you up. We are grateful to all of you who participate and help make the blood drive at Beth Or consistently one of the top Red Cross donation sites in the region!

SAVE THE DATE!

Community-wide Welcome Back Reconnection Fair & Religious School Open House

Sunday, September 10 • 9 am – 12 pm

Dive back into Beth Or this fall with our 2nd annual Welcome Back Reconnection Fair! Beth Or committees, clubs & groups will have information about joining their programming for the year ahead. These groups will be lined up on the front portico and ready to greet you and answer any questions you have! Questions? Contact Jillian Peskin, <code>jpeskin@bethor.org</code>.

A Flu Clinic will take place during this event, too. Details to come soon. Must sign up in advance.







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Our catering partners on the Approved Caterer List — shown below and published on our website (www.bethor.org) stand ready to provide delicious food for your event. They can provide menu options at a range of prices designed to meet your specific needs and budget.

We hope that you will consider having your celebrations at Beth Or. To learn more about hosting an event at Beth Or, please contact Amy Abrams or Jillian Peskin at 215-646-5806.

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Chai-Lights — July/August 2023

New Members

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Adam, Eileen, Lily & Gabby Weinberg Robert Nutinsky & Tinisha Thompson Barbara Golden Justin & Lauren Bell Paul & Cara Bird

Rejoin Members

David, Carlee, Bradley, Benjamin & Samantha Cohen Earl & Deena Rochvarg

May Their Memory Be A Blessing

Lon Kessler, husband of Karen Kessler Janice Dunn, wife of Jerry Dunn

Mazel Tov

Birth of Naftali Moshe Goldstein, grandson of Robert & Joyce Goldstein

Birth of Addie Lane Williams, daughter of Tim & Jordan Williams

Birth of Levi Kenneth Berest, grandson of Doreen Berest

Birth of Lucas Albert Shemtob, grandson of Al & Lori Shemtob

Birth of Sophie Sloane Starkie, granddaughter of Al & Lori Shemtob

Birth of Natalie Rose Combs, granddaughter of Jack & Linda Rosenfeld

Birth of Miles Felix Barrett Milakofsky, grandson of Steve & Marsha Milakofsky

Baby Naming of Cassandra Leor Greenstein, granddaughter of Mike Snyder & Carol Packer, z"l

Baby Naming of Sofia Paige Steiger, daughter of Adam & Samantha Steiger Baby Naming of Mila Rubin, granddaughter of Laurie & Lee Rubin

Baby Namings of Adeline & Emily Rosenfeld, daughters of Michael & Rachael Rosenfeld, granddaughters of Gary & Judy Kurtis & Wendy Rosenfeld

Baby Naming of Annabel Sarah Prusak, daughter of David & Emily Prusak

Baby Naming of Ava Rose Schmerling, daughter of Bruce & Ariel Schmerling

Baby Naming of Sophia Brooke Ringel, daughter of Benjamin & Lauren Ringel

Marriage of Blair Berman, daughter of Fred & Bryna Berman, to Jonathan Fleisher

Oneg & Flower Donations

Additional May Donations:

Oneg

May 5 • Rachael and Michael Rosenfeld in honor of the Baby Naming of their twin girls, Emily Harper and Adeline Lucy

May 19 • Brotherhood and Sisterhood in honor of Amy Abrams Retirement

May 26 • Confirmation Class of 5783



Memorials & Contributions

Notifications for both the donor and recipient are now delivered to your email from dedications@bethor.org.

This change allows for more timely and effective delivery of notifications. Be sure to add dedications@bethor.org to your safe senders list to ensure these notices do not end up in your spam folder. If the donor or recipient does not have an email address, the notice will come via regular mail. If you have any questions, contact Jill Bascove, jbascove@bethor.org or 215-646-5806.

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UNCLE AL's 80th birthday Aileen Greenberg-Kriner & Michael Kriner Bat Mitzvah of SKYLAR **ROSTOLSKY** Barbara & Ron Rosenthal ANNABEL PRUSAK's Baby Naming Leon & Paula Prusak CASSIE's Baby Naming Mike Snyder & Andria Snvder SHIRLEY RUDERMAN'S granddaughter, MAYA

becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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