



# Beth Or Spotlight

November-December 2021 | Volume 66, Issue 2 | Heshvan-Kislev-Tevet



## November Worship Schedule

### Friday, November 5 Shabbat Toledot

- 5:30 pm Munchkin Minyan – 3's •  
*Facebook Live*
- 6:30 pm 5th Grade Family Worship in  
the Gitlin Sanctuary • *Livestream*
- 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship  
in the Gitlin Sanctuary • *Livestream*  
& *Facebook Live*

### Saturday, November 6

- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the  
Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Hurwitz,  
daughter of Ross and Margot  
Hurwitz • *Livestream*

### Friday, November 12 Shabbat Vayetzi

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Honoring  
Veterans in the Gitlin Sanctuary •  
*Livestream & Facebook Live*

### Saturday, November 13

- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship • *Livestream*
- 1:00 pm Heart and Soul Shabbat

### Friday, November 19 Shabbat Vayishlah

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Honoring  
Sisterhood in the Gitlin Sanctuary •  
*Livestream & Facebook Live*

### Saturday, November 20

- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship with  
the B'nai Mitzvah of Cate Brecher,  
daughter of Andrew and Dara  
Brecher and Benjamin Pokedoff,  
son of Mark and Dina Pokedoff •  
*Livestream*

### Friday, November 26 Shabbat Vayeshev

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship in the  
Gitlin Sanctuary • *Livestream &*  
*Facebook Live*

### Saturday, November 27

- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the  
B'nai Mitzvah of Ari and Tyler Jaffe •  
*Livestream*

## December Worship Schedule

### Friday, December 3 Shabbat Miketz

- 6:15 pm Community Candle Lighting  
in the Rosenfeld Social Hall
- 6:30 pm Glow Stick Family Shabbat  
Worship • *Livestream & Facebook Live*
- 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship  
in the Gitlin Sanctuary • *Livestream*  
& *Facebook Live*

### Saturday, December 4

- 9:00 am Shabbat Worship with the  
Bar Mitzvah of Max Werner, son of  
Dean and Dana Werner
- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the  
Bar Mitzvah of Jackson Amerstein,  
son of Michael and Marcie  
Amerstein • *Livestream*

### Friday, December 10 Shabbat Vayigash

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship in the  
Gitlin Sanctuary • *Livestream &*  
*Facebook Live*

### Saturday, December 11

- 9:00 am Shabbat worship with the  
Bat Mitzvah of Tori Rabin, daughter  
of Jordan and Michelle Rabin
- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the  
Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Glassman,  
daughter of Steve and Chrissy  
Glassman • *Livestream*

### Friday, December 17 Shabbat Vayehi

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship in the  
Gitlin Sanctuary • *Livestream &*  
*Facebook Live*

### Saturday, December 18

- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the  
Bar Mitzvah of Max Berman, son of  
Rich and Roni Berman • *Livestream*

### Friday, December 24 Shabbat Shemot

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship •  
*Livestream & Facebook Live*

### Saturday, December 25

- 9:30 am Torah Study
- 11:00 am Shabbat Worship • *Livestream*

### Friday, December 31 Shabbat Vaera

- 7:30 pm Shabbat Worship in the  
Gitlin Sanctuary • *Livestream &*  
*Facebook Live*



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To attend services in-person, RSVP to Barbara Murtha, [bmurtha@bethor.org](mailto:bmurtha@bethor.org). To watch remotely, visit the [www.bethor.org](http://www.bethor.org) homepage and click the links for the Beth Or Livestream site or Facebook Live.



# An Evolving Chanukah

*Rabbi Gregory S. Marx, Senior Rabbi*

Most Jews love Chanukah. What's not to like? Dreidles, latkes, candles in the darkness, family and greasy food are all enjoyable. Truth be told, Chanukah is a fabulous holiday. This year it will follow Thanksgiving in a unique blending of two very popular holidays. I've heard many comment on their recipes for yam latkes and apple sauce made with cranberries.

When you think about it, however, Chanukah is a complicated holiday. Even the Book of Maccabees, which tells the story of Chanukah, is controversial. The four books of the Maccabees, which didn't even make it into the Bible, were treated as holy books by the Greek-speaking Jews of Alexandria, but not by the Rabbis of Israel, who canonized the Bible.



*Rabbi Gregory S. Marx*

## From the Rabbi's Desk

They never regarded them as holy, never entered them among the books that made up the Hebrew Bible, for the Maccabees by the second century were very unpopular. You see, they celebrated might over faith. They were a bloody band who waged a religious war to win Jewish freedom against a tyrannical overlord, in this case, the Greeks. Ironically enough, these books that celebrated the Maccabees' victory over Hellenism survived not in Hebrew but only in Greek. And it was the most Hellenized Jews in Egypt who most honored these testaments of resistance to Hellenism.

The Talmud tells us a different story of the holiday. The Talmud tells of how the Maccabees found a jar of oil that would only last for one day, and miraculously lasted for eight. Originally a tale of military conquest over the Greeks, the Rabbis transformed the Chanukah story into one of God's miracles and Temple rededication. This remaking of the holiday was essential, for the Jews of the Talmudic period did not have a state and painfully, the original Chanukah story was about nation creation. Also, the rabbis were writing in a period when similar revolts against Rome, seeking to win the Jew's political independence and to turn Israel into a rocky fortress, had been brutally smashed by Rome.

Chanukah has been a kind of battlefield between "Rabbi" and "Maccabee" as models of Jewish life. First it was a story of Maccabean revolution, of a people tired and oppressed rising up in violent revolt against tyranny and fighting for religious freedom. The Rabbis, hostile to the violence and warlike actions of the Maccabees, instead focused on God's redemptive power. By the early 1900s in Israel, the early Zionists, unhappy with Rabbinic dependence on God's saving acts, that neither saved nor healed in their eyes, rejoiced in the strength of the early pioneers. They even reworked Psalm 106, which celebrated the saving power of God, and instead sang about the self-redemption of the early pioneers. Thus Psalm 106 which reads, "Who can tell the mighty acts of the **Eternal**," became "Who can retell the mighty acts of **Israel**." So, from the standpoint of the Rabbis, Chanukah celebrated God's saving Spirit: "Not by might and not by power..." The holiday was all about kindling the flames of dedication that was contradictory to insurgency. From the standpoint of the Maccabees and the Zionists, Chanukah celebrated human courage and doggedness, the human ability to make history bend and change to their will.

Over the centuries we have seen our festival of lights in many different ways. It has been for some a political holiday. For others, it is a triumph of the few and weak over the many and the powerful. To others it is a celebration of faith in a world of despair. It is a defiant act of lighting a candle in the darkness and kindling sparks of light. This year, as it coincides with Thanksgiving, may it symbolize a heart of gratitude and hope, which spring forth as we contemplate our blessings around the family table.

# What's Going on...

Gwen Silverstein, Beth Or President

Shalom my fellow congregants! As I mentioned in my High Holy Days remarks, I stand on the shoulders of amazing leaders and Presidents before me here at Beth Or and it's a privilege to build on their legacy. I am honored and excited about the reach and impact that our congregation has. For this Spotlight issue, I would like to provide a few updates on what's happening inside and outside the walls of our congregation and in our community.

I am pleased to share we were able to spread our spirituality in our community and nation-wide. Our High Holy Days services were attended in more than 1,000 homes/venues. We appreciate you inviting us into your homes and worshipping together virtually. As the world changes, so must we. While we are all eager to be together in person, we are committed to providing multiple ways to access and engage with our Beth Or community. Improving multi-access is a personal objective of mine for the new year. We would love to hear from you and your loved ones as to what did

or did not make these festivities a meaningful experience for you. Your feedback is appreciated and valued. Please direct these thoughts to our Rituals and Practices Co-Chair Committee leaders, Bob Simon or Jody

Pascal, our clergy and/or me. Most importantly, may we all pray that we will be in our beautiful sanctuary together next year!

**Clubs4Community (C4C)** is the newly created name for what Rabbi Marx and I mentioned on Rosh Hashanah as a way for us to foster community through smaller interest groups. We have 10+ newly established Clubs seeking congregants to build their newly created network!

Lastly, I am thrilled to share that we have erected a large tent on our back patio, newly endowed by the Flitter Family and renamed "The Flitter Family Terrace". I attended our Sukkot event and consecration ceremony in this wonderful space in late September. If you are planning an event or have a future mitzvah celebration, keep this new venue in mind. Reach out to Jillian Peskin for more details and availability.

I look forward to seeing you at a worship service or other community events soon.

Thank you in advance for continuing to choose to participate in our vibrant *Kehillah Kedosha*, our sacred community.



Gwen Silverstein

## President's Corner

## November/December Candle Lighting

Friday, November 5 • 4:35 pm

Friday, November 12 • 4:29 pm

Friday, November 19 • 4:23 pm

Friday, November 26 • 4:20 pm

Friday, December 3 • 4:18 pm

Friday, December 10 • 4:17 pm

Friday, December 17 • 4:19 pm

Friday, December 24 • 4:23 pm

Friday, December 31 • 4:27 pm







Rabbi Jason Bonder

## From the Rabbi's Desk

**Stuck in the darkness  
of religious oppression,  
those generations of  
Jews used the haftorah  
as the light that guided  
their way, reminding  
them of the days  
when Torah could be  
read freely.**

# Haftorah — A Light in the Darkness

*Rabbi Jason Bonder, Associate Rabbi*

If you've had your bat or bar mitzvah in the last three years, then I've asked you the following question. "What's a haftorah?"

A haftorah is a reading that comes from the section of the Hebrew Bible known as "The Prophets" and a different selection is read on each Shabbat and most holidays after we finish reading the Torah. There is usually a thematic connection between the selected haftorah and the Torah portion of the week, or between the haftorah and the time of year. If you're interested in more details about this ancient practice which we still do today, you can learn more here:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/haftarah/>

I ask this question of our B'nai Mitzvah students because I have the pleasure of helping them formulate their *d'var Haftorah* — their explanation and analysis of their portion. I truly delight in seeing them come face to face with the ancient texts. Their ideas are always inspiring and it gives me a window into what it's like to be a teenager in the 2020's.

There is a legend about the practice of reading haftorah that is most appropriate for this time of year. It is said that in the moments and places in Jewish history where the reading of Torah was outlawed, Jews still read haftorah to remind them of the portion of the week or the time of year they were in. Stuck in the darkness of religious oppression, those generations of Jews used the haftorah as the light that guided their way, reminding them of the days when Torah could be read freely.

As I proudly listen each week as our B'nai Mitzvah chant their haftarah portion, I often think about how much those words meant to generations of Jews who lived in graver times than ours, and I think of how easy it is to take for granted the good we have in our lives. We do not fully appreciate the power of a flashlight until the electricity goes out. We do not fully appreciate the warmth of the fireplace until the heating system in the house goes caput. We do not fully appreciate the power of the haftorah until after reading from our holiest of scrolls, the Torah.

This year, during Chanukah, we will appreciate the light during the darkest time of our year. May it inspire us to remember that so long as our students continue reading Torah and haftorah, so long as we pass our values on to our children, the light we see during Chanukah will shine bright all year round, even when the sunshine is abundant.

# Should We Question God?

Cantor David Green



Cantor David Green

Should we question God? This is a question I often hear. Often, when a person has lost a loved one or is suffering from illness, they will ask: "Why did God allow this to happen?" Our Jewish sacred text has been addressing this question for thousands of years. That is not to say there is one unified response or easy fix to human suffering, but questioning God in these situations has always been part of our Jewish mind set.

One Torah portion this November addresses the issue of challenging God. In *Parsha Vayishlach*, Jacob wrestled with the angels and would persist in this wrestling until the angels gave him a blessing. The blessing was a Name change, changing Jacob's name to "Israel," which means "one who wrestles with God." Rabbinic commentary agrees that this was no ordinary angel or human being. Could it have been God or maybe Jacob's own inner self? Whatever you believe, it was certainly a wrestling or challenging of God and God's relationship with humans.

This occurs not only during times of human suffering, but also in other aspects of the human experience. This is no more evident than in the psyche of modern day Israelis. Did you ever see Israelis wait patiently in line for anything? By their nature, they challenge many things. They seldom accept the status quo. I believe that is why Israel is the leading nation in medical advances, technology and second to the US in companies listed on the New York Stock exchange.

We Jews want to challenge. We also love to argue and challenge the status quo. An old Yiddish Proverb may apply here according to Rabbi Danny Siegel: "Before I begin to speak, I wish to say a few words."

Jews are often known as a verbose people who always have something to say. Our questioning God is as another rabbi states: "To be a true follower one must struggle. One must struggle to straighten the 'akov ha lev' — the crookedness of one's heart. "To struggle, to challenge God, to debate and not accept some things at face value is part of the Jewish value system. This questioning has allowed us to grow in our faith and to not accept the dogma of going on with business as usual.

## Now Forming! Beth Or Mental Professionals Networking Task Force

We are excited to announce the formation of a mental health professional networking group to help develop strategies to better meet the needs of our congregation. This group is open only to Beth Or members who are licensed and practicing mental health professionals.

Many of our members are facing challenges in parenting, divorce, adult care giving, drug & alcohol abuse and many other issues. These problems have been compounded recently during the pandemic. We are hoping to provide a network to support those who are caring for our community and to assist our community in providing resources.

If you are interested in participating in this task force, please contact Judy Kurtis at [jkurtis@verizon.net](mailto:jkurtis@verizon.net) or Cantor David Green at [dgreen@bethor.org](mailto:dgreen@bethor.org).



# Welcome Back to In-Person Events

It was SO nice to see so many Beth Or faces this fall at our various outdoor events — Sushi Sake Sukkah, Simchat Torah Dance Party, Brotherhood Car Show, Youth Group, YOBO, Sisterhood Chanukah Bazaar, and more! Enjoy some of these pictures and join us soon for one of our upcoming gatherings! (I am most excited for the Chanukah Dance Party with Rak Dan after Glow Stick Shabbat!)



Jillian Peskin







## Important School Dates

**Sunday, November 1**  
No Sheni

**Tuesday, November 2**  
No Shlishi

**Friday, November 5**  
5th Grade Family Shabbat

**Friday, November 5**  
2024 B'nai Mitzvah Family Event

**Sunday, November 7**  
No Rishon

**Sunday, November 28**  
No school: Thanksgiving



**Sunday, December 19**  
No Rishon

**Sunday, December 26**  
No school: Winter Break

**Monday, December 27**  
No Sheni

**Tuesday, December 28**  
No Shlishi

# Religious School NEWS

## Our Tzedakah Project For The Year

*Aaron Nielsenshultz, Director of Religious School*

We're back in full swing at the religious school! It is wonderful to have our students in the building again (with COVID protocols in place of course). It reminds me of the line from Jeremiah, "There shall again be heard in this place...the sound of mirth and the sound of joy." Thank Gd for these sounds of joy!

For many years, the religious school has chosen a charity for *tzedakah*, and this year we're supporting SHALVA, an Israeli-based organization that "leads the way the world understands, cares for, and embraces disability." They

make good on their promise by providing early intervention after birth, daycare and pre-school, rehabilitation, recreational activities, respite and family support, summer camp, vocational training, and adult programming. SHALVA addresses every stage of life, and never leaves the family feeling that it is alone.

For a further glimpse into SHALVA, visit this site:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjcgleMVwcA&t=275s>

The Religious School's goal for the 5782 (2021 - 22) year is \$1160. This will cover the cost of six communication devices for the children at SHALVA.



*Aaron Nielsenshultz*



**Leonard &  
Madlyn Abramson  
Education Center**

**CONGREGATION BETH OR**



Our classes will be collecting *tzedakah*. If you'd like to join the campaign, *tzedakah* may be dropped off in the congregational *Tzedakah* Box, pictured below in the Spain Lobby. This special lightbox was crafted and designed by Andy Walker, Jody Walker, Daniel Walker and Don Berry in 2019. It reflects the communal spirit of giving to others with each of its four sides telling a story, one of which shows Rebecca sharing water with Eliezer and his camels.

# Giving Back During the Holidays

*Sara Baum, Early Childhood Director*

I am often asked by parents how to present the idea of giving to young children. Here at the CECE we see the children's understanding of giving all the time. They bring coins for tzedakah on Fridays, they bring a toy to a classmate who seems upset, or they will draw a picture for a teacher who was out the day before. Children learn by watching the people around them and they are always listening. If you want to teach your children to be giving, show them through your own actions and explain to them why you are doing your own mitzvot. The holiday season can be a great time to give and teach giving.

Here are some ways you can include your young children.

- **Draw pictures for the elderly** and drop them off to an area nursing home.
- Clean out your pantry or go to the market and deliver **some non-perishables to a local food bank**.
- **Write or draw letters for the local emergency responders** who have done so much for our communities during the pandemic.
- **Give toys** that are no longer wanted to local charities.
- **Make a tzedakah box for your home** and toss loose change into it. At the end of the holiday season donate it to the charity of your family's choice.

**Mark your calendars with these important dates coming up in the next few months.**

## November

- 11/5- Virtual Munchkin Minyan honoring our 3's
- 11/24- Early Dismissal, 3pm
- 11/25- CECE Closed
- 11/26- CECE Closed

## December

- 12/24- CECE Closed
- 12/27-30- Winter Camp for Full-time families (Winter Break, closed for Part-time families)
- 12/31- CECE Closed



*Sara Baum*



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

CONGREGATION BETH OR





# Fun Events for Beth Or Kids!



Rachel Shapiro

*Rachel Shapiro, Youth Engagement Advisor*

## Youth Program (Grades K – 6)

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of our 2021-22 school year! I have been seeing many familiar faces as well as meeting some new ones, and I want to thank you all for welcoming me to Beth Or with open arms and tons of support! We have some great events coming up this fall and I hope to see many of you there. Be sure to RSVP to all events on the website RSVP Portal, [www.bethor.org/rsvp-portal](http://www.bethor.org/rsvp-portal) or use the links in your weekly Religious School Notes email. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Looking to the future...

- **Tie Dye Party** (Grades 5 & 6) – Sunday, 11/7, 11 am – 1 pm
- **S'mores & Schmooze** (Grades 3 - 6) – Sunday, 11/14, 1 pm – 3 pm
- **Chanukah Party** (Grades K – 4) – Sunday, 12/5, 1 pm – 3 pm



## YOBO (Grades 7 – 12)

Our YOBO Program has been absolutely wonderful! We have a group of very creative, wonderful, and energetic 7th-9th graders who have kicked off with some Mitzvah Stations as well as some team building activities. We are currently learning about Comparative Judaism and hearing from some wonderful speakers including our very own Rabbi Jason Bonder and guest Rabbi Sam Hollander. We will soon interact with our religious school director Aaron Nienshultz and guests Gevura Davis, Rabbi Shaya Deitsch and Rabbi Hillel Sperlin. Our YOBO teens have some great goals for this year and I look forward to implementing their ideas!





# La'asok B'divrei Torah



Jaime Murley



*Cantor Jaime Murley,  
Junior Choir Director*

Every year for Religious School, we pick a "theme song" that expresses an idea or concept that we want the students to think about and make their own. This year's theme song is Rick Recht's "La'Asok B'divrei Torah" based on the following blessing:

**Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,  
Who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to engage with words of Torah.**

La'asok B'divrei Torah is recited before studying the words of Torah because we get the opportunity to discuss and discover its meaning. It is traditionally recited before Torah study or any kind of Jewish learning commences. It is important to note that this is different from the blessing we recite before the ritual reading from the Torah (*"Barchu Et Adonai Ha'M'vorach..."*) that our B'nei Mitzvah and their families recite during the Torah service on Shabbat.

In simple terms, the blessing thanks God for instructing us to study Torah. Many people believe that *La'asok B'divrei Torah* is the most important of all the mitzvot ("commandments") because studying Torah is how we learn what all the other mitzvot

are and how to follow them. A big debate once took place between rabbis as to which was more important — study or prayer.

And so this "prayer for study" was created, so that both could happen at the same time.

In Jewish tradition, studying is not something we do just to become more knowledgeable or learn how to behave. Judaism teaches that study is itself a spiritual act and by studying we become closer to God. We make a blessing before studying Torah to remind ourselves that we are not studying this ancient text because it is historically significant (even though it is), or is literally magnificent (even though it is), or because it helps us understand Jewish law (even though it does). We study Torah because it helps us discover meaning and purpose in life.

In religious school, we use La'asok B'divrei Torah as a launching point for learning some of the most famous prayers that come directly from Torah, like the Shema (where we proclaim that there is one God), and Mi Chamocha (the prayer that the Israelites sang as the sea miraculously split after the exodus from Egypt). Please take a moment to listen to the song here: [https://youtu.be/xti0UO\\_ABYo](https://youtu.be/xti0UO_ABYo). If you have a student in K-6th grade, have them teach you the hand motions so that you can participate with them at the next youth service! Until then, may you soak in the words of Torah and rejoice in its many commandments (after all, Chanukah is fast approaching, and lighting the menorah is one of the commandments!!)



# Meet Our B'nai Mitzvah Students

## Abbie Hurwitz

November 6

In response to the tornado that devastated our community, I volunteered in the community with **clean up, sorting donations and making meals**. In addition, in October, I ran a bake sale at my Dance Studio, Spot On Dance Academy in Fort Washington with the proceeds going to specific displaced families. If you would like to donate, we are accepting monetary donations via my mothers' Venmo account @Margo-Hurwitz.



through my fundraising page at <https://donate.lovetotherescue.org/MitzvahForShriners>.

When I was born, I had an injury to my Brachial Plexus, which tore the nerve in my left arm and left me unable to move it. After years of physical therapy and doctor's visits at Shriners Hospital, my left arm is almost fully healed. Because of what Shriners has done for me, I am giving back by raising money for them for my Mitzvah Project, and thanking Dr. Scott Kozin, who helped change my life for the better. Please join me by helping Shriners to help others who have needs even greater than mine. Thank you!

## Ari & Tyler Jaffe

November 27

For our Mitzvah Project, we decided to raise money for the **American Cancer Society**. After a close family friend, who is like a grandfather to us, was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer, we made three types of edible cookie dough: chocolate chip, funfetti and double chocolate chip. We shared our fundraiser on Instagram and took orders from family and friends. We drove all over the Philadelphia area to deliver our cookie dough and also shipped to Chicago and New York.

After our fundraiser was completed, we helped **Relay for Life**. We worked with the Ambler Gazette and Wissahickon School District to share our cookie dough story and encouraged the community to participate in the Relay for Life Virtual 5k last spring. We are proud to have raised over \$3000 to help fight cancer.



## Cate Brecher

November 20

For my Mitzvah Project, I wanted to continue to raise money for **Penn Medicine's Hematological Research Program**. Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center is one of the oldest and largest in the country, providing cutting-edge, life-saving research and treatment. I have raised money through lemonade/bake-sales, directing donations specifically to their research efforts. I also had a bake sale at Beth Or and through generous donations from our congregation, continue to raise money for a cause that has personal meaning to me. I assisted in October at Beth Or's Blood Drive by handing out information about BE THE MATCH, spreading the message that it is easy to help people in need. Someone did this for my grandfather; it is a small act that can save someone's life.



## Benjamin Pokedoff

November 20

Please support my Mitzvah Project by joining me on Monday, November 1, from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm & order takeout from my favorite sushi restaurant, Ooka, in Montgomeryville. The restaurant is teaming up with us by donating a portion of the proceeds from all takeout orders on that date.

To participate, call 215-361-1119 and tell them you are with **Sushi For Shriners**. Thanks for your support and willingness to pick up your order. Not a fan of Sushi? No problem! You can support Shriners by donating



*Mazel  
Tor*

## Jackson Amerstein

**December 4**

For my Mitzvah Project, I wanted to do something that would help what I am passionate about. I am volunteering at **Furever Yours Rescue** in Maple Glen. This organization helps dogs find forever homes. I am raising money for donations to buy toys, food, shampoo, and everything else dogs need. I am also spending time at the shelter helping clean up, bathe, and play with the dogs to make sure they are well cared for. If you would like to send a donation or supplies, please email at [fureveryoursresuces@gmail.com](mailto:fureveryoursresuces@gmail.com) and reference my name, Jackson Amerstein.



## Elizabeth Glassman

**December 11**

I have always had a passion for reading, and I knew when I began thinking about my Mitzvah Project that I would do something around my passion for reading. I chose to assemble and install a **"Free Little Library"** in my neighborhood. Having easy access to all sorts of books brings the community together and highlights the importance of reading. I am still collecting new/gently-used books through the end of December to place inside the library.



## Max Berman

**December 18**

I am planning two Mitzvah Projects for my Bar Mitzvah. First, I'm coordinating a **Blood Drive** on Thursday, November 4 at Hatboro Baptist Church, from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm. A close friend of the family, Beckett Campbell, is 7 and has Leukemia. In the two months since he's been diagnosed, he's already needed platelets and multiple blood transfusions. It's really important for people to give blood, so I thought that this would help him. You can sign up by going to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and search for this Blood Drive. Also, I am coordinating a collection for the **Mitzvah Circle Foundation**. I will be collecting small sports balls to give to families in need. We volunteer at Mitzvah Circle Foundation when we can, and I can't live without sports. Many children living in poverty don't have items to play with and this will help. On December 5, I will be outside collecting donations for Mitzvah Circle. I'll also accept gift cards to Walmart, Target, or Five Below to buy sports balls to donate. To learn more about Mitzvah Circle, please visit [www.mitzvahcircle.org](http://www.mitzvahcircle.org).



Mazel  
Tor



## JUST: adjective | *just*: adverb

When it comes to homonyms (words with the exact spelling and pronunciation but different meanings), it's the context that makes their definition clear.

The Religious Action Center's new Pennsylvania (RAC-PA) Campaign uses such a term in their just launched Campaign, JUST ELECTIONS. The Campaign includes three components:

- **JUST REDISTRICTING** — to ensure PA maps fairly represent the majority of voters
- **JUST ELECTION LAWS** — to eliminate barriers for a free and fair election
- **JUST VOTING** — to register voters and get out the vote

If taking action instead of just watching by the sidelines is important to you, we invite you to join our next Beth Or Committee meeting/zoom call. Please let us know if you are interested by emailing us at the addresses below. There were 18 congregants on our last Committee call on this topic. With your participation, that number will grow! You can also visit RAC-PA on the web and register for their upcoming Civic Engagement Trainings.

Thank you — *Todah Rabah!*

Susy Krimker, Social Action Co-Chair, [susykrimker@gmail.com](mailto:susykrimker@gmail.com)

Margie Chachkin, Social Action Co-Chair, [chachkin@aol.com](mailto:chachkin@aol.com)

Noah Fischer, Social Justice Chair, [noahfischer25@yahoo.com](mailto:noahfischer25@yahoo.com)



## Does Family Matter?

The answer is a resounding YES.

An organization that lives those words right here in our region is **JAFCO FamilyMatters**, offering support to families in crisis. The distress within a family may be trauma-related or a home situation that involves substance abuse, mental health, at-risk children, divorce and custody issues, or special needs.

The key word for JAFCO FamilyMatters is support. They combine guidance through difficult and challenging transitions, with improving access to needed services and resources, advocating for a family's needs in school and court settings, and increasing safety in the home.

**On Sunday, November 14, the Social Action Committee is hosting a Gift Drive for the 150 children served by JAFCO FamilyMatters.**

We invite you to drop off any of the following **new and unwrapped items**: ■ Chapter Books  
 ■ Early Reader Books ■ Lego Activity Sets ■ Musical Toy Instruments ■ Puzzles ■ Sports Equipment  
 ■ Scrapbook Kits ■ Play-Doh Sets ■ Remote Control Cars or Helicopters ■ Leap Frog Learning Toys  
 ■ Amazon Echo Dot ■ Arts & Craft Kits ■ Magnetic Building Block ■ Polaroid Camera ■ Board Games  
 ■ Kinetic Sand ■ Sensory Books ■ Gift Cards (Target, Best Buy, Amazon).

By joining this effort you will be doing much more than surprising a child with a present. You will be giving the priceless gift of lovingkindness and sharing the Jewish value of chesed.

Thank you for considering this mitzvah!

Susy Krimker, Social Action Co-Chair, [susykrimker@gmail.com](mailto:susykrimker@gmail.com)

Margie Chachkin, Social Action Co-Chair, [chachkin@aol.com](mailto:chachkin@aol.com)

# Annual Mitzvah Months and Mitzvas Day 2021 Activities



The Social Action Committee will close out the 2021 calendar year with our traditional Mitzvah Months (November/December) and Mitzvas Day (December 25). Below is the tentative schedule. Further details will be included in your weekly Chai Lights email, but grab your calendars in the meantime to jot down some dates, and start gathering the requested items. We'd love to see you in the coming weeks!

## Wednesdays, November 10 & December 8 • 7 pm

- **Knitting Circle:** Knit blankets to comfort local hospital patients.
- RSVP to Chair: Faye Benshetler, [febx@comcast.net](mailto:febx@comcast.net)

## Sunday, November 14 • 9 am - 12 pm

- **Collection for JAFCO Family Matters:** NEW Chapter Books, Early Reader Books, Lego Activity Sets, Musical Toy Instruments, Remote Control Cars or Helicopters, Play-Doh Sets, Leap Frog Learning Toys, Amazon Echo Dot, Arts & Crafts Kits, Magnetic Building Blocks, Polaroid Camera, Board Games, Puzzles, Sports Equipment, Wireless Bluetooth Headphones, Cricut Joy Machine, Bluetooth Speaker, Magnetic Building Tiles, Scrapbook Kits, Kinetic Sand, Sensory Books, Gift Cards (Target, Best Buy, Amazon)
- Chair: Carole Chasen, [carole.chasen@yahoo.com](mailto:carole.chasen@yahoo.com)
- **Alex's Lemonade Stand:** Support pediatric cancer research by stopping by for a glass of lemonade.
- Chairs: Lynn Levy, [hannahsmom4ever@comcast.net](mailto:hannahsmom4ever@comcast.net) and Fred Dugan, [fgdugan@comcast.net](mailto:fgdugan@comcast.net)
- **Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) Offsite** 10 am - 12:30 pm: Pack and deliver food to seniors living in the Northeast. Meet at Beth Or at 9 am to carpool or meet at JRA (10980 Dutton Road, Philadelphia) at 10 am for packing. Delivery routes begin at 11 am. Pre-registration required.
- RSVP to Chairs: Marlene & Bob Cohen, [rcohenesquire@gmail.com](mailto:rcohenesquire@gmail.com)

## Monday, November 15 • 10 am - 12 pm & Sunday, December 5 • 1 pm - 3 pm

- **Meals that Matter:** Cook meals for Klein Life's seniors and homebound clients in the Beth Or kitchen. Pre-registration required.
- RSVP to Chair: Caren Gutman, [carengutman@gmail.com](mailto:carengutman@gmail.com)



## Fridays, November 19 & December 17 • 10:30 am

- **Knitting Circle:** Knit blankets to comfort local hospital patients.
- RSVP to Chair: Faye Benshetler, [febx@comcast.net](mailto:febx@comcast.net)

## Sunday, December 12 • 9 am - 12 pm

- **Collection for Our Closet:** Clothing, shoes, and sneakers for men and women. Our Closet, powered by Jewish Family and Children's Services, provides clothing to vulnerable Philadelphians and their families free of charge by operating "pop-up shops" throughout the city.
- Chair: Rachel Steinberg, [levinerb@yahoo.com](mailto:levinerb@yahoo.com)
- **Collection for Interfaith Housing Alliance's Hope Gardens:** Non-perishables, paper and cleaning products.
- Chairs: Susy Krimker, [susykrimker@gmail.com](mailto:susykrimker@gmail.com) and Margie Chachkin, [chachkin@aol.com](mailto:chachkin@aol.com)
- **Collection for Cradles to Crayons** led by Sisterhood:
- Chair Faye Benshetler, [febx@comcast.net](mailto:febx@comcast.net)
- **Collection for Distributing Dignity:** NEW bras and unopened feminine hygiene products for women living in a shelter or transitional home.
- Chair: Shari Coltoff, [coltoff@yahoo.com](mailto:coltoff@yahoo.com)

## Mitzvas Day, Saturday, December 25 • 10 am - 12 pm

Stay tuned — full plans for the morning and project details coming soon!

- **Knit 'n Knot Fleece Blankets**
- **Candy Baskets for Local Police Stations** (candies will be pre-wrapped) followed by deliveries to police stations
- **Integrate for Good Sleeping Mat Project**



# Beth Or Brotherhood

## Brotherhood's Mission Starts With Throwing Axes

Doug Burtnick, Brotherhood President



Doug Burtnick



Have you ever wondered why it looks like Brotherhood's missions of Fellowship, Community, Service and Support seem to play out very publicly as axe throwing events and beer gardens in the Beth Or Parking lot? It's really simple. Nothing of any substance ever comes from a group of people who don't feel a connection to each other. So, a lot of Brotherhood is about the connections that grow from those events and become real world connections not directly related to Brotherhood events. The fellowship that springs from those events, those shared experiences and the breaking of bread is the foundation of Brotherhood's ability to fulfill its Community, Service and Support missions.

I recently heard the dean of a major business school try to justify the benefit of high cost in-person university for a world that's just gone through two years of zoom. You guessed it, the dean believed that the most valuable thing that comes from in-person schooling is the chance encounters walking through campus, living in a dorm or attending other activities that result in idea sharing and network building. So, maybe, the **December 7 Brotherhood Annual Dinner with Sarge the Comedian** where you're guaranteed to laugh hysterically is really just a great opportunity for chance encounters that might turn into grand friendships. Case in point. I had never met anyone at Brotherhood prior to attending an annual dinner many years ago... Come, have fun and see who you meet. See where you might have a chance encounter that leads to a friendship, a project, maybe even a mission.

We think about Brotherhood as less about joining and more about finding the right connections. Whether you opt in as a Mensch member and get a free Annual Dinner ticket or not, we'll continue to pursue big events and ambitious goals, and put together smaller no-commitment events to get to meet people. And yes, we want to meet you. Can help us find and execute the next great idea to serve and support our Beth Or and secular communities?

Thank you! Don't forget to click the QR Code or visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/160763492935> to buy tickets for you and your date or maybe even a whole table for the December 7 Annual Dinner and to see details about our Covid-19 protocols for the event.



## 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](http://bit.ly/BethOrBrotherhood): <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](mailto:info@bethorbrotherhood.org).





# Beth Or Sisterhood

**“One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others.”** — Lewis Carrol-English, author of Alice and Wonderland

*Melisa Lubinski, Sisterhood President*

When we hear of someone's devastating loss, a catastrophe or tragedy, our natural inclination is to ask how we can help. We hope to make a large impact in each circumstance, but a need does not have to be large to mobilize action from Congregation Beth Or's Sisterhood. All we ask is for someone to share information and be that first spark so we can shine a light on whatever the need might be and come up with a plan to address it.

Through our annual budget, supported by over 230 Sisterhood members, dues and activity fees directly support the needs of our congregation and local community partners. Sisterhood touches and supports educational, ritual and spiritual programming, such as:

- Purchasing kitchen supplies - a new rolling cart, new pans
- Providing materials for Religious School students to make Yads
- Helping to off-set the cost of dinner for YOBO
- Knitting blankets, lap afghans, bears, masks, scarves and hats for cancer patients and those in the hospital
- Supplying traditional symbolic Holiday sweets like apples and honey, hamentashen, and decorating the Bimah Sukkah
- Gifting Shabbat candle sticks to B'nai Mitzvah students to use in their homes.

Sisterhood has built strong bridges with our community partners like Camp Harlem by updating tee shirts, donating school supplies to Bethlehem Baptist Church for local elementary schools, and maintaining an apartment for families in transition through the Interfaith Housing Alliance. We've also coordinated collection drives for organizations such as Cradles to Crayons, Our Closet, Mitzvah Circle and Laurel House in the form of clothing, accessories and gently used books.

However, not all needs are anticipated in the annual budget. This is where Sisterhood's Mitzvah Fund can be activated by the Sisterhood Executive Board. This anonymous fund is designed for a one- time monetary allotment. Most recently, this fund assisted a nurse from Camp Harlem who cares for both a disabled son and husband and was displaced from her home. Many are too proud to ask for help for themselves. Be their voice and help us help them. If you know of a circumstance where the Mitzvah Fund can be helpful, reach out to our clergy or a Sisterhood board member.

As Chanukah approaches, we remember the valuable lessons learned from the Maccabees - Hope, faith, belief in miracles, care of family and friends, learning, standing up for good, and taking the first step towards action. We light the Shamash and kindle these possibilities. We all have the calling to do what we can to create a better world. Please help Sisterhood lead the way for our children by spreading a caring and spiritual light.



*Melisa Lubinski*



**Sisterhood**

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Service • Support

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*Proceeds Benefit Beth Or Sisterhood Programs*

**Hours:**

For a personal appointment, contact Bobbi Adair, [Bobbifadair@gmail.com](mailto:Bobbifadair@gmail.com).

**Fall Hours:** Sunday, 9:30 am – 12:40 pm • Tuesday 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm • Friday 9 am - 12 pm

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

## BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD EVENTS

### Sisterhood Book Discussion Watch Party with Author, Rabbi Lynda Targan

**Wednesday, November 3 • 7:15 pm • In-Person**

Come to Beth Or for a watch party featuring Rabbi Lynnda Targan who will talk about her book, *Funny, You Don't Look Like a Rabbi: A Memoir of Unorthodox Transformation*. Rabbi Targan's memoir traces the path she took at age 50 to fulfill her calling to become an ordained Rabbi. While on a mission to both Israel and Poland, she believed she should do more for her Jewish community, and this was the catalyst that sparked her journey of self-discovery, battling skepticism and breaking traditional barriers. Cost: \$25 includes event admission & a copy of a signed book. RSVP to Ellen Mirbach, [semirbach@gmail.com](mailto:semirbach@gmail.com) by 11/1. Please let Ellen know if you want to purchase the book or make a donation of your choice for admission to the event.

### Sisterhood Game Day

**Sunday, November 14 • 1 pm - 3 pm • In-Person**

Spend an afternoon playing Bunco, Rummikub or Scrabble with your friends! Enter to win cash raffles, too (tickets: \$2/1, \$5/3, \$10/7, cash only). RSVP for this free event to Ellen Mirbach, [semirbach@gmail.com](mailto:semirbach@gmail.com) by 11/11 with the following information: (1) 1st and 2nd choice of the game that you want to play; (2) if you want to reserve a table for a complete group of 4 players; and (3) if you have a group of 4, the names of those who are in your group.

### Sisterhood Kugel Cook-Off Contest and Panel Discussion

**Wednesday, December 1 • 7 pm • In-Person**

In the spirit of Chanukah, Sisterhood is holding its first-ever Kugel Contest. Cooks of all abilities are encouraged to submit their favorite kugel(s) in one or more of these categories:



Sweet, Savory, Potato, and Holiday!! Our celebrity judges include Beth Or's very own Laurie Marx and Barbara Murtha plus others with Alyson Gass serving as moderator. Prizes will be awarded in each category! A panel discussion exploring different kugel styles, trouble shooting and sharing stories will follow. Visit the website calendar listing for full participation details. Whether you are submitting a kugel or not, all are invited to attend this fun event! Register by 11/23 to Ellen Mirbach, [semirbach@gmail.com](mailto:semirbach@gmail.com). Questions? Contact Melisa Lubinski, [mbmjmom@comcast.net](mailto:mbmjmom@comcast.net).

### Brotherhood Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

**Tuesday, December 7 • 5:45 pm – 9 pm • In-Person**

Brotherhood is thrilled for the return of their largest fundraising event of the year! Spend the night with comedian SARGE while raising money to support Beth Or programming. All men and women are welcome to join Brotherhood for great food, fun, laughs, silent auction and the chance to win a minimum \$2,500 in a 50/50 raffle. Cost: Mensch members - Free! Brotherhood Members - \$65. Non-members & Guests - \$75.



A portion of the proceeds benefits Manna on Main Street and the Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard. Refer to the event web calendar listing for COVID-19 health & safety protocols in place to help make this in-person event comfortable for all. Use the RSVP Portal on the website homepage to purchase tickets.

**Sisterhood Membership Event**  
**Sunday, December 12 • 2 pm – 4 pm • In-Person**  
This program will take place in the Social Hall.

### GET CONNECTED: BETH OR BUSINESS & CAREER NETWORK

**Monthly Networking Events**

**Mondays, November 8 & December 13 • 7 pm – 8 pm**

Check your weekly Chai Light email for details.





## HOLIDAYS AND SHABBAT EVENTS

RSVP with Barbara Murtha, [bmurtha@bethor.org](mailto:bmurtha@bethor.org) for in-person attendance for Shabbat Worship services, or watch remotely on the Beth Or Livestream site or Facebook Live. Links for remote viewing are located on the Beth Or home page.

### Shabbat Worship honoring our Veterans

**Friday, November 12 • 7:30 pm**

Join us for our annual Shabbat service where we sing patriotic songs and pay tribute to our Beth Or Veterans and Active Duty Personnel.

### Shabbat Worship honoring Sisterhood

**Friday, November 19 • 7:30 pm**

Sisterhood members have special honors during tonight's Shabbat service, where we also recognize Sisterhood's Woman of the Year.

### Chanukah Shabbat

**Friday, December 3**

#### Community Candle Lighting • 6:15 pm

BYO menorah to the Rosenfeld Social Hall where we will host our traditional community candle lighting prior to tonight's Shabbat Worship service.



#### Glow Stick Family Shabbat Worship • 6:30 pm

Let's light up the night as we celebrate Chanukah together during a song-filled service in the Gitlin Sanctuary.

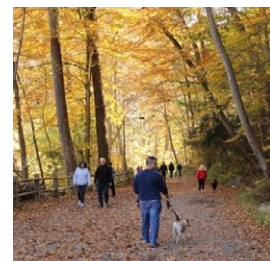
#### Israeli Dancing with RAK-DAN • 7:30 pm

Come to the Flitter Family Terrace after Shabbat services for Israeli dancing under the tent. Pick up a donut-to-go on your way out!

### Heart & Soul Shabbat

**Saturday, November 13 • 1 pm – 2 pm • In-Person**

Rabbi Bonder and Paul Brooks lead an outdoor spiritual experience that is good for your mind and body. We will hit the Wissahickon Trail starting at Forbidden Drive. RSVP to Rabbi Bonder, [jbonder@bethor.org](mailto:jbonder@bethor.org) so he knows to expect you. This event is shine only.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Israeli Movie Nights

#### Here We Are

**Screen Film: Thursday,**

**November 11 –**

**Monday, November 15**

**Discussion with Rabbi Marx:**

**Monday, November 15 •**

**7 pm • Virtual only**

*Here We Are* is the story of a father who has dedicated his life to raising his autistic son, and what happens as the son transitions to begin his life as an adult. Stream the film at your leisure for free starting 11/11 through the last screening on 11/15 beginning at 4 pm. Then, join Rabbi Marx on Zoom to discuss the film on 11/15 at 7 pm. Visit the web calendar listing for the streaming and Zoom links.



#### A Winter's Journey

**Screen Film: Thursday, December 16 –**

**Monday, December 20**

**Discussion with Rabbi Marx: Monday, December 20 •**

**7 pm • Virtual only**

*A Winter's Journey* is a docu-fiction account of a father and his son's search for the truth about his parents' experiences during Hitler's ascent and the events leading up to his and his wife's (both gifted musicians) escape from Germany. Stream the film for free from your home starting on 12/16 through the last screening on 12/20 beginning at 4 pm. Then, join Rabbi Marx on Zoom to review the film on 12/20 at 7 pm. Visit the web calendar listing for the streaming and Zoom links.

### Mitzvah Month Collection Drives – throughout November & December

**Mitzvas Day – Saturday, December 25 • 10 am – 12 pm**

Beth Or's annual months of giving back and helping others has returned! Refer to the Social Action article on page 13 for the schedule, details and more! Contact Susy Krimker, [susykrimker@gmail.com](mailto:susykrimker@gmail.com) or Margie Chachkin, [chachkin@aol.com](mailto:chachkin@aol.com) with any questions.

## WFCA Speaker: David French

**Monday, December 6 • 12 pm • Virtual**

Beth Or members and the WFCA community are invited to a special program where David French warns of the potential dangers to the country - and the world - if we don't summon to courage to reconcile our political differences. For full details and advance registration for the Zoom meeting link, visit the web calendar listing or refer to your weekly Chai Lights email.



## Adult Caregiving Support Group

Many of us are taking care of elderly parents. The emotional and physical demands can be quite challenging. If you would like to join our Adult Caregiving Support Group which meets once a month, please email Cantor Green, [dgreen@bethor.org](mailto:dgreen@bethor.org) or Judy Kurtis, [jkurtis@verizon.net](mailto:jkurtis@verizon.net).

## 2022 Travel

**11 Day Tour of Israel with Rabbi & Laurie Marx  
June 26 – July 6, 2022**

Rabbi and Laurie Marx lead a journey to the land where our heritage will unfold before our eyes. We will walk, see, feel & touch the roots of our faith and of our nation, and come to better know our Jewish homeland. This trip is ideal for Beth Or adults who are visiting Israel for the first time. RSVP ASAP. Space is limited. Visit [www.bethor.org/discover/bethortravel](http://www.bethor.org/discover/bethortravel) for complete itinerary and pricing or contact Rabbi Marx at [gmarx@bethor.org](mailto:gmarx@bethor.org), 215-646-5806, ext. 222.



# Lifelong Learning

All of the remaining Fall Lifelong Learning Classes will take place on Zoom only. The Zoom meeting link for each class will be included in the confirmation email once you RSVP and can also be found in the web calendar listing and weekly Chai Lights email to use on the night of the class.



## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CLASSES

### A Jewish Adult Should... with Rabbi Bonder

**Tuesday, November 2 • 7pm • Virtual**

So? What's the answer? Jewish tradition has plenty to say about how to raise our children, but we are the people who will decide what Judaism looks like in the next generation and beyond. Join Rabbi Bonder in creating a brand new blueprint for how to raise Jewish adults of integrity and honor in the 21st Century. Register for this class on the RSVP Portal or the link in your weekly email.

### Havdalah: The Best Jewish Tradition You've Never Heard Of with Rabbi Bonder

**Tuesday, November 9 • 7pm • Virtual**

What is Havdalah? What is its significance? Where did it come from? Is it for you? Join Rabbi Bonder and take a deep dive into this wonderful ritual. Register for this class on the RSVP Portal or the link in your weekly email.

### Poetry Worship with Amy Small McKinney

**Monday, November 15 • 7 pm • Virtual**

Together we will read and discuss modern Jewish poetry from the anthology: 101 Jewish Poems For The Third Millennium. We will explore what makes these traditional, radical, secular and holy poems uniquely Jewish. If time allows, we can try to write our own. Register for this class on the RSVP Portal or the link in your weekly email.

### Talmud for the Complete Beginner with Aaron Nielsenshultz

**Tuesdays, November 16 & 23 & December 14 • 7pm • Virtual**

The Talmud established so much of Jewish thought and practice, and its 2700 pages offer a variety of ways to understand and interact with Judaism. Let's learn together how to navigate this complicated, all-encompassing text. We'll look at its history, its areas of focus, its methodology, and what it can help us understand about our own relationship with Judaism. No previous experience required. Register for this class on the RSVP Portal or the link in your weekly email.



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Our catering partners on the Approved Caterer List — shown below and published on our website ([www.bethor.org](http://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.

### **Approved Caterer List — 2021/22**

<b>Annemarie's Cuisine • Annemarie Silva</b> .....	215-806-7675
<b>Betty the Caterer (Kosher) • Jeff Kalinsky</b> .....	215-224-8400
<b>Classical Caterers • Evan Bernstein</b> .....	732-297-6444
<b>Go2eventplanner (new Phila. based) • Arlene Rotfeld</b> .....	516-909-8580
<b>Infinity by Design • Fred Morganstein</b> .....	610-405-9787
<b>Panache Catering by Foodarama (Kosher) • Gary Rosenwald</b> .....	215-633-7100
<b>Pumpernick's Deli • Jeff Klein</b> .....	215-393-5800

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# Chai-Lights — November/December 2021

## New Members

Raymond & Bonnie Singer  
Stuart & Susan Burg  
Eric, Lori, Ryder & Jocelyn Bodenheimer  
Mitchell, Jessica & Sarah Edelson & Michelle Vichnin  
Andrea Hanna, Greg, Mia & Anna Shorr  
Issac, Amanada, Leah & Owen Kessler  
Max Taytelbaum & Shonnie Lebovitz  
David Rosenbeg & Pamela Udoff  
Christopher, Stephanie, Sydney & Joshua Ballard  
Jeffrey, Elizabeth, Nolan, Samson & Eve Derham  
Stephanie Rade, William Taylor & Sydney Rade-Taylor  
Cheryl (Cherie) Simon  
Bert & Laurie Max

## Rejoining Members

Julie Zakroff-Gross, Rachael Gross, Anna Gross & Leah Gross)  
Michael & Valerie Franklin

## May Their Memory Be A Blessing

Phillip William Kolchin, uncle of Sue Tarshis  
Richard Sabol, son-in-law of Karen Liebman  
Lois Kesack, mother of Craig Kesack  
Ira Roth, father of Holly Wright  
Marc Klausner, brother of Rynda Klein  
Jerry Berenbaum, brother of Harriet Silberman  
Robert Stuart, father of Nancy Portney  
Michelle Cook, wife of Ken Cook (Beth Or Security)  
Judith H. Cohen, mother of Bob Cohen  
Esther Pokedoff, mother of Mark Pokedoff  
Audrey Appel, congregant & mother of Mindi Vogel  
Barbara Levy Ehrlich, mother of Cliff Ehrlich  
Doris Gold, mother of Randi Fiergang  
Isadore (Izzy) Grossman, father of Harvey Grossman  
Freda Cooper, stepmother of Lisa Cooper  
Mark Roseman, congregant & husband of Phyllis Roseman  
Robert L. Simon, husband of Cherie Simon  
Philip Hollander, father of Robyn Wang  
Carol Friedhoffer, sister of Arnold Gelman  
Bob-e Tresky, cousin of Arnold Berkowitz, z"l (Elsa-Lu Berkowitz)  
Janis Fineberg, cousin of Steven Stone  
Dorothy Galea, mother of Sara Caverly

## Mazel Tov

Birth of Avi Edward London, son of Brian & Jessica London  
Birth of Lilah Marie Marx, granddaughter of Rabbi Gregory & Laurie Marx  
Birth of Theo Isaac Ponce, grandson of Mitchell & Amy Abrams  
Birth of Mia Violet Tannenbaum, granddaughter of Jim & Ellen Tannenbaum  
Baby Naming of Millie Jane Peskin, daughter of Wes & Jillian Peskin,  
Engagement of Brett Kravitt, son of Dave Kravitt & Karen Friedman, to Brittany Schoonover

Wedding of Jeffrey Brown, son of Donald & Helaine Brown, to Ilana Rotberg  
Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Hurwitz  
Bat Mitzvah of Cate Brecher  
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Pokedoff  
B'nai Mitzvah of Ari & Tyler Jaffe  
Bar Mitzvah of Max Werner  
Bar Mitzvah of Jackson Amerstein  
Bat Mitzvah of Victoria Rabin  
Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Glassman  
Bar Mitzvah of Max Berman

## Flower Donations

### November Flower Donations

**November 5** • Ross and Margo Hurwitz in honor of Abigail Hurwitz's Bat Mitzvah  
**November 19** • Andrew and Dara Brecher in honor of Cate Brecher's Bat Mitzvah  
Mark and Dina Pokedoff in honor of Benjamin Pokedoff's Bar Mitzvah  
**November 26** • Jamison and Roni Jaffe in honor of Ari and Tyler Jaffe's B'nai Mitzvah

### December Flower Donations

**December 3** • Dean and Dana Werner in honor of Max Werner's Bar Mitzvah  
Michael and Marcie Amerstein in honor of Jackson Amerstein's Bar Mitzvah  
**December 10** • Jordan and Michelle Rabin in honor of Tori Rabin's Bat Mitzvah  
Steve and Chrissy Glassman in honor of Elizabeth Glassman's Bat Mitzvah  
**December 17** • Rich and Roni Berman in honor of Max Berman's Bar Mitzvah





# Memorials and Contributions

## Rabbi Marx's Discretionary Fund

---

### Donation by

Alex & Sheryl Gruber

### In Memory of

MARILYN COHN

Dayna Finkelstein

BERNICE BOGDANOFF

GERSON ROSENTHAL

Ronald & Barbara Rosenthal

MILTON INGBER

SADIE INGBER

CAROLE NEWMARK

Elaine Slott

MICHAEL KAPLAN

Ellen & Lloyd Perlmutter

BYRON KRULEWITCH

Ellyn Rosenfeld & Howard

Landsman

NORMAN A. COHEN

Helene & Gary Fisher

BERNICE BOGDANOFF

Linda Baron

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LEONARD DUKART

Marlene & Gary Dukart

BLANCHE WEISS

Robert & Heidi Garnick

STANLEY MARKOVITZ

Robin & Bruce Markovitz

ROBERT SIMON

Richard & Sandy Leavitt

### In Honor of

Naming of NOA MADELINE SIFERT

Allison & Marc Feldman

CINDI & VINCENT PASCERI's

50th Wedding Anniversary

Cindi & Vincent Pasceri

Birth of LILAH MARX

Edythe & Samuel Newman

& Family

Elaine Slott

Jody & David Pascal

Ken Harris & Mona

Zeehandelaar

Neen Davis

SAMANTHA LEVIN's

Bat Mitzvah

Jay & Allison Levin

RABBI & LAURIE MARX

becoming grandparents

Mike Snyder & Andria Snyder

### Congratulations to

RABBI MARX & LAURIE MARX

on the Birth of Lilah Marie Marx

Candice Chachkin, Bryan

Beauchamp & Rylie

Beauchamp

Rosie & Jack Elias

## In Appreciation of

RABBI MARX

Beth Or Hookers

Carol Drakeford

Carole Landis

Ellen Werther

Gene & Bonnie Schwartz

Sharon & Harry Polsky

Stan & Hildy Richelson

Janine Jankovitz Pastor &

Steven Pastor

GREG & LAURIE MARX

Jan & Bob Zauzmer, Julie

Zauzmer Weil & Gabe Weil

## Mazel Tov to

BUBBIE & POPS MARX

Andi Becker-Arnold & Joe

Arnold

New Grandparents RABBI

GREG & LAURIE MARX

Barbara Cohen Itzkowitz &

Ted Itzkowitz

Phil Gerson Family

Robert & Susan Silverstein

Sylvia Chachkin & Margie

Chachkin

## Rabbi Bonder's Discretionary Fund

---

### Donation by

Alex & Sheryl Gruber

### In Memory of

RICHARD SABOL

Karen Liebman & Family

### In Honor of

SAMANTHA LEVIN's

Bat Mitzvah

Jay & Allison Levin

## In Appreciation of

RABBI BONDER

Carole Landis

Amanda, Jon, Lexi & Jordan

Cohen

Charles & Vivan Gealer

David & Stefani Bohm

Dina & Mark Pokedoff

Ellen Werther

Fred & Helaine Kaplan

Robert & Abbe Steinberg

Robin Arnold

## Cantor Green's Discretionary Fund

---

### Donation by

Alex & Sheryl Gruber

### In Memory of

BARBARA JEAN EHRlich

Cliff Ehrlich & family

Rosalie Rosenzweig

JUDITH COHEN

Paul & Lisa Rovner

## In Honor of

SAMANTHA LEVIN's

Bat Mitzvah

Jay & Allison Levin

CANTOR GREEN

Sam & Anne Goodman

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Jon Cohen

Barbara Cohen Itzkowitz

Debra & Ed Sherwin

Ellen Werther

Iris Fine

Robin Arnold

Stefani & David Bohm

## Allen Apter Memorial Life Long Learning Endowment Fund

---

### In Memory of

JUDITH H. COHEN

Lem & Sue Tarshis

## Annual Appeal

---

### In Memory of

MARK E. ROSENTHAL

Linda Rosenthal

CHARLES & RITA ROY

Vicki & Barry Oppenheim

### In Appreciation of

HIGH HOLY DAY Livestream

Services

Barbara Cohen Itzkowitz &

Ted Itzkowitz

## Arnold Berkowitz Memorial Fund for Veteran's Shabbat

---

### In Memory of

JOSEPH BERKOWITZ

BESS GREENBLATT

Elsa-Lu Berkowitz

ROBERT E. LORRAINE

Richard & Janet Lorraine

## Barbara Goldberg Nursery School Fund

---

### In Honor of

MILLIE PESKIN's Baby Naming

Rachel, Matt, Harrison & Liv

Steinberg

SAMMY & JACOB TANKER

Stewart & Beth Finkelstein

## Berman Family Caring Community Endowment

---

### Donation by

Alex & Sheryl Gruber

## Brotherhood Camp Harlam Scholarship Fund

---

### In Memory of

JUDITH COHEN

Sherry Spector

BENJAMIN SMILOVITZ

Sylvia Chachkin

## Capital Fund

---

### In Memory of

JUDITH COHEN

RICHARD SABOL

Liz & Bob Hirsch

CARL SAMUELS

Nick & Marci Meyers

### In Honor of

Birth of THEO ISAAC PONCE

Jody & David Pascal

## Caring Congregants Fund

---

### Donation by

Larry London

Pearl Hyman

### In Memory of

JUDITH H. COHEN

CARL SAMUELS

Allan Cohen & Susan Utain

Cohen

SARI PORTMAN

Ann & Gary Udis

JUDITH COHEN

CARL SAMUELS

ESTHER POKEDOFF

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Bernie & Beth Johl

MARK ACKERMAN

Margie Chachkin

FLORENCE ARNOLD

Penina Tannenbaum

MATHILDA BYRON

ED BYRON

Suzzie Byron

AUDREY APPEL

Todd & Michelle Landau

## Memorials and Contributions

### In Honor of

ALEX & KYLA's Engagement  
RABBI & LAURIE MARX's First  
Granddaughter  
Bernie & Beth Johl  
ALAN KOBER's Special Birthday  
Jonathan & Judy Beck  
MARTY GOLDSTEIN's 80th  
Birthday  
Birth of EDIE KRAMER's great  
grandson  
Birth of DR. & MRS. STEPHEN  
TARGAN's granddaughter  
Judy & Jonathan Beck

### In Appreciation of

ELLEN WERTHER  
Barbara Cohen Itzkowitz

### Speedy Recovery to

LINDA ELGART  
Ellen Werther  
SHELLY SEROTA  
Judy & Jonathan Beck

### Disaster Relief Fund

#### Donation by

Alex & Sheryl Gruber  
Larry London  
Mia Luehrmann & Ben Cowen

#### In Memory of

JUDITH PRIPSTEIN  
Elaine Thomas & Family  
JERRY BERENBAUM  
Gay Salin  
JUDITH COHEN  
Nick Meyers  
Phil & Pennye Goodman

#### In Honor of

MORGAN BLOOM's  
Bat Mitzvah  
Barbara & Michael Perilstein

### Ellen & Norman Werther Endowment Fund for Special Programs

#### In Memory of

ISABEL EVANS  
Melisa Lubinski

### Endowment Fund

#### In Memory of

AUDREY FREBOWITZ APPEL  
Rita & Jerry Schneir

### General Fund

#### Donation by

Edward & Amy Tress  
Jonathan & Judy Beck  
Judy & Bruce Klaskin  
Paula & Ronnie Goldstein

### In Memory of

RICHARD SABOL  
JUDITH COHEN  
Beth & Bernie Johl  
JUDITH H. COHEN  
Beth, Scott & Sophie Saline  
ESTHER POKEDOFF  
CARL SAMUELS  
JUDITH H. COHEN  
BARBARA LEVY EHRLICH  
DOROTHY EILEEN BURNHAM  
Bob Simon  
AUDREY FREBOWITZ APPEL  
Bruce & Stacy Horowitz  
Philip Cohen  
LOIS KESACK  
Craig Kesack  
NORMA ZIEGLER  
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STEVEN GOODMAN  
Vincent & Cindi Pasceri

#### In Honor of

Birth of LILAH MARIE MARX  
Robin Arnold  
Bob Simon  
JANE EDWARD's New  
Grandson  
RABBI & LAURIE MARX's  
New Granddaughter  
Joanne Simon  
Bar Mitzvah of AVERY BOHM  
Kathi & Seth Katzman

### In Appreciation of

The NIELSENHULTZ FAMILY  
Ben & Chelsea Cloyd  
The HILLMAN FAMILY  
Jake Toyberman  
BETH OR  
Jane, Jim, Jesse, Jenna,  
Joey, Mel & Julian Sutow  
Streaming HIGH HOLY DAY  
Services  
Wendy Kahan Winters

### Congratulations to

AMY ABRAMS on the birth  
of her grandson, Theo Isaac.  
Michael Steinberg

### Speedy Recovery to

LIZ HIRSCH  
Joann Simon  
MARGARET KNOPPING  
Richard & Laura Shur

### Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks BOR Endowment

#### In Memory of

JUDY COHEN  
Michael, Katherine, Max  
Cohen

### The Hannah Miller Book & Education Fund

#### In Memory of

CARL SAMUELS  
Susy Krimker & Nora  
Saragovi

#### In Honor of

IRA SECOULER's Birthday  
Lorraine Secouler

### Interfaith Apartment Fund

#### Donation by

Larry London

### Israel Emergency Fund

#### In Memory of

CARL SAMUELS  
Caren & David Gutman  
Robert & Susan Silverstein  
JUDITH H COHEN  
Robert & Susan Silverstein  
Sig & Marilyn Goldblum

#### In Honor of

Birth of LILAH MARIE MARX  
Ellen Werther

### Mazel Tov to

DANIEL & TYI MARX; GREG  
& LAURIE MARX on the birth  
of LILAH MARIE  
Caren & David Gutman

### Jenna Demar Educational Fund

#### In Memory of

FREDA COOPER  
Randi & Bob Windheim

### Jillian A. Siegel Endowment For Inclusion Fund

#### Donation by

Alex & Sheryl Gruber

### Kate Svitek Memorial Garden Fund

#### In Memory of

MARTIN L. COHEN  
Andrea Sklenar  
JUDITH COHEN  
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SAYDE CLAIR  
Frank & Ellen Svitek  
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#### In Honor of

The upcoming marriage of  
ADAM & MORIAH  
Barbara & Michael Perilstein  
Birth of LILAH MARX  
Frank & Ellen Svitek

### Linda Gerson Memorial Fund for Grounds' Beautification

#### In Memory of

BERNICE BOGDANOFF  
Debra Steinberg  
RHODA LORRAINE  
Janet & Richard Lorraine  
FRANK BURSTEIN  
Phil Gerson Family

### Lore Heinsheimer Memorial Youth Assistance Fund

#### In Memory of

FLORENCE ARNOLD  
Cindi & Vincent Pasceri

# Memorials and Contributions

## M & M Family & Youth Programming Initiative Fund

### Donation by

The Stein/Irby Family

### In Honor of

50th Anniversary of ARTHUR & BARBARA POMERANTZ

Alan & Bonnie Kane

Bill Gorman

Thomas & Elizabeth Love

## Meals That Matter Fund

### Donation by

Larry London

Phil Nordlinger

Philip & Hope Bernstein

### In Memory of

ETHEL RABINOWITZ

Andi Becker-Arnold & Joe Arnold

RICHARD SABOL

JUDITH COHEN

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CARL SAMUELS

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MIRIAM SMOLOW

Gail & Ozzie Goren

CARL SAMUELS

JUDITH COHEN

Margie Chachkin

CARL SAMUELS

JUDITH COHEN

FLORENCE ARNOLD

Sylvia Chachkin

### In Honor of

GREG & LAURIE MARX's first grandchild

Helena Baron

### Congratulations to

JAN & BOB ZAUZMER on the marriage of JULIE & GABE

Sylvia Chachkin &

Margie Chachkin

### In Appreciation of

DAVE, JILL, EMMA & ABIGAIL RUCKER

Margie Chachkin

CAREN GUTMAN

Robert & Susan Silverstein

### Mazel Tov to

JORDAN ROTH on the opening of Hadestown

Candice Chachkin

### Speedy Recovery to

DEANNA ROTH

Holly Wright

## Music Fund

### In Memory of

BARBARA LEVY EHRLICH

Barry & Barbara

Cooperberg

Bruce & Deborah Chernow

Jon & Judy Beck

Lynn & Mitch Edelman

Margie Chachkin

Marlene & Gary Dukart

Paul & Dale Snyderman

Robert & Deborah Moidel

BARBARA LEVY EHRLICH

LONNIE COHEN

MARGIE GREENBERG

Carole Chasen

FLORENCE ARNOLD

Elaine Slott

## Natan Luehrmann-Cowen Jr. Choir Endowment Fund

### In Memory of

AUDREY FREBOWITZ VOGEL

Karen Friedman & David

Kravitt & Family

## Ner Tamid Endowment Campaign

### Donation by

Alex & Sheryl Gruber

## Prayerbook Fund

### In Memory of

BEATRICE SILVER

Sharon Labow

## Reuben R. Wolfert Memorial Fund for Scholastic Excellence

### In Memory of

JUDITH COHEN

EDITH JAFFE

Marian Wolfert

### In Honor of

Naming of MILLIE PESKIN

Birth of THEO ISAAC PONCE

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The Sappir Family

## Sisterhood Mitzvah Fund

### In Memory of

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Allan & Andrea Posner

Sherry Spector

DOROTHY ZYGMONT

Theresa & Rob Knee

## Yahrzeit Fund

### In Memory of

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EDITH BARSKY

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# Beth Or Spotlight

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239 Welsh Road, Maple Glen, PA 19002

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**Let the glow of the menorah remind us that miracles are possible.**  
**Warmest Chanukah wishes to our Beth Or Family!**

