



Beth Or Spotlight

September-October 2023 | Volume 68, Issue 1 | Elul-Tishrei-Cheshvan



September Worship Schedule

** e-Tickets are required for High Holy Day Services. All High Holy Day Services will also be livestreamed with the exception of Youth & Tot Worship Services on the Beth Or Livestream Site:
<https://bethor.livecontrol.tv>*

Friday, September 1 – Shabbat Ki-Tavo

6:30 pm Family Shabbat Worship in the Gitlin Sanctuary – *Livestream & Facebook Live*

Friday, September 8 – Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayelech

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

Saturday, September 9 – Shabbat & Selichot

11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the B'not Mitzvah of Natalie Reese Faden, daughter of Geoffrey and Starr Faden and Hannah Frances Miller, daughter of Corey Miller and Sarah Pachler – *Livestream*

7:00 pm Selichot Dinner & Program (RSVP Required)

8:00 pm Selichot Worship Service – *Livestream*

*Friday, September 15 – Erev Rosh Hashanah

8:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah – Dessert Reception to follow

*Saturday, September 16 – Rosh Hashanah

9:00 am Early Rosh Hashanah & Youth Worship

11:30 am Tashlich on the Flitter Family Terrace

12:30 pm Late Rosh Hashanah Worship Service

2:30 pm Tashlich on the Flitter Family Terrace

3:00 pm Family & Tot Rosh Hashanah Worship

4:00 pm Tashlich on the Flitter Family Terrace

*Sunday, September 17 – 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah

10:00 am 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Worship

Friday, September 22 – Shabbat Haazinu

7:30 pm – Shabbat Worship Service – *Livestream & Facebook Live*

Saturday, September 23

11:00 am Shabbat Worship

*Sunday, September 24 – Kol Nidre

8:00 pm Kol Nidre Worship

*Monday, September 25 – Yom Kippur

9:00 am Early & Youth Yom Kippur Worship Services

11:30 am Study Session #1 with Aaron Nielsenshultz – Herzfeld Library

12:00 pm Late Yom Kippur Worship

1:00 pm Study Session #2 with Rabbi Elliot Strom – Herzfeld Library

2:45 pm Study Session #3 with Rabbi Lance J. Sussman – Herzfeld Library

2:45 pm Family & Tot Yom Kippur Worship Services

4:00 pm Afternoon Yizkor & Neilah followed by Break the Fast

Friday, September 29 – Shabbat & Erev Sukkot

5:00 pm Sushi, Sake, Sukkah – Flitter Family Terrace by the Goldstein Sukkah (RSVP Required)

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship – Gitlin Sanctuary – *Livestream & Facebook Live*

Saturday, September 30

11:00 am Sukkot Worship & Brunch welcoming Rabbi Lefkowitz & Robin Minkoff – Gitlin Sanctuary – *Livestream*

October Worship Schedule

Friday, October 6 – Erev Simchat Torah Worship & Shabbat

5:30 pm First Friday Shabbat Family Dinner – Rosenfeld Social Hall (RSVP Required)

6:30 pm Erev Simchat Torah, Consecration & Shabbat Worship followed by Israeli Dancing with RAK-DAN – *Livestream*

Saturday, October 7

11:00 am Simchat Torah & Shabbat Worship with the Bat Mitzvah of Anika Elise Long, daughter of Kim Bittman and William Long – *Livestream*

12:30 pm Yizkor with Brunch to follow – *Livestream*

Friday, October 13 – Shabbat Bereshit

7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Honoring Sisterhood – *Livestream & Facebook Live*

Saturday, October 14

9:30 am Torah Study

11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the B'nai Mitzvah of Bryce Wesley Piro, son of Adam and Lauren Piro and Leo John Sklar, son of Jeremy Sklar and Amanda Skarbek – *Livestream*

Friday, October 20 – Shabbat Noah

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

Saturday, October 21

9:30 am Torah Study

11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Sloane Barenbaum, daughter of Glenn and Melissa Barenbaum – *Livestream*

Friday, October 27 – Shabbat Lech-Lecha

7:00 pm Shabbat Worship and Installation of Cantor Jaime Murley featuring the Multigenerational Choir & special musical guest, Noah Aronson – *Livestream & Facebook Live*

Saturday, October 28

9:00 am Shabbat Worship with the Bar Mitzvah of Zackary Albert Dhaine, son of Katerina Aviva Kremenets and Jerome Dhaine

9:30 am Torah Study

11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the B'nai Mitzvah of Colby Jacob Nappen, son of Allan and Julie Nappen and Hannah Sophie Picker, daughter of Ben and Jayme Picker – *Livestream*

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The Chutes and Ladders of Life

Rabbi Gregory S. Marx, Senior Rabbi

A Chassidic sage, Rabbi Nahman used to teach the Torah of Little Things, by which he meant that life's lessons can be learned from almost anything and everything. Inspired by this idea, I used to play a game as a rabbinical student, trying to find sermons in everything. Rabbi Nahman taught a lesson from playing checkers. "Just as in checkers, in life you can only move in one direction, towards the end of the board, but when you reach the end of the board called life, you can move wherever you want in a timeless way."

Some games might offer lessons, but not all. Monopoly offers many insights, but it is a bit too painful given the economy. Clue is too criminal. Go to the Head of the Class is too academic. Candy Land is overly simple. But, Chutes and Ladders has a great deal of Torah for the High Holy Days.



Rabbi Gregory S. Marx

From the Rabbi's Desk

Chutes and Ladders is a simple game to play. The board has 100 squares numbered from bottom to top. Each player is permitted to advance by the numbers of squares corresponding to the role of the dice. The goal, of course, is to reach the 100th square first and win the game.

The twist consists in the fact that certain squares are marked by ladders and others by chutes. Ladders can propel you ahead of your competition. Chutes can drop you far behind. You can be trailing miserably with no hope of winning, then suddenly you land on a square at the base of the tallest ladder that catapults you into the lead. Just the opposite is true. You may be ahead of everyone else but if you land on square 87, you fall down the longest chute on the board, back to square 24.

There is no such thing as a sure thing. Nothing is certain except uncertainty. Most of us work the game board of life one square at a time, one day at a time, one year at a time. We advance by plugging away. In most cases, our progress is more plodding than amazing. We can make great progress, and then fall down the chute. Or the reverse is true. We struggle along. Then, we are blessed to climb the ladder. We can plan all we want, but often the dice is most determinant than we care to admit. This is the theme of the High Holy Days: "Who by fire and who by water?"

Once upon a time in the shtetl of Poland, a rabbi was walking to shul on Rosh Hashanah, pondering the mysteries of the universe, exploring in his mind the deepest spiritual questions. As he approaches the synagogue, he concludes that he simply does not know anything for sure. Suddenly, he is stopped by a Cossack who is in a foul mood. He demands of the rabbi, "Where are you going?" Awakened from his contemplation, the rabbi answers, "I don't know."

This infuriates the Cossack. "What do you mean you don't know? Every day for the past 20 years you have crossed this square and entered the synagogue two or three times a day. You have the nerve to tell me you don't know where you are going! Are you trying to make me look like a fool?" The Cossack then grabs the rabbi by the collar and drags him off to the local jail. Just as he is about to be locked in a cell, the rabbi turns to the Cossack and says, "You see, what did I tell you? I didn't know that I was going to jail. You just never know."

As we approach the new Jewish year, remember that much of life is not in our control, except our character and how we deal with the random chutes and ladders of life.

Inspired by Dannel Schwartz

"Change in All Things Is Sweet"

— Aristotle

Leslie Weiss, Beth Or President

In 1955, when the founding families of Congregation Beth Or decided to start a Reform synagogue, I suspect they never thought we'd grow at the rate we did and eventually move into the magnificent building where we reside today. It was because of the vision and planning of those congregational leaders, clergy and staff, that Beth Or kept looking forward and continued to evolve to meet the needs of our congregants. While we moved location twice and grew in numbers, we always kept in our sights our core values defined by our founders and Jewish principles.

We are now entering a new phase of our synagogue's evolution as we welcome Assistant Rabbi, Melissa Lefkowitz and Robin Minkoff, Executive Director to their new roles. After 10 years with us, we will officially install Cantor Jaime Murley as she begins this new chapter serving our community in her expanded role. Lastly, we celebrate the retirement of Rabbi Gregory Marx, and, in 2024, install Rabbi Jason Bonder as our Senior Rabbi. These changes have been well planned and thought out by the Board over the past several years to ensure Beth Or continues to remain a vibrant, stable synagogue where all can worship and find community.



Our Board has endorsed a strategy to guide us over the next 2 years which you will hear us refer to as "*L'dor Va'Dor*"; and I am happy to present our initiative's logo. Under the umbrella of this theme there is a multitude of events, some of which have already taken place (e.g., "Meet & Mingle" events for Robin and Rabbi Lefkowitz during the summer), which will continue through 2025 and which will be well communicated via the website, our weekly emails and Spotlight.

Much thought went into this developing the initiative's logo:

- **L'dor Va'dor From Generation to Generation** – Everyone at Beth Or is familiar with this phrase, as a variation of it sits below our current Beth Or logo as our tagline "lighting the path for all generations" and its words hang in a beautiful tapestry above the choir loft in our Gitlin Sanctuary. A quick Google search defined "*l'dor va'dor*" to mean the '*transmission of the culture's values, rituals, traditions, and history to the next generation.*' Perfectly said, Google, since we are committed to ensure Beth Or is here for generations to come!
- **Honoring Tradition** – As we embark on this transition, we are staying rooted in our core values and always keeping in our sights what makes Beth Or a unique and special congregation.
- **Illuminating the Future** – Change may be uncomfortable for some, is very exciting for others, helps us grow and, as Aristotle said, "change is sweet". As we look ahead, I only see a bright future where we will continue to adapt to the needs of our congregants. We are well equipped with a slate of talented lay leaders, staff and clergy to envision and actualize our future.
- **The Sun** – If you look closely, you will realize that the menorah in our Beth Or logo is flipped over, transformed into a sun emitting rays of sunshine. We are and will remain the "House of Light" in the new days and years ahead.

We have an event-filled 2 years ahead which will be filled with hope, joy, love and refresh. I look forward to seeing you at many of these upcoming L'dor Va'dor gatherings and celebrations and thank you for your commitment to our future success.

May you and your family have a sweet year ahead, and may 5784 bring you health, happiness and fun.



Leslie Weiss



Rabbi Jason Bonder

From the Rabbi's Desk

**As we transition from
one Jewish year to
the next, we strive to
transform ourselves
into the people
we hope to be.**

Blessings of Change

Rabbi Jason Bonder, Associate Rabbi

A mezuzah is traditionally placed on the doorjamb - the inner part of the doorpost - and Jewish tradition assigns meaning to this placement. Not quite outside the door, and not quite inside the door either, the mezuzah reminds us that it is in moments of change and transition where we find the most blessings. As we transition from the privacy of our homes into public spaces, or conversely, when we come back home after a long day out and about, we are transformed. Jewish tradition teaches us that it is in those moments of transformation when blessings abound.

Similarly, as we transition from one Jewish year to the next, we strive to transform ourselves into the people we hope to be. Change can be hard but we pray that the sound of the *shofar* sparks awareness within us to appreciate all of the blessings that come with change as well.

Over the next few weeks, you are likely to hear and see the words *Shanah Tovah* — שנה טובה — quite a bit. These words literally translate to “good year” and more generally are meant to mean “Happy New Year.” Yet there is a depth to this greeting that can easily be overlooked. It is no mistake that the Hebrew word for year, *shanah* — שנה, shares a root with the word for change, *shinui* — שינוי. When we wish someone a good year, we are, in some ways, wishing them a “good change” as well. We wish them the transformation that they seek.

The High Holy Days are a liminal moment. The year that has gone by is still fresh in our minds and the year to come is not yet fully in sight. It is in this mixture of fresh memories and brand-new hopes that we can feel the blessings we’ve enjoyed and the blessings yet to come.

As you saw in Leslie Weiss’ article, it is not only the High Holy Days that will bring change at Congregation Beth Or. These next two years will be transformative. And I know that these next two years will give us a chance to celebrate the many blessings of being a part of this congregation.

I am overjoyed to share this special time with all of you, our wonderful Beth Or community. The things we have accomplished together in my five years here are very much fresh in my mind, and my hopes for the goals we will accomplish together in the future bring great feelings of excitement to my heart. May this season of change make us more aware of the unique light that shines here at Congregation Beth Or. As we stand in the doorway between past and future, may we enjoy all of the blessings that surround us.





Rabbi Melissa Carp Lefkowitz

From the Rabbi's Desk

**Rosh Hashanah,
the beginning of the
Jewish calendar, is a
time of rebirth
and a time of
new beginnings.**

New Beginnings

Rabbi Melissa Carp Lefkowitz, Assistant Rabbi

As we enter the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, we think about all the opportunities for renewal and new beginnings. As we quickly approach 5784, for me personally, this has never rung truer! From moving across the country to beginning my rabbinate to entering parenthood in a few months, I can't help but rejoice!

Yet, as in many other new beginnings, there are thoughts of trepidation and fear of the unknown. The story of Jonah meshes these two conflicting ideas beautifully. Read every Yom Kippur, the story is largely about hope and the possibility of new beginnings. I don't want to spoil it, but when Jonah found himself caught in the midst of a dangerous storm, moments away from

becoming a passenger in a ship wreckage, he decided to head for the inner part of the vessel and take a *shluf* (nap). His peers were not enthused and continued to cry out to God in order to save themselves. In the midst of all this chaos, the captain finds Jonah and cries out to him, "How can you be sleeping so soundly! Up, call upon your God! Maybe the god will be kind to us and we will not perish." (Jonah 1:6).

Rabbi Alex Weissman teaches that the captain of the ship does not make any promises to Jonah. There is no complete confidence in his claim that things will turn out positively, but rather he uses the Hebrew word *ulai*, which translates as "maybe." *Ulai* God will take notice, *ulai* everyone aboard will be saved. But Jonah's response to the crisis at hand, giving in to despair, sleeping as everything falls apart around him is seen as unacceptable. This story teaches us that we must choose hope, we must believe in the *ulai*.

Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the Jewish calendar, is a time of rebirth and a time of new beginnings. It is a chance to take stock of the previous year and the ways in which we may have gone astray. At the same time, we are encouraged to enter the new year with hope that maybe this year will be different. Maybe this year we will be better. By believing in the power of the *ulai*, may we make this a new year of continuing to choose hope amongst the trepidation and fears that surround us.

L'shanah Tovah U'metukah!



Music at Beth Or



Cantor Jaime Murley

From the time I was very little, my parents recognized that I loved music. When I was about to enter first grade, my parents decided to enroll me at Abrams' Hebrew Academy Day School in Yardley. One of the things I loved about the school was that Jewish music was infused in every part of our day, whether we were doing our morning prayers, learning songs for the holidays, or benching after meals. My parents noticed I was always the loudest singer and the singing I did at school came home with me. Eventually, my parents knew that the little day school was not going to be enough to support my need for a formalized music program, so they sent me to public school in the 5th grade. They took the little girl away from the Jewish music, but the Jewish music never left the little girl. Years later, I stepped into a synagogue and realized what I had been missing, and the rest is "Cantor Murley" history.

Today, my goal is to connect the people of Congregation Beth Or to the wonders and beauty of Jewish music. There are many ways for you to be part of the musical history of not only Beth Or, but the Jewish people. Below is a comprehensive list of all the musical offerings at Beth Or for the 2023-24 year:

The Adult Choir, under the direction of Roland Woehr, is for adults who love to sing and can read music.

They will be performing on:

1/14 (Bethlehem Baptist Church's MLK, Jr. service), 1/26 (Shabbat Shirah) and 4/19 (Rabbi Marx's celebration service)

Rehearsals for the adult choir will take place at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary on the following dates: 1/9, 1/16, 1/23 4/2, 4/16

The Multigenerational Choir, under the direction of Cantor Murley, is for adults, teens, and children who love to sing less formal music. They will be performing on:

10/27 (Cantor Murley's installation with Noah Aronson), 12/8 (Chanukah), and 2/9 (Rabbi Lefkowitz' installation)

Rehearsals for the multigenerational choir will be at 12:45 pm on the following days: 10/15, 10/22, 12/3, 1/28, 2/4

Junior Choir – For students in 1st-6th grades who love to sing, make new friends, and socialize with like-minded peers. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9am before Religious School.

They will be performing on: 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7

Israeli Dance class is for adults who love to dance and want to connect to Israeli culture. Classes will be led by Don Schillinger from 8 pm – 9 pm on: 10/10, 10/17, 11/14, 11/28

Zimriyah – For those who just want to sit back and appreciate lively Jewish music on Shabbat, these services will have enhanced orchestration and will include piano, bass, drums, and clarinet: 12/15, 3/22, 5/17

Song Leading Bootcamp – Join me for an inspirational and invigorating weekend of musical leadership training in St Louis, MO with world renowned Jewish singers and song leaders.

I can't wait for you to be part of the music program at Beth Or. Please don't hesitate to contact me at jmurley@bethor.org to ask questions and find out more!





Important School Dates

Sunday, September 10
Religious School Open House
and Welcome Back to Beth Or
Reconnection Fair!

Sunday, October 1
Sunday School: First Day

Sunday, October 1
Rishon (Sunday Hebrew) –
First Day

Monday, October 2
Sheni (Monday Hebrew) –
First Day

Tuesday, October 3
Shelishi (Tuesday Hebrew) –
First Day

Friday, October 6
Consecration

Religious School NEWS

Judaics, Hebrew, and Social-Emotional Learning

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

Here we are again at the start of another school year! I wanted to share with you a way that we're integrating social learning — and friendship-making — into our religious school day. This year for 3rd - 6th grade students, we're building what we used to call Youth Events into the second half of the day. Let me clarify!

Last year, our Sunday Hebrew program always had one Sunday a month off. That way, during the 11:15 am -12:45 pm timeslot when we would have had Hebrew school, we could schedule a youth event.

While we had lots of fun events, it meant that our Sunday Hebrew students had eight fewer Hebrew school classes than their Monday or Tuesday peers.

This year, we'll build those grade-based youth events into the Hebrew school day once a month or so. Sunday Hebrew students will still have class, and then as part of their morning, they'll get to rotate into whatever fun activity we have planned for 20-30 minutes. Sometimes these events will be field trips that we'll need RSVPs for, and otherwise, students can just enjoy this social-emotional learning as part of their normal Sunday Hebrew school session. Midweek students are always welcome to attend, too!

We'll have regular events for K-2nd grade students, too, during that 11:15 am -12:45 pm slot. Don't worry — we have lots of fun and engagement planned for everyone!

Speaking of which, don't forget our **Open House/Welcome Back/Meet the Teacher event on Sunday, September 10 at 9 am – 12 pm**. All of our auxiliaries and clubs will be present, and all of our teachers will be in their rooms. **Returning students, new students, and even prospective students and members will be invited to come in and meet the teachers, see their rooms, and get excited for the year to come. This is not an instruction day, so students won't stay for the whole day — families can drop in when they'd like for as long as you'd like. Parents should plan to stay; this is not a drop off day.** Then our first day of actual school is Sunday, October 1.



Aaron Nienshultz



**Leonard &
Madlyn Abramson
Education Center**

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Back to School...Learning As We Play

Sara Baum, Early Childhood Director

We are excited to begin the 2023-24 school year at the Zipporah S. Abramson CECE! Play is an important part of our curriculum here at the center. Preschoolers learn an abundance of information and skills as they play in our program.

- **Language in play** – During class our children may sort toys and objects by the beginning letter.
- **Physical development in play** – On the playground we can find different ways to move our bodies through running, crawling, climbing or walking.
- **Math in play** – We can count as we stack blocks. We can add and subtract as we play with trains.
- **Science in play** – We can measure as we play in sand.
- **Social and Emotional Development** – As we navigate our classroom we are learning and growing with our peers.

Play is the work of children. It is so important for healthy brain development. Through play children learn new skills, express their feelings, share with others and problem solve. We are thrilled to begin a new year and look forward to supporting our children in their educational journeys.

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

SEPTEMBER

9/4 – CECE Closed, Labor Day
9/5 – CECE Closed, Teacher In-service
9/6 – CECE First Day of School

9/15 – 3 pm Dismissal, Erev Rosh Hashanah
9/25 – CECE Closed, Yom Kippur
9/27 – Back to School Night, 6:30 pm

OCTOBER

10/9 - Picture Day
10/10 - Picture Day

10/18 – Breakfast with Buddies, 8:30 am
10/27 – Tot Shabbat honoring “Shabbat Boy” Rabbi Marx, 10:45 am



Sara Baum



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

CONGREGATION BETH OR

September/October Candle Lighting

Friday, September 1 • 7:14 pm

Friday, October 6 • 6:17 pm

Friday, September 8 • 7:03 pm

Friday, October 13 • 6:06 pm

Friday, September 15 • 6:51 pm

Friday, October 20 • 5:56 pm

Friday, September 22 • 6:40 pm

Friday, October 27 • 5:47 pm

Friday, September 29 • 6:28 pm



Meeting & Mingling: Summer 2023!

Jillian Peskin, Director of Member Engagement

I may have said this in almost every article I write here, and I will happily share it 1000 more times: I love connecting! I love connecting with congregants, helping congregants connect with each other, watching clergy and staff connect with congregants. All of it is wonderful!

As a way for our people to meet our newest staff members: Rabbi Melissa Lefkowitz and Executive Director, Robin Minkoff, we hosted a series of “Meet and Mingle” events. Each event was targeted towards a different audience, although all congregants were invited. Some events were at CBO and some not, some had food and some had bounce houses. Each event had a captain, or captains who helped ensure that everyone felt welcome and had fun. The common ground to all of them: connections!

Not only did congregants old and new get to meet and mingle with our new staff, but they got to meet and mingle with one another! I got to help connect new CECE and Religious School families, as well as new congregants joining APEX and C4C clubs. There were a few people I had either never met in person, or never met without a mask. I felt so joyful and uplifted following each of these events! (I also believe in the power of nametags!!)

Riding the successes of these events, I look forward to planning summer 2024 events for more meeting and mingling!

Looking forward to seeing all of you on September 10 at our 2nd Annual Welcome Back, Reconnection Fair from 9 am - 12 pm. Please come find me to mingle or meet me if you are new! (Nametags will be available at the membership table!)

Welcome back!



Jillian Peskin



CECE Jump & Dine with Rabbi Lefkowitz



Shabbat in our Park



Shabbat in our Park



Coffee & Donuts with Robin Minkoff



Coffee & Donuts with Robin Minkoff



Religious School Sweet Treat at Rita's Water Ice with Rabbi Lefkowitz



Breakfast at Spread Bagelry with Rabbi Lefkowitz & Get Connected: Beth Or Business Network

Looking Forward to Meeting You!

Chana Tillman, Assistant Religious School Director

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Chana Tillman and I am the new Assistant Religious School Director. The excitement for the upcoming school year is felt throughout the Beth Or building. Aaron, Jillian and I have collaborated together to make this year's youth group programs spectacular. I look forward to meeting all of you on Sunday, September 10 at the Beth Or Welcome Back Reconnection Fair and Religious School Open House or once Religious School begins on Sunday, October 1.

Reminder:

- **K-6th grade youth activities are held on different Sundays throughout the school year from 11:15 am - 12:45 pm unless otherwise indicated.**
- **YOBO activities are Sunday evenings from 5 pm - 6:45 pm unless otherwise indicated.**

The calendar will be out shortly. Please pay close attention to programs that might require an RSVP and to be sure which age group goes with which program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ctillman@bethor.org.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 10!



Chana Tillman



L' Shanah Tovah
Have a Sweet Year!

Meet Our B'nai Mitzvah Students

Natalie Faden

September 9

I have been volunteering at the **Horsham Center For Jewish Life** every Friday from 1 to 5. I help residents in wheelchairs or walkers to get to activities from their rooms and return them to their rooms. Volunteering at the Center has been very rewarding and liberating for me. I have been instrumental in encouraging residents to go to activities and brightening their day with just a smile and a helping hand. They always express so much appreciation to volunteers and the Center could definitely use more volunteers. Some residents are very happy, although some residents have many physical and mental challenges. The residents who have more challenges are those who need help most. Often times, they cannot speak or clearly articulate their needs and thoughts. I have learned how to understand and communicate with residents who have cognitive and speaking challenges. Interestingly, I met the author of the books titled, *"You Are Not Your Illness"* and *"Wheelchair Wisdom."* These books are by a resident, Linda Topf, who is an advocate at the Horsham Center for Jewish Life for people who need someone to help them express their needs and ideas. Linda also has a PhD in Psychology. She, like everyone else there has lived through, witnessed, experienced and accomplished so much in their lives. Through Linda's journey of living with multiple sclerosis, she wrote these books to come to terms with her struggles, and to help others to do the same. I was lucky enough to spend an hour talking with Linda to understand what it means to help those who cannot help or even speak for themselves.



Bryce Piro

October 14

For my Mitzvah Project, I knew I wanted to help others dealing with homelessness and food insecurity. This is an issue that seems to be getting worse and I felt strongly about trying to do my part to help. Each month of 2023, I have committed to taking action to address this problem in different ways. Some months, I have made sandwiches for **Bread Drop**, which get delivered to people within our region who are facing issues of hunger. I organized a group of my family who volunteered along with me at **Mitzvah Circle** and packed boxes of clothing and toiletries for families that are facing poverty and homelessness. I donated clothing, toys, and books, as well. Additionally, I made snack bags for **Manna on Main Street**, so that when their food pantry or hot meals are not available, there is still food that can be offered. While perhaps just a start, it has felt great to be able to give back and know that I can make a difference. My Bar Mitzvah will not be the end of this project as I really do hope to see change. If you are interested in helping too, these are all amazing organizations, and any donations would be of great help to them.



Alexa Barenbaum

October 21

I have always had a love and concern for the welfare of animals. For my Mitzvah Project, I raised money for the **Montgomery County SPCA**. This wonderful nonprofit organization is dedicated to protecting animals, educating humans about proper care of animals, and supporting unwanted, abused, and lost domesticated animals. I was surprised to learn that this organization was first established in 1909! In honor of this charity event, I hosted a "puppy playdate" for my dog, Sanibel, and some of her neighborhood dog friends this past June. The dogs enjoyed an afternoon of running around together and dipping in baby pools. It was a celebration of the love and devotion we have for our animals. You can also help the Montgomery County SPCA by donating money through their website, visiting one of their locations including Conshohocken to adopt an animal in need of a home, helping to foster kittens, or participating in their dog walking program.



Mazal
Tor

Zackary Dhaine

October 28

As you may know, Abraham inspired people to hope in tough times. I am Zack Dhaine and my goal in my **"Pay It Forward"** Mitzvah Project is to touch 1,000+ people with hope by random acts of kindness.

To give hope to others. I want to make it a habit.

My acts include: feeding homeless, helping the elderly, giving compliments to strangers, collecting for **Somerton Food Bank**, collecting sports equipment for **Leveling the Playing Field** and more.

If people "pay it forward," we create a ripple effect of more hope and more actions. Will you join me?

- 1) Share on kdhaine@gmail.com what have you done today to create hope?
- 2) Contact me on kdhaine@gmail.com to do acts of kindness together.
- 3) Donate goods on "Pay It Forward" boxes this fall.



Colby Nappen

October 28

For my Mitzvah Project I chose to work at **Stray Cat Blues** in the PetSmart in Montgomeryville. Stray Cat Blues helps place stray kittens and adult cats with new homes. I chose to do this because I like cats and both of my cats are strays. Although my cats were not from Stray Cat Blues, one was taken in by my brother, Wesley from the streets of Philadelphia near Temple University and the other one was rescued by my mom from the engine compartment of my grandfather's car. My work involved feeding the cats, cleaning their cages and, of course, playing with the cats. This was fun, however, also sad because I was always tempted to adopt them. Every week there are 7-10 kittens and adult cats. So, if you like cats, please consider adopting one from Stray Cat Blues, or any other adoption outlet.



Hannah Picker

October 28

For my Mitzvah project, I am collecting donations to benefit **Ryan's Case for Smiles**, an organization that strives to lift the spirits of children and their families as they undergo treatment, by making custom pillowcases for each child who stays at the hospital.



The Social Action Committee Has a Reputation...

... for identifying and addressing needs within the community and taking action. This fall and early winter, we will host collections that will directly benefit our neighbors, including Delaware Valley Veterans Home residents, senior clients of KleinLife, children living in a transitional home, and refugee families newly settled in the Philadelphia region.

Stay tuned for announcements of collections such as PB&J sandwiches for Operation Bread Drop, adult clothing for Our Closet, children's clothing and school supplies for Cradles to Crayons, women's products for Distributing Dignity, used eyeglasses for One Sight, new socks for Joy of Sox, old sneakers for Nike Grind, and our Annual High Holiday Food Drive for a nearby food pantry. Also lined up are a Wissahickon Trail Cleanup, a Locks of Love hair cut/donation event, an Alex's Lemonade Stand, monthly JRA packing and distributing, Blood Drives, and our highly productive Knitting Circle and Meals That Matter volunteer days.

It takes a village, or in this case, an amazing group of Beth Or congregants to make the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam a reality. We invite you to join us!

To get involved, please give us a shout and check your weekly Community Matters e-newsletter. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Social Action Co-chairs

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



Social Justice Committee Joins Partners to Reduce Gun Violence

The Social Justice Committee returns its focus to the issue of gun violence by partnering with two organizations to tackle this ongoing problem. Locally, we have joined the **Southeastern Pennsylvania Coalition of Synagogues to Reduce Gun Violence***, a group with seven other synagogues in our region. We also remain connected to the RAC-PA (Religious Action Center – PA affiliate) and their partners, working to enact legislation to reduce gun violence.

The Mission of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Coalition is to raise our collective voices to promote Awareness, Advocacy, and Action to reduce gun violence and lessen its devastating impact on families and communities in the region. The Coalition's first program, currently in the planning stages, is to present a youth forum on this issue with a concurrent presentation for parents/adults. We expect this forum to occur on a late October or November Sunday. Stay tuned for more information as plans progress.

In partnership with CeaseFirePA, RAC-PA is advocating for four bills pending in the Pennsylvania House that address gun violence issues, collectively known as the Common Agenda to End Gun Violence. These bills include the topics: Extreme Risk Protection Orders (HB 2227), Lost or Stolen Gun Reporting (HB 338), Universal Background Checks (HB 714), & Safe Storage of Firearms (HB 731).

RAC-PA's new campaign: Gun Violence Prevention, will have a training session on **September 6 from 7 pm - 8:15 pm** to share the vision for what each congregation can do to advance this legislation. If you want to attend, please get in touch with Janet Katz (boccakatz@aol.com).

***The significance of orange:** One week after Hadiya Pendleton participated in President Obama's second inaugural parade on January 21, 2013, she was shot and killed on a Chicago playground. To honor her life, Hadiya's friends wore orange, the color hunters wear to protect themselves. 'Wear Orange' is now an annual event observed in June to recognize Americans killed or wounded by gun violence.

Beth Or Brotherhood

Shana Tova – Happy 5784 – Put on your Sneakers and Show Up!

Stu Briefer, Brotherhood President



Stu Briefer



Wishing you all a very sweet, healthy, happy, prosperous 5784 Rosh Hashanah!

For those who know me, I enjoy taking a 4 to 5 mile walk and listening to inspirational talks (Pod Drash - <https://poddrash.org/>) or great music. I get a chance to get some fresh air and take in some great nature sights. But I must share what the hardest part of the 4 or 5 mile walk is. ... The hardest part is putting on my sneakers and getting out the door. Once I am out walking, I am so happy that I did, and I also get the benefits from walking.

Attending Brotherhood functions is the same. Putting on your sneakers and getting out the door is the hardest part. Once you are at Beth Or joining in with great guys in meaningful conversations, activities, and learning time from the Clergy and from each other, I am sure you will agree that finding the strength to leave the comfort of your Lazy-Boy chair and attending is all worth it.

Over the next few months, to name just a few things on our horizon, Brotherhood will usher during the High Holy Day services, participate in Sushi Sake Sukkah on 9/29, host our annual Car Show on 10/15, organize and help at the Red Cross Blood Drive on 10/29, and put together a fun and fantastic Annual Dinner and Fundraiser on 12/5. There are many opportunities to join in, volunteer, and have fun. All you need to do is put on your sneakers and show up.

Brotherhood is a micro family. We come together to share in each other's simchas and comfort each other in times of sorrow. Brotherhood is a vibrant community that shares

and helps each other. Come out and meet new faces. Come out and chat with longtime friends. Come out and take part in great functions.

Put on your sneakers... I look forward to seeing all our members actively joining in. Together, we will have a great time while helping each other.

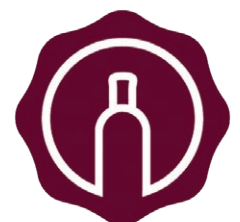
Shana Tova!

KOSHER WINE SALES

Now you can purchase kosher wine all year long & benefit Beth Or! Use the Beth Or affiliate link on [kosherwine.com](http://bit.ly/BethOrBrotherhood): <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.



kosherWINE

Beth Or Sisterhood

As the New Year begins again...

Kim Kaffey, Sisterhood President

It's hard to believe that summer is already coming to an end. We all look forward to it starting and then it flies by in a blink of an eye!! With all of that said, there is still something to look forward to. I happen to love the fall with the change of seasons, the cooler weather and the beautiful changing colors of the leaves on the trees. It also brings thoughts of the High Holy Days and starting a fresh new year. This is something I am looking forward to this year. I am looking forward to a fresh new start for our Sisterhood. With this in mind, I am hoping that there are women in our congregation who may be looking to get involved in something new. Maybe there is something that sparks your interest, something that you might be interested in learning more about, or even something you would like to see happen. Bring your thoughts/ideas with you and join our monthly general Sisterhood meetings so we can hear about them and work on planning these programs and/or events. **We have several committees that would benefit from support from new members, as well as current members, to plan, organize and run scheduled events this year.** Feel free to email me at any time at KSK67@verizon.net and let me know how you would like to support our Sisterhood!!



Kim Kaffey

Here are some of the upcoming events on the calendar for September and October:

- Sisterhood's "Welcome Back" meeting and cooking program with Alyson Gass
- Beth Or's Congregational "Welcome Back" Fair
- Apple Ambassadors – Greeting congregants at High Holy Days services
- Decorating the sukkah on the bima for Sukkot
- Sisterhood Shabbat
- HAMEC program honoring the art of children from the Concentration camps

Also, please mark your calendar for our annual Chanukah Bazaar on Sunday, November 12. We are looking for several volunteers to help plan, organize and support this major Sisterhood event. Consider signing up your college students/young professionals for our BOCCO program (Beth Or College and Community Outreach) so we can send them holiday packages to keep them connected to our community. Make sure to check the Beth Or web calendar, Chai Lights email and the Sisterhood Facebook page for details and dates for all upcoming Sisterhood programming.

I look forward to seeing all of my "sisters", new and old, at our first meeting/event on **Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 pm.**



Sisterhood

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Fellowship • Community
Service • Support

Please Support the

Tarshis Gift Shop

Proceeds Benefit Beth Or Sisterhood Programs

Hours: For a personal appointment, contact Bobbi Adair,
Bobbifadair@gmail.com, 215-896-4787 or Holly Green, 215-805-8597

Fall Hours: Sunday, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm • Friday 10 am - 12 pm

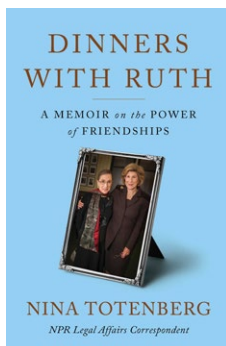
Discounts available for Sisterhood Members and Beth Or Staff | Great Monthly Sales and New Arrivals

ADULT PROGRAMS

Beth Or Jewish Book Lovers Series Discussion: *Dinners with Ruth*

Wednesday, October 25 • 7:30 pm

Read the first of 4 books in the 2023-24 Beth Or Jewish Book Series, *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg, and then join us for a review and discussion. RSVP to Dottie Singer, ds1403@hotmail.com. Please let Dottie know whether you will participate in person or via Zoom. She will share the Zoom link if you are participating remotely.



About the book: *Dinners with Ruth* is an extraordinary account of two women who paved the way for future generations by tearing down professional and legal barriers. It is also an intimate memoir of the power of friendships as women began to pry open career doors and transform the workplace.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD EVENTS

Sisterhood Welcome Back Meeting & Event: Cooking with Alyson Gass

Wednesday, September 6 • 6:30 pm

Come to the first Sisterhood meeting of the year to hear about their plans for the fall! Then stay for a fun, hands-on cooking demonstration with Alyson Gass, starting at 7 pm. We will cook up a few favorite fall recipes. Please bring a printed copy of your favorite fall/High Holy Days recipe to share with the group. All are welcome. No RSVP necessary.



12th Annual Classic Car Show sponsored by Brotherhood

Sunday, October 15 • 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Come to the Beth Or parking lot (enter from Butler Pike) to see Classics, GTOs, Sports Cars, Muscle Cars & More! Enjoy free food & drink, a 50/50 raffle and family fun for all. Free car registration and trophies. (Car registration begins at 9 am.) Space is limited. Please register your car in advance. To register your car, contact Bob Cohen at rcohenesquire@aol.com or Allan Posner at allan.posner1@gmail.com. Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard.



SAVE THE DATE!

Chanukah Bazaar sponsored by Sisterhood Sunday, November 12 • 10 am – 2pm

Mark your calendar to come to Beth Or to shop and help support a variety of local vendors. Enjoy raffles, food and our fabulous latkes, too! For vendor information, contact Faye Benshetler, febxc@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

Brotherhood Annual Dinner & Fundraiser Tuesday, December 5 • 5:30 pm – 9 pm

Join Brotherhood for great food, fun, laughs, auction and the chance to win a \$1,000 First Prize Raffle. Enjoy must-see entertainment from Mentalist, Jason Suran. Order your tickets now: <https://brotherhoodannualdinner2023.eventbrite.com>. Questions? Contact bethorbromembership@gmail.com (See back cover for more details.)

GET CONNECTED: Beth Or Business & Career Network

Fall Kick-Off Networking Event

Monday September 18, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

At our first event of the season, come to the Flitter Family Terrace to network and exchange business cards. Every Beth Or member is invited to attend. If you are a seasoned professional, looking for other job opportunities, a current/recent grad looking to explore professions, or are self-employed looking to offer your services to your community, we invite you to come out and “get connected”.



Please bring one canned good for donation as an entry fee. RSVP by September 15 to Jake Toyberman, jtoyberman@homestarrinc.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Beth Or Mental Health Task Force presents...

Let's Talk: Understanding Stigma and Mental Health Monday, September 18 • 7 pm

During this session, task about force members and experts, Gail Edelson, MD, MSPH, MBE and Toby Sterling, BS, MSc lead a conversation about stigma related to mental health and substance use, and share information and valuable resources. Stigma can result in not seeking treatment, delaying treatment, and limit access to healthcare, housing and employment. This session offers the opportunity to learn some basic facts about the types of stigma, the harmful effects of stigma and discrimination on children, youth, adults, and their families, why our words matter, and how you can help combat stigma. Information will be provided about organizations and campaigns focused on addressing the issue of mental health and substance use stigma and discrimination.

The Beth Or Mental Health Task Force presents...

Let's Talk: Antisemitism

Monday, October 16 • 7 pm

Details to come soon. Presenters: Tanya Vishnevsky and Judy Kurtis.

Time Is Running Out To Grow Your Hair! Locks of Love Hair Cut & Donation Event

Sunday, October 15 • By Appointment Only

Do you have 10 inches or more of hair that you'd like to donate to benefit financially disadvantaged children with medical hair loss? The Beth Or Social Action Committee has organized a hair cutting/donation event supporting Locks of Love. Haircuts will be provided by appointment at J. Augustino Hair Salon, 406 Norristown Rd, Horsham. Please contact program chair, Sharan Bonder, sbonder1216@gmail.com, with any questions or to coordinate your hair cut appointment.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, October 29 • 9 am – 2 pm

The Red Cross is in urgent need of all blood types. Beth Or consistently hosts one of the largest blood drives in the area. Register via the link on the website



calendar or contact Stu Briefer at smbriefer@gmail.com or 215-661-9990. The blood drive is sponsored by Brotherhood.

HOLIDAYS AND SHABBAT EVENTS

Selichot Dinner & Program

Saturday, September 9 • 7 pm

followed by Worship Service, 8pm

This *Selichot*, join Rabbi Lefkowitz for "Ashamnu: Why Us? A Closer Look at the Vidui," an in-depth study on the Vidui. Why must we beat our heart for outrageous sins we have not committed? Why is the confessional in the collective? What is the best way to ask for forgiveness?

We will discuss and answer these long held questions. Dinner catered by Pumpernick's Deli. Selichot service follows. RSVP by September 5: www.bethor.org/form/selichot2023



HIGH HOLY DAYS 5784

Erev Rosh Hashanah • Friday, September 15

Rosh Hashanah • Saturday, September 16

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah • Sunday, September 17

Kol Nidre • Sunday, September 24

Yom Kippur • Monday, September 25

*Best wishes for a sweet
and healthy new year!*

Visit our High Holy Days Headquarters:

www.bethor.org/HHD2023 for:

- Worship Schedule
- e-Ticket Information for your Family & Guests
- Order Kosher Wine from Brotherhood
- FAQs
- And more!

If you are not able to join us in person, most High Holy Days services can be watched on our Livestream site, <https://bethor.livecontrol.tv>

Bookmark the link as a favorite on your computer for easy access!



FALL FESTIVALS: SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH

Fall Festival Programs take place outdoors outdoors when feasible, unless otherwise noted below.

Sushi, Sake, Sukkah

Friday, September 29 • 5 pm

Join us for our favorite event of the season! Come to the Flitter Family Terrace and the Goldstein Sukkah for a delicious sushi dinner, drinks provided by Brotherhood, live music and a fun time making connections with new and old friends! This is an adult program. Check our weekly email of the web calendar for RSVP details.



Babysitting is available for kids 3 months – 4 years, as well as kids activities for our elementary aged students. Pizza dinner will be provided for all kids. Babysitting and kids activity space is limited — advance RSVP required: first come, first served.

Shabbat and Erev Sukkot Worship

Friday, September 29 • 6:30 pm

After Sushi Sake Sukkah, we will move inside for a Shabbat and Erev Sukkot service in the Gitlin Sanctuary, with a beautiful Bimah sukkah decorated by Sisterhood.

Sukkot Worship with Brunch Welcoming Rabbi Lefkowitz & Robin Minkoff to Follow

Saturday, September 30 • 11 am

Sukkot morning worship takes place in the Gitlin Sanctuary. Join us for brunch after the service and a chance to spend time with our new Assistant Rabbi, Melissa Lefkowitz and our new Executive Director, Robin Minkoff. RSVP to Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org.

Pizza in the Hut Dinner for Young Families

**Tuesday, October 3 •
Dinner - 5 pm**

Come shake the lulav and etrog with the clergy in the Goldstein Sukkah and join us under the tent on the Flitter Family Terrace for a pizza dinner. See your weekly Chai Lights email or the web calendar to RSVP by 9/27. This program is geared toward young families, but all are invited to attend.



APEX Lunch & Learn in the Sukkah with Rabbi Marx

Wednesday, October 4 • 12 pm – 2 pm

Join Rabbi Marx and your friends from APEX (Adult Programming Experience) for an afternoon of learning. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org.

Shabbat and Erev Simchat Torah Worship & Consecration followed by Israeli Dancing

Friday, October 6 • 6:30 pm

An annual Beth Or tradition! Look for details to come in your weekly email. Following the service, meet your friends for an Israeli Dance Party!

Simchat Torah & Shabbat Worship and Bat Mitzvah of Anika Long

Saturday, October 7 • 11 am

Yizkor Service with Brunch to Follow

**Saturday, October 7 •
12:30 pm**

Yizkor take place in the Gitlin Sanctuary with brunch to follow. RSVP to Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org.



Beth Or Events

First Friday Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, October 6 • 5:30 pm

Our Family Shabbat Dinners are back! Join us between Munchkin Minyan and Family Shabbat Worship on the first Friday of each month during the school year for a traditional Shabbat dinner. This is a great opportunity to spend time with other Beth Or families to welcome Shabbat. Check your weekly Chai Lights email or the website calendar for cost and RSVP.



Shabbat Worship honoring Sisterhood

Friday, October 13 • 7:30 pm

Sisterhood participates in tonight's Shabbat Worship service.

NEW PROGRAM!

Young Family Shabbat Mornings

Saturday, October 21 • 9:30 am

Help us kick off our newest program for our youngest members! Cantor Murley & Rabbi Lefkowitz will lead us in a musical, age appropriate morning service, followed by a craft activity and a Shabbat snack.

This program is also open to the community — we encourage you to bring your friends! Advance RSVP required. See your weekly email of the website calendar for RSVP.



Shabbat Worship with the Installation of Cantor Jaime Murley

Friday, October 27 • 7:30 pm

Join us for a musical Shabbat service where Jaime Murley officially installed as our cantor. Keeping with the musical theme, the Beth Or Multi-Generational Choir will perform along with a special guest — popular Jewish artist, Noah Aronson.



SAVE THE DATE!

Veteran's Shabbat Dinner & Worship Service

Friday, November 10 • Dinner, 6 pm; Worship Service, 7:30 pm

Are you a veteran, a member of the reserves or active military personnel? We would like invite you to a special dinner honoring you for your service, courtesy of The Arnold Berkowitz Memorial Fund. Please contact Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org to be added to our list. More details to come soon.



L'DOR VA'DOR EVENTS

Join us for the first of a series of upcoming events that pay tribute to Rabbi Marx prior to his retirement, honor our new clergy and leaders, and celebrate our community as the light of Beth Or shines bright into the future. Please check your weekly email for event details & RSVP.

CECE Tot Shabbat honoring "Shabbat Boy" Rabbi Marx

Friday, October 27 • 10 am

A special program for CECE families to celebrate the ultimate Shabbat boy, Rabbi Marx, with some special surprises.

Installation of Cantor Jaime Murley

Friday, October 27 • 7:30 pm

Celebrate Shabbat with a music-inspired worship service as we formally install Jaime Murley as the congregation's cantor.

Social Action Mitzvah for Marx honoring Rabbi Marx

Sunday, November 5 • 9 am - 12 pm

Our first Mitzvah program of the month includes baking, packaging & delivering cookies for Veterans and activities that celebrate Rabbi Marx'enduring commitment to improving the lives of those in need in the greater community.

L'dor Va'dor • From Generation to Generation

HONORING TRADITION
ILLUMINATING
our future



Our 2023-24 Lifelong Learning classes kick off in October. Check your weekly Chai Lights email or the web calendar listing for each class to RSVP. Some classes have space limitation and may fill up quickly. Contact Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, 215-646-5806 ext 220 with any questions or if you need help with your RSVP. All classes will be held in-person at Beth Or.



OCTOBER CLASSES

Torah Study: A Return to Basics

(taught by Rabbi Marx, Rabbi Bonder & Rabbi Lefkowitz)

Saturday mornings starting October 14 • 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Back in 1990, Rabbi Marx brought torah study to Beth Or on Shabbat morning. Over the years, we have studied Torah, Talmud, Midrash, Jewish values and history. Over the course of the years, we have met for over 1400 classes. Well, now it's time to return to the original premise. We will study the Parashat HaShavua, the torah portion of the week, learning the basics and the fundamentals of deep torah immersion. No RSVP required.

Adult Hebrew

Mondays or Tuesdays starting in October • 5 pm – 5:30 pm

How's your Hebrew? A little rusty? Perhaps non-existent? Let's learn Siddur Hebrew from the beginning! Focusing on just a few letters at a time, you'll gain knowledge and confidence, and even after the first session, you'll be reading Hebrew. Two class levels are offered: Beginners (first year) and Intermediate (second year). Class sessions will be determined by the day that works for students who sign up. When you RSVP, please indicate which class level and which day (Monday/Tuesday) you prefer. Cost: \$18/person for materials. RSVP to Aaron Nienshultz, aaron@bethor.org.

Finding Happiness in Your Life

(taught by Rabbi Marx)

Tuesday, October 10 & 24 • 7 pm – 8 pm

Only 31% of Americans when asked if they are happy actually report that they are. Ironically, Israelis rank as one of the happiest peoples in the world, even though they live in a very tense and tumultuous part of the world. A recent Gallup survey ranked Israel seventh out of 124 countries based on the happiness level of residents. Why do you think 63 percent of Israeli respondents said they were happy — more than in the US or UK? What do they know that we do not? What practices are there in Judaism that can assist us in finding joy in our life? We will use the Daylio Journal to track our emotions and evaluate actually how happy we are.

Israeli Dancing with Cantor Murley

Tuesday, October 10 & 17 and November 14 & 28 • 8 pm – 9 pm

Join Cantor Murley and Israeli dance instructor Rak Dan for a free Israeli Dance class series for adults, where we will learn both classic and contemporary Israeli circle, line, and partner dances. (Don't worry - no partner necessary!). Connect to Israeli culture in a fun and energetic way. Don't forget to tell your friends about it and bring them along! Must commit to all 4 dates.

Learner's Minyan

(taught by Rabbi Bonder)

Saturday, October 14 & February 10 • 9 am – 11 am

Do you have questions about the liturgy for Shabbat? Are you curious about the history, theology and Shabbat practice of our community? If so, this class is for you. Join Rabbi Bonder to learn about the the whys and wherefores of our B'nai Mitzvah service, with a complementary brunch provided. Then, join the clergy to see a service at 11 am, sitting in the back of the sanctuary with one of the rabbis for explanations during the service.

History of Israel 101

(taught by Rabbi Bonder)

Tuesday, October 17 • 7 pm – 8 pm

Israel is now in its 75th year of existence. How did Israel become what it is today? What have Israel's largest challenges been? What have Israel's biggest gifts been to the world? Come explore Israel's rich and complicated history.

Cooking with Gass

(taught by Alyson Gass)

Fall Recipes • Monday, October 23 • 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Join Alyson Gass in the Beth Or Kitchen for her popular, hands-on cooking class. Learn a few new recipes to introduce at your next family gathering. Space is limited.



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 Jillian Peskin at 215-646-5806.

Approved Caterer List — 2023/24

Alyson's Sweet Petites • Alyson Gass	973-732-0151
Annemarie's Cuisine • Annemarie Silva	215-806-7675
Catering by Design • Fred Morganstein.....	610-405-9787
Curds N Whey • Davida Berger	215-866-2203
Panache Catering by Foodarama *Kosher* • Gary Rosenwald.....	215-633-7100
Pumpernick's Deli • Jeff Klein.....	215-393-5800
Steve Stein's Famous Deli • Lee Stein	215-673-6000
The Gourmet Vendor • Brad Orenstein.....	215-396-7000

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Chai-Lights — September/October 2023

New Members

Jeremy, Stephanie & Dylan Richfield
Rusty & Judy Forman
Joe, Susie, Bobby & Harrison Boxman
Ryan & Henry Compton Compton & Samantha Slaff
Nicholas, Lauren, Remi, Ace & Charlie DiFederico
Joe, Carly, Gianna & Aubrey Ellman
John Kelly & Rebecca Sundheim
Robert & Sara Wenger
Scott, Alexandra, Samantha & Brynn Doroshov
Scott, Jamie, Ethan & Oliver Etish
Lee Finkelstein & Nina Zack
Michael, Brooke, Asher Weismann
Susan Brooks
Doug & Karen Rouff
Robert & Ivy Caplan
Benjamin, Lauren, Madison & Sophia Ringel
Eric, Autumn, Carter & Lennon Levine
Sunny Patel, Regina Mirkin, Ariella Bravo & Ari Bravo
Jonathan, Kate, Matthew Kornblau
Alex, Rachel, Sasha & Lucy Heller

May Their Memory Be A Blessing

Lillain Pertosoff, grandmother of Hillary Marcus
Alan B. Rosenfield, father of Sarah Deschene
Sylvia Price, mother of Fred Kaplan
Sean Ryan Andress, brother of Brandon Andress
Selma J. Bilofsky, mother of Ira Bilofsky
Edward Lukovsky, uncle of Irina Toyberman
George Hankin, brother of Madeline Nappen & uncle of Allan Nappen & Dara King
Marlene Epstein, mother of Lawrence Weiss
Wayne Warren, uncle of Helene Warren-Cutler

Mark Jaffe, father of Jamison Jaffe
Sally Siegel, wife of William Siegel, mother of Owen Siegel
Monroe Reiner, father of Keith Reiner
Leonard I. Korman, father of Alison Korman Feldman

Mazel Tov

Birth of Ethan Andrew Kaiser, grandson of Bill & Marcy Kaiser, 3/03/2023
Birth of Daisy Jane Kozlik, granddaughter of Zane & Jane Kurtz
Birth of Andrew Cushner, son of Chad & Monica Cushner
Birth of Drew Edward Shiffrin, grandson of Robert Ludwig & Joan Ryder Ludwig
Birth of Olivia Kate Wood, daughter of

Ian & Marley Wood
Baby Naming of Natalie Rose Combs, granddaughter of Jack & Linda Rosenfeld
Baby Naming of Lucas Albert Shemtob, grandson of Al & Lori Shemtob
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Miller
Bat Mitzvah Mitzvah of Natalie Faden
Bat Mitzvah of Anika Long
Bar Mitzvah of Leo Sklar
Bar Mitzvah of Bryce Piro
Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Barenbaum
Bar Mitzvah of Zackary Dhaine
Bar Mitzvah of Colby Nappen
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Oneg & Flower Donations

Additional June Donation:

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June 30 • Robert and Stacey Katz in memory of Martin I. Katz

September Donations:

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September 8 • Corey Miller and Sarah Pachler in honor of Hanna Frances Miller's Bat Mitzvah
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October Donations:

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October 6 • Kim Bittman and William Long in honor of Anika Long's Bat Mitzvah

October 13 • Adam and Lauren Piro in honor of Bryce Piro's Bar Mitzvah
Jeremy Sklar and Amanda Skarbek in honor of Leo Sklar's Bar Mitzvah

October 20 • Glenn and Melissa Barenbaum in honor of Alexa Barenbaum's Bat Mitzvah

October 27 • Katerina Aviva Kremenets and Jerome Dhaine in honor of Zackary Dhaine's Bar Mitzvah
Allan and Julie Nappen in honor of Colby Nappen's Bar Mitzvah
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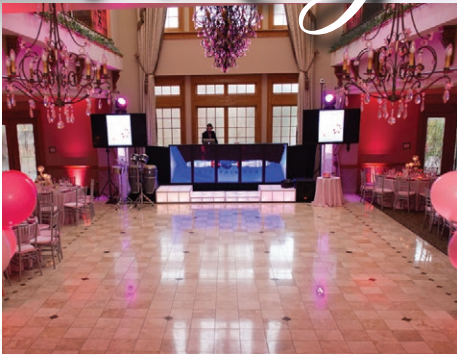
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