



Beth Or Spotlight

March-April 2020 | Volume 64, Issue 4 | Adar-Nisan-Iyar



March Worship Schedule

Friday, March 6 – Shabbat Tetzaveh

- 5:30 pm Munchkin Minyan & Challah Bake
6:30 pm K, 1 & 2 Family Worship in the Gitlin Sanctuary
6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship in the Haines Memorial Chapel
7:45 pm Mishloach Manot – Snack-bag packing in the Rosenfeld Social Hall

Saturday, March 7

- 9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the Bar Mitzvah of Jake Friedman, son of Jason and Lindsay Friedman

Monday, March 9 – Purim

- 5:15 pm Youth Purim Service, Costume Parade & Megillah Reading
6:15 pm Purimspiel “Greatest Haman” in the Gitlin Sanctuary
6:45 pm Adult Purim Service & Megillah Reading

Tuesday, March 10

- 9:15 am Morning Minyan in the Haines Memorial Chapel

Friday, March 13 – Shabbat Ki-Tissa

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service in the Gitlin Sanctuary

Saturday, March 14

- 9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the Bar Mitzvah of Corey Abramson, son of Glen and Jamie Abramson

Friday, March 20 – Shabbat Vayakhel-Pekudei

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

Saturday, March 21

- 9:00 am Shabbat Worship with the Bar Mitzvah of Logan Frost, son of Ryan and Jennifer Frost
9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Silverman, daughter of Robert and Alison Silverman

Friday, March 27 – Shabbat Vayikra

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Zimriya Worship Service in the Gitlin Sanctuary. Shabbat Zimriya is a lively participatory musical Shabbat service with additional musicians.

Saturday, March 28

- 9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the B’not Mitzvah of Emily Amerstein, daughter of Michael and Marcie Amerstein and Madden Benjamin, daughter of Jay and Amy Benjamin

April Worship Schedule

Wednesday, April 1

- 10:00 am Morning Minyan in the Haines Memorial Chapel

Friday, April 3 – Shabbat Tzav

- 5:30 pm Munchkin Minyan & Challah Bake
6:30 pm 4th Grade Family Shabbat Worship in the Gitlin Sanctuary
6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship in the Haines Memorial Chapel
7:45 pm 4th Grade Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, April 4

- 9:00 am Shabbat Worship with the B’nai Mitzvah of Robert Gartside and Sari Gartside, daughter of Robert and Wendy Gartside
9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the B’nai Mitzvah of Dylan and Ilan Goldstein, sons of Howard and Andrea Goldstein

Thursday, April 9

- 9:00 am 1st Day Passover Service with kosher-for-Passover brunch to follow
6:00 pm 2nd Night Community Seder led by Cantor David Green

Friday, April 10 – Shabbat Pesach

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

Saturday, April 11

- 9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Heart & Soul Shabbat
11:00 am Shabbat Worship

Wednesday, April 15

- 9:00 am Passover Service with Yizkor & kosher-for-Passover brunch to follow

Friday, April 17 – Shabbat Shemini

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

Saturday, April 18

- 9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the B’not Mitzvah of Claudia Cagnoli, daughter of Joe and Lori Cagnoli and Hannah Greenfield, daughter of Leonard and Ada Greenfield

Friday, April 24

Shabbat Tazria-Metzora

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Zimriya Worship Service with guest speaker, Elizabeth Bettina, author of “It Happened In Italy,” a story of Holocaust remembrance. Shabbat Zimriya is a more musical Shabbat service with additional musicians.

Saturday, April 25

- 9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship Service

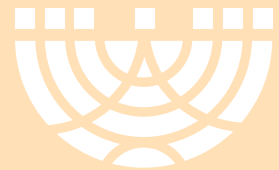


Table of Contents

From the Rabbi’s Desk/Rabbi Gregory S. Marx	1
President’s Corner/Josh Gottlieb ...	2
From the Rabbi’s Desk/Rabbi Jason Bonder.....	3
From Cantor David Green	4
Building Exit Awareness	5
Religious School News & Important Dates	6
Candle Lighting Times.....	6
Early Childhood Education	7
B’nai Mitzvah Projects.....	8-9
Youth Engagement.....	10
Junior Choir.....	11
Social Action.....	12-13
Social Justice	14
Volunteer Spotlight.....	15
Brotherhood	16
Sisterhood	17
Spring Fundraiser: Golf Outing, Dinner & Auction.....	18-19
Events.....	20-23
Celebrating your Simcha	24-25
Chai Light, Oneg & Flower Donations.....	26
Memorials & Contributions	27-29

Passover: A Time To Overcome Our Constraints

Rabbi Gregory S. Marx, Senior Rabbi

Passover calls us to reflect on the meaning and purpose of freedom and liberation. Through foods, wine and prayer, the Seder transports us to an ancient time and land. But Passover is not just history. Passover, like all of our rituals, encourages us to think about ourselves and our own limitations.

In Hebrew, Egypt is called *Mitzrayim*. According to the text on Jewish mysticism, the Zohar, the name for Egypt is derived from *m'tzarim*, meaning "narrow straits" (*mi*, "from," *tzar*, "narrow" or "tight"). The Exodus thus celebrates our extrication from the place of constricted opportunities, tight control, and narrow-mindedness, where movement and thought was severely limited.



Rabbi Gregory S. Marx

From the Rabbi's Desk

We live in our own *mitzrayim*, the external or physical narrow straits of financial or health constraints or, perhaps, personal tragedy; universally, the psychological burdens to which we subject ourselves. Like the duality in virtually all of Passover's symbols, they work in two ways: they turn us into both slaves and oppressors, of ourselves and others. Passover leads us to question the values and attitudes we hold and which hold us to those roles. Sadly, the more constrained we are, the greater the likelihood that we will oppress others. The oppressed, too often, turn into tormentors.

Pharaoh was constrained by his own ego, which led him to ruin everything he valued, including his family and himself. Even his officials recognized the catastrophe his attitude brought. "Let the men go," they advised. "Don't you realize that Egypt is being destroyed?" Exodus 10:7 His arrogance simply got in the way.

Change is hard. Pharaoh let the people go and then repeatedly changed his mind. Once the plague had passed, Pharaoh retracted his permission. We too do that. We commit ourselves to positive change, but once the crisis has passed we revert to our old destructive habits. Even our ancestors, not a week out of Egypt, were ready to forego liberty and return to their miserable lives, yearning for the comfort of the familiar evil over fear of the unknown.

Slavery does offer a certain freedom that can be attractive: the freedom from responsibility for oneself and others, the freedom from having to establish goals, figure out how to reach them, or think beyond the moment. It takes guts to walk out of a known situation, which for all its pain, is predictable. It is human nature to want to stay put within the stability of the status quo. The danger is that often in those situations we don't even know that we are mired in a negative situation and don't realize our peril until it is too late.

We tell ourselves that we will look for a better job, sign up for community service, be much nicer to our kids, our siblings, go back to school, and pay off our contributions... tomorrow. Jacob did not intend to stay in Egypt more than a short time—and look what his sojourning cost. At Passover, we should at least recognize inertia for what it is and not kid ourselves into complacency about our own situation or that of others.

Passover, with its message of hope, tells us that like the Egyptian slaves, we can escape from our straits. Once they had tasted freedom with the paschal lamb, the Israelites gave up the comfort of the familiar, without concern for provisions or how they would get to or exist at their destination. They left Egypt with faith because they believed a better life awaited them elsewhere. As Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (an 18th-century Hasidic leader) counseled, when you are about to leave "*mitzrayim*" you should not worry about how you will manage in a new "place."

Happy Passover. May it be filled with family, friends, history, drama, freedom, hope and growth .

An Inspiring Experience

Josh Gottlieb, Beth Or President

In December I attended the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial in Chicago. I talked, sang, learned, prayed and shared this experience with about 4,900 lay leaders and clergy from reform congregations across North America. This was my second biennial, and once again I learned a lot to help me as I continue to serve as the president of Beth Or. I was also inspired throughout my time there.

One session I attended was a presentation on a study of over 17,500 Jewish teens. Gaining a better understanding of how today's teenagers relate to their Judaism and the world around them tells us a lot about the Jewish community of tomorrow. Teenagers today are exposed to countless sources of information and opinions that were simply not available ten years ago. As a result, to really connect with them where they are, we need to constantly reassess our approaches.



Josh Gottlieb

President's Corner

Judaism through innovative communities.

Jewish adjacent refers to people who may feel that they cannot comfortably open up about who they are in a way that is important to them. It is important to examine how, even with the best of intentions, we may unknowingly contribute to this perception.

I also was inspired at numerous points during Biennial. One speaker was a man who spent years working closely with Elie Wiesel. His personal stories about his experiences in this capacity were captivating. Aside from numerous talks and sermons that were profound and insightful, being a part of nearly 5,000 Jews lifting their voices together in song or prayer moved me deeply.

Our leadership team will continue to work with the clergy and our senior staff to ensure that Beth Or remains up to date on best practices in being an inclusive and welcoming community to all those who choose to join us.

The next URJ Biennial will be held in December 2021, in Washington, DC. I urge anyone who has the time to consider attending.

Another session I attended addressed how to engage people in their 20s and 30s. This age group is more diverse than previous generations, including race and gender identity. They are often connected to their





Rabbi Jason Bonder

From the Rabbi's Desk

**First ask yourself
what it is you're
passionate about.
Then go find it
in Israel. There is a
place for you in the
Jewish State.**

Israel and You: Bridging the Gap through Baseball and Elections

Rabbi Jason Bonder, Associate Rabbi

Flying domestically in the US over the years, I've occasionally gotten the same question from TSA agents. "What's this?" they ask. "That's *tefillin*." I answer, "It's Jewish religious ritual garb."

So I was surprised in June of 2007 when the agent from El Al, Israel's airline company, asked, "What's this?" as I was about to make my first trip to Israel. Shouldn't he have known what *tefillin* was? Yes, he did. He was holding something else. "Oh, that?" I said, "That's called a baseball glove."

The question from the El Al agent highlights a crucial phenomenon amongst the Jewish people today. There is a rift between the American and Israeli Jewish communities. Daniel Gordis powerfully discusses this in his book, "We Stand Divided: The Rift Between American Jews and Israel." I highly recommend the book if you're interested in exploring the divide. Instead of explaining the divide, I'll offer two ways you can begin eliminating the gap.

If the goal of my 2007 trip to Israel was to spread baseball across the land, the mission would be deemed an immense failure. I played in a professional league called the Israel Baseball League for the Tel Aviv Lightning. Other than opening day, the games were sparsely attended and to this day Israelis don't know much about the game. Miraculously, Israel has in the subsequent years built up their baseball program and will be sending a team to the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. But hilariously, the Facebook campaign from Israel's team is full of posts explaining what each player does on the field. This perfectly illustrates how little the average Israeli knows about baseball.

While I did not achieve great fame during my professional baseball stint in Israel, and while I didn't turn a whole country into baseball fanatics, something profound happened to me during that summer. I realized that Israel is a place where I have a place. No matter what your interest, music, art, sports, cooking, or anything else, you can find it, and contribute to it, in Israel. What do you have to offer Israel? It doesn't have to be out of your comfort zone. First ask yourself what it is you're passionate about. Then go find it in Israel. There is a place for you in the Jewish State.

On Sunday, March 22, Israel (via their Olympic baseball team) is coming to you! Congregation Beth Or will have the great honor of hosting Coach Eric Holtz, the manager of Israel's Olympic Baseball team. He also happened to be my next door neighbor in the dorms in 2007 when he was a player/coach for the *Beit Shemesh* Blue Sox. Please do join us as we listen to Coach Holtz in conversation with Beth Or Congregant and Sports Broadcaster, Jeff Asch.

There is also another crucial way that you can support Israel and your values in the next few days. If you haven't heard already, the World Zionist Organization has elections every five years. This year, there is much at stake for those who care about gender equality and religious freedom in Israel. Please consider voting for the Reform Movement in the WZO elections this year! Voting ends March 11. You can sign up and vote at <https://azm.org/elections>. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have on this crucial issue.

Joy in the Midst of Sorrow

Cantor David Green



Cantor David Green

What makes this handwritten ketubah (wedding covenant) so unusual is the circumstances when it was written. It was written by a rabbi for a young wedding couple for a ceremony in a concentration camp during World War II.

My wife, Lori, met this couple in Israel, who survived the Holocaust and they shared this Ketubah with her.

Throughout our Jewish history we have celebrated joyous events during difficult times or during moments of sorrow or sadness.

Many congregants have asked me, over the years, if they should cancel or postpone their *B'nai Mitzvah* or wedding, because a loved one has died. My response is: That is your decision, but I advise that you go on, at least, with the ceremony. I often share with them a quote from the Talmud: "One causes a funeral procession to make way for a bridal procession." (*Kethuboth* 17) This philosophy extends beyond the celebration of *B'nai Mitzvah* and weddings.

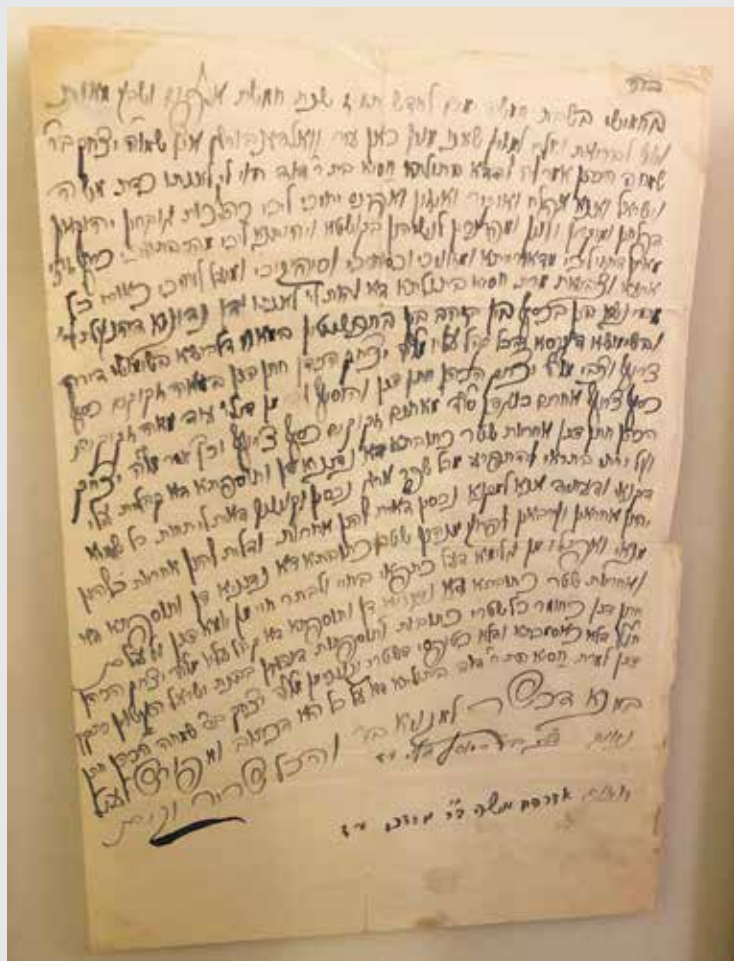
Some rabbis go even further: "The mourner who has just become a father may attend the *b'rit* (circumcision) of his son even the very first day after interment (of the deceased)."

Other rabbis have also said that if a delay in the marriage may cause the bride or groom to withdraw from the wedding, "the mourner may attend at any time and under any conditions."

This is not say that we ignore our feelings of sadness or that we ignore our process of mourning, but rather that we also do not bypass opportunities to experience joy during happy, celebratory life cycle events.

Astronaut Frank Culbertson filmed lower Manhattan from outer space aboard the International Space Station, hours after 9-11. In his narration of the film, as expected, he commented on the immense tragedy of the day. However, he then panned his camera down the east coast of the United States, commenting how we all need to also see the beauty and tranquility of the weather and topography that he saw through his camera, while not forgetting the horror and sadness of that day.

Culbertson, as do our rabbis and our Jewish tradition, reminds us not to relinquish the joys of life, while experiencing the tragedies. Rabbi Akiba may have said it best: "May you repose in Paradise, even as you have rescued us from hell." (*Pirche Derek Eretz*).



Do You Know Your Way Out of the Synagogue?

Alan Kober, Building & Grounds Committee

We frequently come to Beth Or, whether for services, bringing our children to Religious and/or Pre-School, attending meetings, participating in brunches, events, activities, etc. Coming in is easy, but would you know how to exit in the case of an emergency? Our building is 65,000 square feet spread over 2 floors. There are over 20 doors that exit the building to the outside, but there are also many more doors that exit from one room to another or from one area to another, but not to the outside.

Emergencies of many types can occur inside of the building. Recent events in Pittsburgh and Poway have taught us that we must be aware of our surroundings and react accordingly. We hold periodic fire drills during Religious and Pre-School sessions to acquaint our staff and children on how to exit the building in case of fire. We recently held an active shooter drill with our pre-school staff. Would you know where the closest exit is from the sanctuary, the social hall, the office or the multi-purpose room? Would you know where to go in case of a fire, a power outage, an unwanted intruder or other emergency? There are often visitors in our building who are very unfamiliar with our layout. Would you know how to guide them to safety?

Our staff has been trained to handle emergencies. You should always follow their instructions when possible. Just as you are reminded while at the movies, you should acquaint yourself with the location of the nearest two emergency exits wherever you are in the building. Each emergency exit is clearly marked with an illuminated exit sign that leads directly to the outside. Doors that are not marked as such do not lead to the outside and cannot be used to exit the building. There are some emergency exit signs that point towards an emergency exit but the door itself may not exit to the outside. Follow those signs to the nearest exit. These signs and other emergency equipment are tested periodically by our staff as well as by the township and our life safety vendors.

We have added a diagram on the back of the Order of Service Sheet that is distributed at all services that shows the locations of the nearest exits from the sanctuary. The announcement at the start of Shabbat morning services now includes a reminder about the location of the sanctuary emergency exits since many of the attendees may be unfamiliar with the layout. A discussion about emergency exits will also be added periodically at meetings held at the synagogue to remind the attendees of the proper procedures.

In summary, we want you to come to Beth Or frequently to attend our many events, but in the case of an emergency, we want you to know how to leave safely.





Important School Dates

Please note: We'll have NO Hebrew School on Tuesday, March 10. All Tuesday students are asked to come on Monday, March 9 to celebrate Purim with us.

Sunday, March 1
4th Grade NMAJH Field Trip

Sunday, March 1
5th Grade Family Ed

Friday, March 6
K, 1 & 2 Family Shabbat

Monday, March 9
All School Purim

Tuesday, March 10
No School--come Monday

Sunday, March 15
2nd Grade Family Ed

Sunday, March 22
K, 1 & 2 Model Seder

Friday, April 3
4th Grade Family Shabbat

Sunday, April 5
No School Spring Break

Monday & Tuesday, April 6 & 7
No School Spring Break

Sunday, April 12
No School Spring Break

Sunday, April 26
4th Grade Naming Service

Religious School NEWS

Aaron Nienshultz, Director of Religious School

As of March 1, school registration is open! You can enroll your student for the 2020-2021 religious school year now. Why register now? As you know, we are committed to creating a high-quality, meaningful Jewish educational experience for your child — a goal we know you share! Registering your child early helps us achieve that goal by helping to bring together the best educators we can find with the best material we can create, in classrooms with an appropriate number of children.

Early-bird registration is open until April 30.

Everyone who enrolls before April 30 will be entered into a drawing for a free main-lot parking spot for the High Holy Days. Regular registration runs from May 1 through June 15, and all students not enrolled by June 15 will be automatically enrolled with a late charge.

You can find more resources by going to <https://www.bethor.org/learn/religious-school-k-12/registration-important-school-year-information>. There you'll find the school calendar, information about our educational programs, our parent handbook, and more. And of course, if you have any questions, you should let me know.



Aaron Nienshultz



Leonard & Madlyn Abramson Education Center

CONGREGATION BETH OR

March/April Candle Lighting



Friday, March 6 • 5:40 pm
Friday, March 13 • 6:48 pm
Friday, March 20 • 6:55 pm
Friday, March 27 • 7:02 pm
Friday, April 3 • 7:09 pm
Friday, April 10 • 7:16 pm
Friday, April 17 • 7:23 pm
Friday, April 24 • 7:31 pm

Purim and Passover for Preschoolers

Sara Baum, Early Childhood Director

Purim is a joyful time of year and is perfectly suited for our early learners. Everyone is able to dress-up, celebrate loudly, and come together. While we all celebrate with our preschoolers it is important to keep the story of the holiday simple for them. On Purim, we can focus on the bravery of Queen Esther. She stood up for her people and saved them. Spark a family conversation with a topic about heroes or ask your child about a time they were brave. Here at the CECE we celebrate Purim by making groggers, baking delicious hamantashen, and marching in costume during our parade.

At the center of Passover is the Seder. The Seder is a great time for learning but it can be a bit challenging for younger children to sit through. During your Seder you can try some of these options to help make this holiday meal easier for your preschooler. Props and puppets make the Seder more interactive and can give a young child something to hold as they listen to the story of Passover. Another idea to engage your child might be to incorporate your child into the planning of the meal. Have them stir up a matzah side dish or have them create a centerpiece for the table. Having a list of things to listen for during the Seder like when we drink wine/juice or when they hear the ten plagues will help keep young listeners involved in the meal. There are aspects of the Seder that we all look forward to such as reciting the Four Questions, hiding the Afikomen, and singing Dayenu. Putting an emphasis on these parts of the story will entertain everyone around the table. Here at school we will be making Seder plates, participating in Model Seders, and making Passover centerpieces to share with our families.

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

March

- 3/6 – Munchkin Minyan & Challah Bake
- 3/13 – Purim Parade and Schpiel
- 3/30 – 3's Passover Model Seder
- 3/31 – 4's Passover Model Seder

April

- 4/1 – 2's Passover Experience
- 4/1 – BINGO Night
- 4/3 – Munchkin Minyan & Challah Bake
- 4/8 – 3pm Early Close
- 4/9 – Closed for Passover
- 4/15 – Closed for Passover



Sara Baum



**Zipporah S. Abramson
Center for Early
Childhood Education**

CONGREGATION BETH OR



Meet Our B'nai Mitzvah Students

Jake Friedman

March 7

My Mitzvah project is to try and help raise funds and awareness for the disease ALS. All of our profits from our fundraisers will be going to the **ALS Association of Greater Philadelphia**. So far, I have participated in the ALS Walk in Philadelphia, and have done an online fundraiser which raised \$560. In February, I had a Pretzel Sale at Beth Or that raised money and spread awareness to people who don't know much about ALS. My cousin, Lauren, is suffering from ALS along with 1200 other families in the Philadelphia area. We want to help and support these families and Lauren because we can make a difference — because ALS is such a horrible disease. We want people to not only donate, but also learn more about this disease. Hopefully, one day there will be a cure that'll save thousands.



members of our community. I feel very lucky for all that I have and I never want to take it for granted. I chose to volunteer for JRA, because of the ability to help those in need who may be less fortunate. I have volunteered for JRA with both family and friends and always leave feeling a sense of community and accomplishment. I plan to volunteer for JRA and organizations like it for years to come. To learn more about JRA, and how you too can become a volunteer, please visit their website at <https://www.jewishrelief.org/>.

Emily Amerstein

March 28

For my Mitzvah Project, I have decided to volunteer at **Meals That Matter** by preparing meals for seniors and homebound members of my community. Some of my favorite memories have been over meals with family and friends. By preparing meals for seniors and those in need, I am hoping they can enjoy a meal and make memories that last forever.



Corey Abramson

March 14

For my Mitzvah project I am working with **City Bright Philadelphia**. They are a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for the homeless to earn money by paying them to clean the streets of Philadelphia. I volunteered my time to help clean up the city as well as make lunches for 40 helpers. I am also raising money for this organization by creating a bracket (pool) for March Madness. The reason I am doing this is because I really enjoy basketball and this allows me to enjoy it in a way that also helps people. City Bright Philadelphia is run solely on donations, so the money I raise will help them to schedule more cleanups.



Madden Benjamin

March 28

For my Mitzvah project, I volunteered at the **Mitzvah Circle**. The Mitzvah Circle is a volunteer-based organization with the goal of providing material support to families in need. I contributed, with the help of family and friends, in two ways. One was by donating clothing and other supplies and also by volunteering at the warehouse. I helped by sorting donations and putting together care packages, specifically selected, based on each family's individual needs. The goal of these packages is to restore dignity and hope by allowing people to move forward in their lives. I have enjoyed doing this project because it makes me feel good that I am helping others in need and made me gain a true appreciation of the things I take for granted. If you would like to help, The Mitzvah Circle collects everything from shoes, clothing and household goods to linens and toiletry essentials. For more information, visit www.mitzvahcircle.org.



Lauren Silverman

March 21

For my Mitzvah project, I chose to volunteer for the **Jewish Relief Agency (JRA)**, which serves low-income individuals across Greater Philadelphia by relieving hunger, improving lives, and making our community stronger. JRA volunteers help in a number of ways, including packing and delivering boxes of food to



Sari Gartside

April 4

For my Mitzvah Project my family and I will be purchasing, cooking from scratch and packing meals for **Meals That Matter**. This service provides dinner to seniors and homebound clients of Klein Life. Along with my friends and family, we will prepare 150 pasta dinners with healthy vegetables and cookies for dessert. I will have cards and menus created for the seniors receiving this mitzvah. I would not have been able to succeed in this project without the help of the Beth Or kitchen and the amazing people who organized this day!



Ilan and Dylan Goldstein

April 4

We have been volunteering at the **JRA (Jewish Relief Agency)** since we were 5 years old. JRA's warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia is the starting point for the food distribution. Volunteers pack and deliver over 3000 boxes each month to families in need. JRA is the largest hunger relief agency serving our region's Jewish community. Each recipient family receives a variety of kosher items. Volunteers can assemble boxes, pack food, break down empty boxes or deliver. After the packing process, we deliver the boxes directly to the recipients' homes. They are very grateful for the extra food and for our brief, but meaningful visit. We enjoy working with this organization because we can assist in a hands-on fashion and participate as a community. It is important to do this because nobody should be hungry. On February 16, we hosted a special packing event in honor of our big day. We invited our friends and family to join us at the warehouse to help pack the food boxes. It was so amazing to see everyone working toward the same mitzvah!

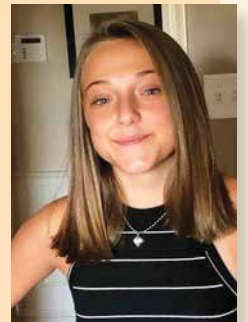
We understand the impact we can have on others when we serve and give back to our community. For that reason, we plan to donate part of our B'nai Mitzvah money to JRA and we will continue to volunteer. You can register for a distribution and reserve a route on their website: www.jewishrelief.org. Donations can be sent to JRA through their website or mailed to Jewish Relief Agency: 225 E. City Avenue, Suite 210, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.



Claudia Cagnoli

April 18

For my Mitzvah project, I'm supporting the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**. The JDRF leads the fight in finding a cure for Type 1 Diabetes by funding research, advocating for government backing and expanding access to treatment and support networks. On October 20, my family and best friend walked with me along with 8,000 walkers in the One Walk Philadelphia event. I personally raised \$875 for the walk, and the overall amount raised was \$934,141. I am involved with JDRF on an ongoing basis by helping to raise awareness of T1D and by raising money through fundraisers like bake sales. Look for me and my treats at Beth Or on Sundays between Religious School sessions and join me in giving hope to everyone impacted by this disease. One day, there will be a cure for T1D. In the meantime, JDRF can help pursue new treatments to keep us healthy until that day comes.



Hannah Greenfield

April 18

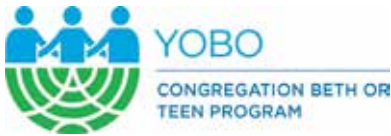
For my Bat Mitzvah project, I will be volunteering at the **Abramson Center for Jewish Life**. I have chosen this Center because I have enjoyed visiting it several times before and it is located near my home so I can be promptly there to help seniors in need. My grandmother Elsa is now under care for Alzheimer's disease. Since I can't be with her because she is in Peru, I am helping people who have similar conditions. Helping people feel better makes me feel happy and good about myself. In past visits to the Abramson Center I assisted people to their wheelchairs, helped them to eat, and sometimes watched TV with them. Alzheimer's disease is a very sad condition and I am sad when I see my grandmother fading away. She doesn't recognize me at all even though we lived together from my birth until I was 8 years old. I hope to continue volunteering my help to those in need.



Finding Friends All Over Beth Or



Jillian Peskin



Jillian Peskin, Director of Member & Youth Engagement

This past January, Beth Or was lucky to host an amazing group — the Philly Friendship Circle. For those of you who have yet to hear of them, here is a little snippet:

Based on the bedrock foundation of “love your fellow as yourself.”

The Friendship Circle provides organized physical and social structures to support inclusive friendships, connections, respite, and fulfillment for youth with special needs, young adult volunteers, their respective families and the Jewish community at large.

Through fun and interactive experiences, these relationships bring a sense of joy and meaning to the Friendship Circle community and beyond.

In January, we hosted two “Sunday Circles”. Youth and young adults had an afternoon of fun with many different programs, including dance, cooking, art, sports and more! There were many staff & volunteers here – particularly teens! Many of these teens are Beth Or members, who were so excited to show off our building. In addition to programs for the participants, there was a lovely program for parents that was held in another part of the building. These parents enjoyed a nosh, coffee and conversation with people in similar circumstances.

I found myself in awe of this beautiful program, and glad that we are able to be partners with the Friendship Circle. Sunday Circle will be back at Beth Or for three weeks in April & May — I can’t wait to have them!

If you have a teen who would like to volunteer, or a family member or friend who would be interested in participating, please contact me.



Songs of the Season

Junior Choir March/April Calendar

Friday, March 6

Family Service plus activity, 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 8

Purim schpiel for Religious school,
10 am

Monday, March 9

Purim schpiel, 6:15 pm

Friday, April 3

Family Service plus Ice Cream
Social/Elections, 6:30 pm

Cantor Jaime Murley, Junior Choir Director

Shalom! We are entering the season of two of my favorite Jewish holidays.... Purim and Passover! If you love drama, these two holidays are full of it. During Purim we put on a theatrical interpretation of The Book of Esther, and during Passover we retell one of the most dramatic stories of all time, that of Moses and the Israelites fighting for their freedom. As dramatic as these two stories are, the music that represents each holiday is simplistic and fun! Whereas the music of the High Holy Days that we sang in September was majestic and holy and inspired people to reflect and listen, the folksy melodies of Purim and Passover are meant to be inclusive and easily sung (without a cantor in the room) around a table, or at a party. When I think of Jewish music in my youth, I have very clear memories of singing Purim's "Oh, Once There Was A Wicked, Wicked Man", "Chag Purim (RASH, RASH, RASH!)", Passover's "Frog Song" and "Dayeinu." It's always fun for me to see how much joy these songs STILL bring to our young children in the religious school when I teach on Sundays. I have no doubt that the children go home and sing these songs WITH (not for) their parents and grandparents, creating a true feeling of *L'dor Va Dor*, "from generation to generation," around the house and seder table.

When can you enjoy the musical fun that these two holidays provide at Congregation Beth Or, you ask?? On March 8 at 10 am and March 9 at 6:15 pm, the Junior Choir will perform our annual Purim *schpiel*! This year's theme is *The Greatest Haman* (based on the hit musical movie, *The Greatest Showman*). Our students have been working so hard to make this production one of the best Purimshpiels ever. All are welcome, so be sure not to miss it!!!

On April 3, our 4th graders along with our Junior Choir, will lead Family Shabbat services. They'll be singing all of your favorite Passover songs throughout the service. Be sure to come and lend your voice as we sing all of the time tested oldies but goodies Passover has to offer. I look forward to hearing the sound of all of our voices together.

Ilu Finu Malei Shirah Ka-yam... may our mouths be as full of song as the sea.
Chag Sameach!



Jaime Murley



Mishloach Manot & Mattanot L'evyonim Beth Or Style

It is customary on Purim to give and receive *Mishloach Manot*, aka a Purim gift package to others in the Jewish community. The idea behind it is to share, which brings us together, and to ensure that we can all participate in giving and receiving regardless of socioeconomic status.

Since 2014, Beth Or's Social Action Committee has created an opportunity "to give" by creating and donating packages of snack/food items to the North Penn Boys & Girls Club and Manna on Main Street Food Pantry. This initiative connects us to another Purim tradition, which is *Mattanot L'evyonim*, aka gifts for the poor.

As we read from the Book of Esther: *"The same days on which Jews enjoyed relief from their foes and the same month which had been transformed for them from one of grief to joy and from mourning to festival, they were to observe them as days of feasting and merry-making, and as an occasion for sending gifts and presents to the poor."* (Esther 9:22)

We invite you to join us on Friday, March 6, immediately following Shabbat services for a *Mishloach Manot* and *Mattanot L'evyonim* project, Beth Or Style. It's fun, joyous and fulfills the mitzvah of *tzedakah* as we prepare for the celebration of Purim.

Todah Rabah to 2019 Mitzvah Month Chairs!

Faye Benshetler - Knitting Circle & Knit'n Knot

Judy Bernstein - Fox Chase Cancer Center Post-Doc Research

Stu Briefer - Red Cross Blood Drive

Marlene & Bob Cohen - Jewish Relief Agency

Shari Coltoff - Distributing Dignity

Fred Dugan - Alex's Lemonade Stand

Abby Gilbert - Fix for a Friend

Caren Gutman - Meals that Matter & Cooking for Interfaith Housing Alliance

Beth & Bernie Johl - Adopt-a-School & St. Christopher's Hospital



Latet

Our relationship with *Latet* began when Rabbi and Laurie Marx traveled to Israel in March 2019. They learned about the vital work of *Latet*, the largest non-governmental organization combating poverty and food insecurity in Israel. They shared the information with Aaron Nielsenshultz, our Religious School Director, and with the Social Action Committee. This summer, our Beth Or Family Trip to Israel visited the *Latet* warehouse to pack food boxes. Before long, a *tzedakah* lightbox was designed and built, thanks to the artistic talents of Andy Walker, Don Berry, Jody Walker, and Daniel Walker. From September to December 2019, the *tzedakah* box, pictured here, was set up in the Spain Lobby with donations dedicated to Holocaust survivors living in need in Israel. The religious school also dedicated all *tzedakah* collected during this time to *Latet*.

The lightbox images on the *tzedakah* box reflect the communal spirit of giving to others, which is a direct reflection of the Beth Or community. A donation of \$3656 was made to *Latet* covering the cost of 101 Food Boxes for Holocaust survivors. Thank you for making a difference for the survivors experiencing food insecurity in Israel.



Walter Kirszbrown - Fix for a Friend

Susy Krimker - Cookies for ten local Police stations

Lynn Levy - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia & Alex's
Lemonade Stand

Jennie Nerenberg - Our Closet

Jody Pascal - Adopt-a-School

Sherry Spector - Cookies for ten local Police stations

Rachel Steinberg - Our Closet

Jill Tarabar - Ronald McDonald House

Marian Wolfert - Cooking for Interfaith Housing Alliance

Thank you to every congregant, from the youngest to the oldest, who participated in any way to another successful two months of *Tikkun Olam*!

Susy Krimker, Social Action Chair, susykrimker@gmail.com

Margie Chachkin, Social Action Vice-Chair, chachkin@aol.com



SOCIAL *Justice*

Growth and Potential

Noah Fischer, Social Justice Chair

The Beth Or Social Justice Committee is poised for growth as more congregants participate and attend our meetings and events. With that comes the potential to develop ongoing programming to address current issues such as the rise of antisemitism while informing and building community. Many factors contribute to each societal challenge that we take upon ourselves to research and we value the diversity within our Committee for different voices to be heard.

On Sunday, March 15, we are co-sponsoring an APEX brunch with guest speaker Debbie Cenziper, author of *Citizen 865*. The book details an investigation with a Philadelphia connection that involves a team of Nazi hunters at the U.S. Department of Justice racing against time to expose members of a brutal SS killing force who disappeared in the U.S. after WWII. We hope that you will join us from 10 am - 12 noon on this Sunday morning.



This year, some of our Social Justice programs will focus on Voter Engagement. Leading up to the primary election in April, we're sharing VOTING FAQs (below) including some changes in PA voting laws.

Beyond staying tuned for further details about these and other programs, please consider getting involved! I hope to meet many of you at our upcoming events or hearing from you even sooner.

Noah Fischer, Social Justice Committee Chair, Noahfischer25@yahoo.com

VOTING — FAQ

2020 Primary and General Elections

- The next primary election is April 28. The last day to register to vote in this primary is April 13.
- The next general election is November 3. The last day to register to vote in this election is October 19.
- Polls are open from 7 am - 8 pm on election days.

Registering to Vote

- You can register online by visiting [votesPA.com](https://votespa.com). After your online voter registration application is approved, you can expect a voter registration card in the mail from your county election office.

Changes in PA Voting Laws

- All voters can now request a mail-in ballot (no absentee requirement). The ballot will be available 50 days prior to election, i.e., March 9 for April 28 primary, and must be requested by the Tuesday prior to election, i.e., April 21 for April primary. The County Board of Election must receive the ballot by 8 pm on election day.
- There is no more straight ticket voting in PA.

Please visit votespa.com for further information and mail-in ballots.

Faye Benshetler

Rabbi Hillel wrote
 "If I am not for myself,
 who will be for me?
 If I am only for myself,
 what am I...?"
 So, I asked my friends,
 "Why do you volunteer?"

I volunteer as a new member to meet other members. — Ellen Tannenbaum

I chose to knot blankets on Mitzvahs Day, as my way of resisting all of the negativism in the world. — Andy Sklenar

I feel good knowing I am providing warmth and comfort to someone in need. — Eileen Sappir

We can make a difference in healing the world. — Margie Chachkin

I volunteer so that our kids will see how important our community is. — Sandi Byron

Volunteering is a small way of giving back. Those who can, should. — Karen Weiss

The Beth Or community has supported my family and me through medical challenges. I developed the perspective that we do what we can for those in need and when we ourselves are in need others will be there to help us. — Abby Gilbert

I am playing a small part in making the world a better place. In this day and age, every little bit counts! — Vivian Lichtman

I choose to volunteer because it is a way that I can give back, appreciating all that I have and it is a strong role model for my children and grandchildren. — Carole Chasen

Volunteering at Beth Or goes back to when my folks joined in 1955. I enjoy being with my community. — Bob Simon

Giving of one's time doesn't cost anything and may mean the world to someone. — Lois Lambersky

Volunteering makes me feel good! — Sherry Spector

The community has given to me, so I want to return my time to the community. Pay it forward. — Bonnie Perry

It feels good to help shape the activities of the community rather than just "showing up". — Lori Motis

Because I don't know how to say no! — Kim Kaffey

To give back to the community that gives my family so much. — Jodye Green

I enjoy helping others. — Debra Steinberg

It gives me something to look forward to doing. — Elsa-Lu Berkowitz

It feels great to connect with other people to do good. — Patty Bassman

It's a way to pay back things that people have done to help me in the past. — Eric Benshetler

**Whatever your talent,
 whatever the reason —
 volunteer. Our Community
 needs you.**



Beth Or Brotherhood

The Three B's

Allan Posner, Brotherhood President • Doug Burtnick, First Vice President



Allan Posner



Brotherhood
CONGREGATION BETH OR
Fellowship • Community
Service • Support

Hopefully everyone had a chance to listen to pearls of wisdom as Rabbi Bonder visited Brotherhood in January. Our clergy is always welcome as we learn and dine. Hunger never ends so I hope you had a chance in January and February while joining us as we helped out during JRA Sunday's. Thank you, Doug, for planning our Bury the Hatchet event and luckily everyone came back in one piece. Lastly, I would like to thank those members from Brotherhood and the Beth Or community who attended our Man of The Year and Brotherhood Shabbat under the leadership of Bob Simon.

I want to speak to you about the Three B's. Brotherhood, Beth Or and Belonging. When you are a member of Brotherhood here at Beth Or, you have a sense of belonging. Volunteering is a great way to strengthen your connection to our group, synagogue and your local community as well. This community belongs to You! Being a part of Brotherhood will increase your sense of pride and allow you to meet people and develop your social network.

Our goal should be ensuring that all our volunteers feel a sense of belonging. How can we best achieve that goal? By incorporating the skills and talents of many volunteers into the programs we offer as well as the operations of our group. Some of us have organizational abilities; others are versed in today's technologies or communication skills. Together we can and are making a difference. Our general membership is at an all-time high along with Mensch membership. Younger members are joining. Our generosity within these walls and the greater community is self-evident.

We are a diverse group of men from different ages and backgrounds and if you want to get involved, Brotherhood at Beth Or is the place to belong.

If you have a passion or skill and wish to share it, let us know. We should fit people in where their passions and interests lie. Take ownership in the community you live in. That community is right here at Beth Or.

I would like to thank all of you who have joined as a Mensch, upgraded to Mensch, or joined as a Regular member. If you are not a member, I encourage you to belong. Your dues help Brotherhood continue the programs we support along with our mission of giving back to Beth Or and the greater community.

It's all about the three B's. Brotherhood, Beth Or and Belonging..

**Upcoming Events: Passover Wine Sales, March 15, 22, 29 • JRA Day, March 22/April 26
Member Meetings, March 18/April 19 • Red Cross Blood Drive, March 22**

KOSHER WINE SALES

Now you can purchase kosher wine all year long and benefit Beth Or!

Use the Beth Or affiliate link on [kosherwine.com](https://bit.ly/wine2020): <https://bit.ly/wine2020> or click the KosherWine symbol on the bottom right side of the Beth Or website home page, "Connect With Us" section.

- Over 700 Varieties
- Seasonal Specials and New Releases
- Easy On-line Ordering
- Ships directly to your home or anywhere in the U.S.

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

Questions? Contact info@bethorbrotherhood.org.



kosherWINE
2020

Beth Or Sisterhood

Uniting the Community

Lois Lambersky, Sisterhood President

I am writing this article on a nice warm day in January and I realize that spring is just around the corner. Spring brings us two special holidays, Purim and Passover. The children are looking forward to Purim and all the fun they're going to have partying. I'm thinking of Passover, my favorite Jewish holiday and the happiness it brings to me.

Sisterhood's 4th annual Women's Unity Seder is Sunday March 29 from 2 pm – 4 pm. Join us along with members of the Wissahickon Faith Community for a unique experience celebrating the holiday of Passover. It's designed to introduce a powerful story of freedom and enable us to share diverse experiences with each other. The story has universal themes that are relevant to everyone, regardless of faith.

It is important that Jews, Christians and Muslims are together celebrating because it unites the community. We can take joy in our similarities and learn from our differences. The gathering is proof that at this time of living in America that people from the widest spiritual backgrounds can come together with open hearts.

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

— Ben Franklin



Lois Lambersky



Sisterhood

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Fellowship • Community
Service • Support

Please Support the

Tarshis Gift Shop

Proceeds Benefit Beth Or Sisterhood Programs

Stop in for these items and more:

- Holiday Items
- Mezuzot
- Hamsas and other Wall Art
- Tallit and Kippot
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Gifts
- Wedding Smash Glasses and Gifts
- Jewelry
- Home Giftware
- Books for Adults and Children
- Children's Toys and Games
- Baby Gifts
- Occasion Cards

Hours:

Monday - Friday • 9 am - 12 pm; Monday & Tuesday • 4:40 pm - 6 pm; Sunday • 9 am - 1 pm

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

Please join us for our 2020 Spring Fundraiser

Pars “Fore” a Purpose Golf Outing, Dinner & Auction

By a show of hands, how many of you enjoy having dinner with your friends? How about playing a round of golf on a challenging course? How many of you like, and want to support Beth Or? Well if you have answered yes to any of these questions, then we have a way for you to do one, two or all three of them! Because on May 19, the spring fundraiser for Beth Or will take place at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club and includes, lunch, a round of golf, dinner and live and silent auctions. We are honored to serve as the chairs of the 2020 spring fundraising event in support of Beth Or.

For the golf lovers out there, or for those who don't love it but like to play, you can try your hand at the Huntingdon Valley golf course, currently ranked as one of the 10 best courses in Pennsylvania. Play as a single or invite your friends to join you. Come for lunch, play, and stay for dinner and the auctions. Guaranteed to be a great day for all.

Don't play golf? No matter. Come for dinner and participate in the silent and live auctions benefitting Beth Or. Our celebrity auctioneer is once again Rabbi Greg Marx.

Even if you don't play golf or eat dinner, there are many other ways for you to participate and support your congregation. Sponsorships at various levels are available which will give you, or your organization, publicity among our community and guests. Or perhaps your business can contribute an item for either our live or silent auctions. This is a great way to get your product or service noticed in the community for an opportunity to generate future business.

We are certainly not doing this ourselves. As the saying goes, it takes a village, or rather a committee, and we are thankful to have a group of hard working, dedicated members eager to make this a great event for all. We want to thank Mitchell Abrams, Linda & Bruce Baron, April Brasher, Doug Burtnick, JoAnn & Peter Friedman, Scott Gallant, Bruce Goldstein, Steve Gross, Rob Hafter, Seth Horwitz, Robin & Gary Lassin, Brian Levine, Jennie Nerenberg, Sue & Mark Rabinowitz, Lynn Samson, and Al & Lori Shemtob.

We look forward to seeing you on May 19!

Stephanie & David Simon
2020 Golf Outing Chairs



Support Beth Or by joining us for this year's Spring Fundraiser! The funds raised from this event will allow Congregation Beth Or to continue our long-standing tradition of providing quality programs to the Jewish community as well as many outreach programs for the local community.

Golf Events

11 am **Golfer Registration & Buffet Lunch**

12:30 pm **Shotgun Start**

Evening Events

5:30 pm **Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres**

6:30 pm **Dinner, Awards, Live & Silent Auctions**

3 Ways to Participate:

Sponsorships & Golf

All sponsorships include unlimited balls for range, golf cart and forecaddie, lunch, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and recognition throughout the event.

\$5000 • Championship Sponsor*

4 Golfers, 8 dinner guests, listing on signage & program book

\$5000 • Forecaddie Sponsor (SOLD)

4 Golfers, 8 dinner guests, listing on signage & program book

\$2500 • Lunch Sponsor (SOLD)

4 Golfers, 4 dinner guests, listing on signage & program book

\$2000 • Fore Friends Sponsor*

4 Golfers, 4 dinner guests, listing on signage & program book

\$1000 • Tee for Two Sponsor*

2 Golfers, 2 dinner guests, listing on signage & program book

\$300 • Individual Golfer

Includes Lunch and Dinner

** Multiple sponsorships available, up to 132 golfers*

Events

\$75 • Cocktails, Dinner and Auctions

All are welcome

Donations

\$500 • Sustainer

Includes 2 dinner guest tickets, listing on signage & program book

\$360 • Supporter

Includes listing in program book

\$180 • Friend

Includes listing in program book

RSVP Deadlines: Sponsorships, Individual Golfers & Donations: Friday, May 1

Cocktails, Dinner & Auction: Wednesday, May 6



2020 Spring Fundraiser Committee (as of 1/31/2020)

Stephanie & David Simon –
General Chairs

Peter Friedman & Mitchell Abrams –
Golf Chairs

JoAnn Friedman, Sue Rabinowitz &
Lynn Samson – Auction Chairs

Bruce & Linda Baron

April Brasher & Doug Burtnick

Scott Gallant

Bruce Goldstein

Steven Gross

Rob Hafter

Seth Horwitz

Gary & Robin Lassin

Brian Levine

Jennie Nerenberg

Jillian Peskin

Mark Rabinowitz

Al & Lori Shemtob

Mindy Wilson



Beth Or Events

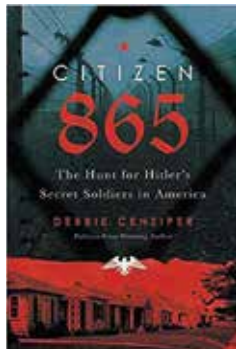
Event details subject to change. Please check the Beth Or website homepage RSVP Portal and/or calendar for the most up-to-date information and on-line RSVP forms.

ADULT PROGRAMS

APEX Brunch with Author Debbie Cenziper

Sunday, March 15 • 10 am – 12 pm

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author, Debbie Cenziper discusses her new book: *Citizen 865 — The Hunt for Hitler's Hidden Soldiers in America*, ranked #1 in Jewish History and Holocaust History on Amazon and called brilliant by the Jewish Exponent! The account details the gripping story of a team of Nazi hunters at the U.S. Department of Justice as they raced against time to expose members of a brutal SS killing force who disappeared in America after World War II. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event — cash or checks only. This program is co-sponsored by APEX and the Social Justice Committee. All congregants are invited to attend. Free with RSVP to Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, by Wednesday, March 11. \$5 at the door.



AARP Safe Driving Refresher Course

Tuesday, March 24 • 10 am - 2 pm

Take a class and get a significant discount on your car insurance. Open to AARP members and non-members age 50+. Please bring your driver's license to class. Course fee: \$15 - AARP members, \$20 - non-AARP members. (AARP membership card required to register for the lower fee.) Please RSVP with payment to the Beth Or office, attention Jillian Peskin. Checks should be made payable to AARP. Contact Jillian with any questions, jpeskin@bethor.org. Please note — this is the final AARP Drivers Course with instructor Marc Satalof. AARP will provide a new instruction for future classes. Thank you Marc for running this class for so many years!

APEX Brunch with Jazz Concert

Sunday, May 3 • 10 am - 12 pm

Join APEX for brunch along with an exciting, enjoyable jazz concert performed by Jazz Sanctuary. The Jazz Sanctuary mission is to bring jazz to the community through performance at community gatherings, further the study of jazz for young people through high schools who cannot afford the cost, and provide a practical form of educational development for those who study music at the college level. There is no charge for Beth Or members with advance RSVP to Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, by Wednesday, April 29. (\$5 at the door.)

APEX is the Adult Programming Experience Committee which presents events geared toward congregational members 55 and over. All Beth Or members are welcome to attend APEX events.

ART GALLERY

Artist – Jody Walker

Opening Reception: Friday, March 13 following Shabbat Worship Service • Exhibiting through April 15

The Olitsky Gallery is thrilled to present the wonderful work of Beth Or's own Jody Walker. Jody began making and decorating useful things for family and friends at a young age. She describes the process of crafting as paradise, a place where imagination and creativity roam freely.



Artist – Elissa Goldberg

Opening Reception: April 17 following Shabbat Worship Service • Exhibiting through June 10

The featured artist at the Olitsky Gallery for the months of April and May is Elissa Goldberg. You will be charmed by Elissa's wonderful pastels. Elissa Goldberg started drawing with pastels about 20 years ago. Her work is inspired by her travels and explorations through Bucks County, while others come from her imagination. Working with pastels is a means of escape for Elissa, a family law attorney.



BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD EVENTS

Sisterhood Meeting Guest Speakers: The Word Mavens

Wednesday, March 4 • 7pm

Join Sisterhood after the monthly meeting for the next WOW (Women on Wednesdays) event featuring The Word Mavens, Joyce Eisenberg and Ellen Scolnic, who will entertain you with a hilarious, fun, fact-filled look at Jewish holidays, traditions, foods & more. Cost: \$10/person. Copies of their books, *The Dictionary of Jewish Words* and *The Whole Spiel*, will be available for signing and sale. RSVP in advance to Ellen Mirbach, semirbach@bethor.org.

Brotherhood Passover Wine Sale

Sunday, March 15, 22 & 29 • 9 am - 1 pm

Stop by the Spain Lobby to stock up on a delicious assortment of kosher-for-Passover wine for your Seder table. You can also order from over 700 varieties of wine throughout the year by clicking the kosherwines.com logo on the bottom right corner of the Beth Or website home page or using the link <http://bit.ly/wine2020>. When ordering online, wines are shipped directly to your home. Proceeds benefit Beth Or Brotherhood and support Beth Or programming.

4th Annual Women's Unity Seder

Sunday, March 29 • 2 pm – 4 pm

Join Sisterhood as we welcome guests from the Interfaith community to gather with women from Beth Or for a moving Seder that uses a special Haggadah incorporating social justice readings. This Women's Seder is led by Lori Motis, Sisterhood Chaplain. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by March 22 to Ellen Mirbach, semirbach@gmail.com. Contact Lori Motis at lorimotis@aol.com with any questions.

HOLIDAYS AND SHABBAT EVENTS

PURIM

Costume Collection Drive

March 1 – 31

The Social Action and Israel Committees are collecting gently-used Halloween costumes for DAFNA'S HEART, an Israeli organization that provides Purim costumes to needy children. Please drop donations off in the marked bin in the Main Entrance vestibule. Todah rabah to Caren and David Gutman, and Nancy and Glenn Hyatt, for making us aware of this project and for transporting the costumes to Israel.

Mishloach Manot

Friday, March 6 • 7:45 pm

All are invited to join us after Family and Kabbalat Shabbat services to perform the mitzvah of giving tzedakah on Purim. We will fill bags and boxes with essentials for people in need. This is a wonderful project for the entire family.

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 8 • 9:30 am – 1 pm

Support Beth Or Youth by attending this family friendly day of fun!

Highlights include food, moon bounces, face painting, carnival games, hamentashen baking, along with airbrushing, hair wrapping, beaded

bracelets, Camp Harlam visitor table and prizes! All proceeds benefit the youth group and help with scholarships for our teens to attend NFTY events! Costumes are encouraged! If you or your teen would like to volunteer, please contact Jillian Peskin. jpeskin@bethor.org.



Erev Purim

Monday, March 9

Kids Costume Parade, Purim Service & Megillah Reading (for ages pre-school – 6th grade) • 5:15 pm

Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes for a lively parade and then join us for a kid-friendly short service & megillah reading. This program is for all young families and religious school families.

The Greatest Haman Purim Schpiel (for all ages) • 6:15 pm

All are invited to watch this year's schpiel, loosely based on The Greatest Showman. Families heading out after the schpiel should stop by the Spain Lobby for some delicious grab & go Hamantashen.

Purim Service & Multi-Lingual Megillah Reading with Adult Beverages (for adults) • 6:45 pm

Our congregants will read the megillah in multiple languages. Adults can enjoy our traditional libations during the service, followed by a Purim Oneg.

PASSOVER

**1st Day Worship Service with Brunch to Follow
Thursday, April 9 • 9 am**

**2nd Night Community Passover Seder
Thursday, April 9 • 6 pm – 8:30 pm**

Join us for our annual Seder with your Beth Or family, catered by George's Market at Dreshertown. This year's Seder will be led by Cantor Green. Cost: \$36/adult, \$18/child 6 – 12, \$0/child 5 and under. Look for menu and RSVP form on the website calendar listing and RSVP portal, or pick up a flyer in the Spain Lobby. RSVP Deadline: April 1.



**Passover Service, Yizkor and Brunch
Wednesday, April 15 • 9 am**

Munchkin Minyan & Challah Bake sponsored by the CECE

Friday, March 6 & April 3 • 5:30 pm

All young families with children in Kindergarten and younger are invited to a make challah, participate in a mini, age appropriate Shabbat service featuring our CECE students and teachers, and enjoy a pizza dinner. Cost: \$20/family includes dinner and donation to Challah for Hunger. March features our 2 years old class and April features our Infants, Toddlers & First Steppers. RSVP to Donna Kordelski in the CECE office, dkordelski@bethor.org, 215-646-8869.

Heart & Soul Shabbat

Saturday, April 11 • 11am – 1pm

Let's hit the trail! Heart & Soul Shabbat is back and we will once again experience Shabbat outdoors. We will meet again at Forbidden Drive in Fairmount Park. RSVP to Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, for specific details. This event is shine only.

Shabbat Worship with Guest Speaker Elizabeth Bettina

Friday, April 24 • 7:30 pm

In commemoration of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), we will hear from author Elizabeth Bettina who wrote about the remarkable story of people in the village of Campagna, Italy, who hid Jewish people from the Nazis.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Beit Sefer Café

Tuesday, March 24 • 6:30 pm – 9 pm

Join us for a stimulating evening of interactive learning, thought-provoking topics, and hands-on activities. Select the topics that interest you most. Enjoy light dinner and socialize between classes. Advance RSVP by March 18 required. Use the website RSVP Portal to register now before the classes fill up! Pick up a brochure in the Spain Lobby or visit www.bethor.org/learn/lifelong-learning for class descriptions. This program is sponsored by the Allen Apter Memorial Endowment for Lifelong Learning Fund.



Class Schedule:

Session 1 • 6:30 pm

- ☐ Centering Women: Gender, Family and Community in the Book of Ruth with Elsie R. Stern, Ph.D.
- ☐ Cooking with Gass Part 1: The Wonder of Salads with Alyson Gass
- ☐ GPS: Guided Prayer Session with Janine Jankovitz, Rabbinic Intern, RRC
- ☐ Jews and Comedy with Rabbi Gregory Marx
- ☐ What Happened at Sinai? And Should You Care? with Rabbi Jason Bonder & Aaron Nielsenshultz

Dinner/Refreshment Break • 7:30 pm

Session 2 • 8 pm

- ☐ Cooking with Gass Part 2: The Wonder of Salads with Alyson Gass
- ☐ Even Weirder: Esther in the Rabbinic Imagination with Elsie R. Stern, Ph.D.
- ☐ Israeli Poet Yehuda Amichai At You've Never Read Him Before with Janine Jankovitz, Rabbinic Intern, RRC
- ☐ Jews Telling Jokes with Rabbi Gregory Marx
- ☐ What Happened at Sinai? And Should You Care? with Rabbi Jason Bonder & Aaron Nielsenshultz

Please note — Alyson Gass's Class takes place over both sessions — sign up for both when registering. Rabbi Bonder & Aaron Nielsenshultz's Class repeats — sign up for one or the other session when registering.

News & Nosh with Rabbi Marx

Sunday, March 29 • 9 am – 10 am

Join Rabbi Marx for an open and informative discussion on today's events affecting the larger Jewish community and our role in and beyond local politics. Participants are welcome to bring their own articles that they would like to discuss with the group. No RSVP required.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, March 22 • 9 am - 2 pm

The Red Cross is in urgent need of all blood types. Please donate blood and help save a life. Thanks to our generous congregants, Beth Or is consistently one of the top donation locations in the area. Register online via the website RSVP Portal for the time slot of your choice, or contact Stu Briefer at smbriefer@gmail.com or 215-661-9990 and he will register you. This event is sponsored by Brotherhood.

Beth Or & Baseball: Where Traditions Meet

Sunday, March 22

Baseball & Softball Clinic • 3 pm – 5 pm

Beth Or boys and girls ages 7 – 18 are invited to kick off their season with a free skills clinic at Ambler Sports Academy. Get tips from experienced players including:



Jake Rosenberg, Israel Baseball Olympic

Team, Ithaca College Baseball, Alvernia College Baseball; Stephanie Wolfson Cohen, Haverford College Softball; Brett Cohen, Haverford College Baseball; David Wolfson, Swarthmore College Baseball; Mike Garbose, University of Michigan Club Baseball; and, Rabbi Jason Bonder, Tel Aviv Lightning Baseball, Muhlenberg College Baseball. RSVP using the website RSVP portal by March 19.

Eric Holtz Meet & Greet • 6:30 pm – 8 pm

We are thrilled to host Eric Holtz! Come hear the incredible story of Israel's Olympic baseball team as Coach Holtz and veteran Sports Broadcaster and Beth Or member, Jeff Asch, cover a wide range of topics from sports to Judaism.

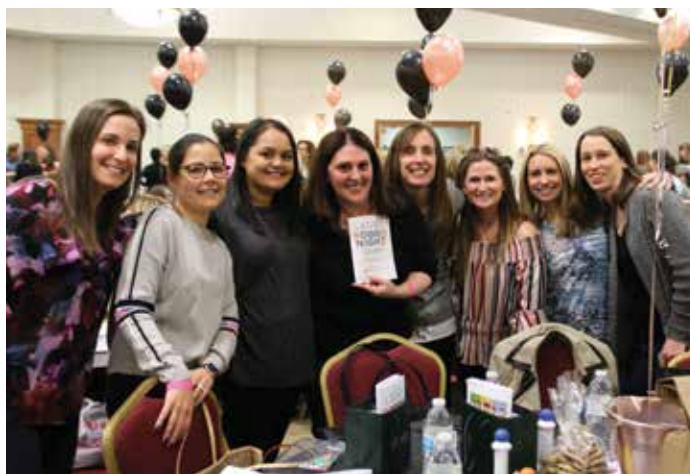
Following the Q&A, all are invited to join us for a fun autograph signing, baseball themed food and drink, and a chance to buy Israel Baseball gear! Proceeds from the sales will go towards supporting Israel's Olympic baseball team on their road to Tokyo. This event is for baseball/softball enthusiasts of all ages. RSVP using the website RSVP portal by March 19.



12th Annual CECE Ladies Bingo Night!

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 pm – 10 pm

One of our most popular fundraisers has returned! Support the CECE and you could win big! Two ticket options: \$45 VIP Pass sponsored by Outback Steakhouse includes dinner, complimentary wine and 10 raffle tickets. Doors open at 6 pm for VIP pass holders to enjoy dinner and early access to the raffle baskets. Standard \$25 Ticket purchased by March 13 includes 5 raffle tickets and you are welcome to bring your own food/drink. (Standard ticket price increases to \$30 after March 13 and does not include raffle tickets.) Standard ticket holders admitted at 6:30 pm. Pick up an RSVP form at Donna Kordelski's desk in the CECE office. Questions? Contact bethorbingo@gmail.com.



Beth Or's Spring Fundraiser: Golf Outing, Dinner & Auction at Huntingdon Valley Country Club

Tuesday, May 19

Go to www.bethor.org/golfouting2020 to download and print an RSVP form, or pick up a flyer/RSVP form in the Spain Lobby. Please note deadline dates: May 1 for Sponsorships and Donations; May 6 for Individual Golfers and Dinner/Auction. See pages 18-19 for more details.





Celebrating Your Simcha

Our beautiful building provides the perfect place to celebrate your family's simchas.

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 Genevieve Yanity at 215-646-5806.

Approved Caterer List — 2019/20

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Barclay Caterers (Kosher)

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Jeff Kalinsky215-224-8400

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Chai-Lights — March/April 2020

New Members

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Justin, Melissa & Madison Schiff
Scott, Stefanie, Anna & Cate Loev

May Their Memory Be A Blessing

Richard Zipin, brother of Earl Zipin & Uncle of Howard Zipin
Louis Cooper, father of Lisa Cooper
Leonard Girsh, father of Harry Girsh
Frances Weissman, sister of Lois Lambersky and aunt of Lee Lambersky
Saul Ellis Burnstine, father of Larry Burnstine
Don Kapel, husband of Sue Kapel
Stuart Abrams, cousin of Bobbi Adair
Eric Vogel, husband of Mindi Vogel
Esther Glickman, cousin of Sherry Spector, Sandi Byron & Suzzie Byron
Shirley Camp, mother of Neen Davis
Sandra "Sandy" Ruth Hersh, mother of Jason Hersh
Sheila Kohn, mother of Andrea Godick
Madelyn "Micki" Anne Iris, mother of Ariel Iris
Judith Ann Wallach, mother of Todd Wallach
Stephen Andrew Goldstein, son of Karen Tabor and brother of Lori Motis & Kim Kaffey
Wendy Ross, daughter of Marjorie Ross & Leonard Ross, z"l
Ephraim Fred Brecher, father of Andrew Brecher
Jerry Mandel, father of Richard Mandel
Julian Robert Mittman, grandson of Norman & Terri Mittman

Mazel Tov

Wedding of Rebecca Siegel, daughter of Owen & Mary Lou Siegel and granddaughter of Bill & Sally Siegel to Dean Brodeur
Wedding of Andrew Goldman, son of Alan & Gail Goldman, to Jacqueline Zummo
Engagement of Julie Zauzmer, daughter of Bob & Jan Zauzmer, to Gabriel Weil
Engagement of Melissa Feinberg, daughter of David & Meichelle Feinberg, to Kyle Miller
Engagement of Meryl Michelle Abrams, daughter of Mitchell & Amy Abrams, to Christopher Ponce
Birth of Oaklee J. Kolodner, grandson of Bonnie Perry

Baby Naming of Theodore Franklin Rosenfeld, son of Michael & Rachael Rosenfeld and grandson of Gary & Judy Kurtis
Baby Naming of Erik Odin Petersen, grandson of Dave & Lorna Petersen
Baby Naming of Mason Isaiah Tarabar, grandson of Marty & Jill Tarabar
Baby Naming of Ayla Elizabeth Wecht, granddaughter of Alan & Lea Wecht
Bar Mitzvah of Jake Friedman

Bar Mitzvah of Corey Abramson
Bar Mitzvah of Logan Frost
Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Silverman
Bat Mitzvah of Emily Amerstein
Bat Mitzvah of Madden Benjamin
Bar Mitzvah of Robert Gartside
Bat Mitzvah of Sari Gartside
B'nai Mitzvah Dylan & Ilan Goldstein
Bat Mitzvah of Claudia Cagnoli
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Greenfield

Oneg and Flower Donations

March Donation:

Oneg & Flowers:

March 6 • Jason & Lindsay Friedman in honor of Jake Friedman's Bar Mitzvah

March 13 • Glen & Jamie Abramson in honor of Corey Abramson's Bar Mitzvah

March 20 • Ryan & Jennifer Frost in honor of Logan Frost's Bar Mitzvah

Robert & Alison Silverman in honor of Lauren Silverman's Bat Mitzvah

March 27 • Michael & Marcie Amerstein in honor of Emily Amerstein's Bat Mitzvah

Jay & Amy Benjamin in honor of Madden Benjamin's Bat Mitzvah

April Donations:

Oneg & Flowers:

April 3 • Robert & Wendy Gartside in honor of Sari Gartside's Bat Mitzvah

Howard & Andrea Goldstein in honor of Ilan & Dylan Goldstein's B'nai Mitzvah

April 10 • David & Carol Udis and Alan & Mindy Reich in honor of the Wedding of their children, Stuart Udis & Stephanie Reich

April 17 • Joe & Lori Cagnoli in honor of Claudia Cagnoli's Bat Mitzvah

Leonard & Ada Greenfield in honor of Hannah Greenfield's Bat Mitzvah



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Mollie Blum
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GERTRUDE AZARVA
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ALAN MANDEL
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BERTA SCHWARTZ
Jody, David, Andrew, Alex
and Robert Pascal
ROSE HERSHMAN
Madeline Lander
LEV RYAN SNYDERMAN
Polina Zhuravlev
JULIE DAVIS
Stephen & Anita Davis
MANUEL DRUCKER
Tod & Andi Drucker
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HERB COHEN's Special
Birthday
Alan & Joan Kober
Bonnie and Jack Rothstein
Harry & Lila Schultz
Bat Mitzvah of JESSICA
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David & Deborah
Rappaport
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IDF
Roger & Carol Masch

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Elyse & Marc Satalof

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JENNIE (JACKIE) GROSSMAN
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DILORIO
Aaron & Emily Marks

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Patricia Bassman
The Wolfson Family
Susan Kapel
Nire Lee & David Eisenbise
Phil Gerson & Family

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Jeffrey & Susan Bellos
KATHLEEN GERBER
John & Melissa Germer
ANNE SILVERMAN
Robert Silverman & Randi
Leavitt
ERIC VOGEL
Staci Perchick Sklar

In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of JESSICA
RAPPAPORT
David & Deborah
Rappaport
CAROLINE SHIFRA ZAGER
and CHARLOTTE GITAL
ZAGER Singing at Kol Nidre
Services
Warren & Katherine Zager

In Appreciation of

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Jay & Susan Freedman
Mr. Allan Cohen & Mrs.
Susan Utain
Neen Davis
Patricia Bassman
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Ellen Wichterman
Engagement of MELISSA
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The Zauzmer Family on the Engagement of JULIE ZAUZMER

Bruce Dorsey & Jennie Nerenberg

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In Appreciation of

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Margie Chachkin

Mazel Tov to

JUDY & ARNIE BERNSTEIN on Jake's Honors and Achievements

Sylvia & Margie Chachkin & Susan Silverstein

Emily Cara Garbose Resource Fund

In Honor of

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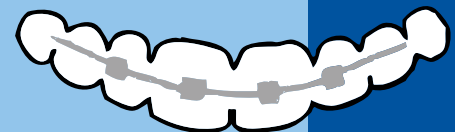
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