



BETH OR Spotlight

January-February 2018 | Volume 62, Issue 3 | Tevet-Shevat-Adar



January Worship Schedule

Friday, January 5 Shabbat Shemot

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Family Shabbat Worship
Service in the Gitlin Sanctuary
6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Service in the Haines Memorial
Chapel
7:45 pm Ner Tamid Dedication
Service in the Roberts Rotunda with
Oneg to follow

Saturday, January 6

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship Service in
the Haines Memorial Chapel

Friday, January 12 Shabbat Vaera

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service in
the Gitlin Sanctuary

Saturday, January 13

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
10:45 am Extended Torah Study with
rabbinic intern, Janine Jankovitz
Pastor
11:00 am Shabbat Worship Service in
the Haines Memorial Chapel
12:00 noon Celebrations Shabbat
Worship

Friday, January 19 Shabbat Bo

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service
Honoring Brotherhood in the Gitlin
Sanctuary
7:45 pm Shabbat Dinner Honoring
Brotherhood and Brotherhood Man
of the Year, Aaron Nienshultz

Saturday, January 20

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship Service in
the Haines Memorial Chapel

Friday, January 26 Shabbat Beshalah

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Music Shabbat Worship
Service with special guest,
Dan Nichols. The Jr. Choir will sing
at this service.

Saturday, January 27

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

the Haines Memorial Chapel

February Worship Schedule

Friday, February 2 Shabbat Yitro

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Family Shabbat Worship
Service for Grades K, 1 & 2 in the
Gitlin Sanctuary
6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
Service in the Haines Memorial
Chapel

Saturday, February 3

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship in the
Haines Memorial Chapel

Friday, February 9 Shabbat Mishpatim/Shekalim

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service
in the Gitlin Sanctuary

Saturday, February 10

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
10:45 am Extended Torah Study with
rabbinic intern, Janine Jankovitz
Pastor
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the
Bar Mitzvah of Dillon Frankel, son of
Fred and Stacy Frankel
12:00 noon Celebrations Shabbat
Worship

Friday, February 16 Shabbat Terumah

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service
in the Gitlin Sanctuary

Saturday, February 17

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship Service in
the Haines Memorial Chapel

Friday, February 23 Shabbat Tetzaveh/Zachor

- 6:00 pm** Pre-Neg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service
in the Gitlin Sanctuary

Saturday, February 24

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship Service
with the Bat Mitzvah of Ava Schrier,
daughter of Joshua and Kimberly
Schrier

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January/February Candle Lighting Times

- Friday, January 5 • 4:32 pm
Friday, January 12 • 4:39 pm
Friday, January 19 • 4:46 pm
Friday, January 26 • 4:55 pm

Friday, February 2 • 5:03 pm
Friday, February 9 • 5:11 pm
Friday, February 16 • 5:20 pm
Friday, February 23 • 5:28 pm



Rabbi Gregory S. Marx

From the Rabbi's Desk

**I found a resurgence
of Jewish life,
commitment and
peoplehood.**

Lessons Learned on our Poland/Israel Pilgrimage

Rabbi Gregory S. Marx, Senior Rabbi

I am writing this article from Warsaw Poland, where 20 Beth Or members are joining Laurie and me on a pilgrimage to Poland and Israel. This trip has surprised me in so many ways.

First, I expected Poland to be a graveyard of Jewish life. Instead, I found a resurgence of Jewish life, commitment and peoplehood. In Kraków, just a few miles from Auschwitz, there is a 600-member Jewish Community Center. The JCC executive director told us they host Shabbat dinner for several hundred every Friday night. We came back from Auschwitz dejected and feeling forsaken. Yet when we came to Kraków, we found a community that was vibrant and hopeful. We learned that the largest Jewish festival in the world, outside of Israel, takes place in Kraków, Poland. What's more, we visited several synagogues and none of them had any security guards. They say anti-Semitism is almost nonexistent in Poland. That came as quite a surprise.

Second, for so many years I equated the Holocaust with Poland. I grew up with a certain amount of contempt for the Polish people. In reality, we learned the Poles suffered along with the Jews during the Nazi occupation. Six million Poles died during World War II — 3 million of those 6 million were Jews. As with countries all across Europe during the war, there were righteous gentiles and those who turned against the Jewish community. Poland is no exception. But, we also learned the Polish army, unlike many other nations in Europe, stood up valiantly to German occupation. They, unlike the French, fought throughout the war and refused to ever cooperate with German occupation.

Third, during our visit to Majdanek, we ran into several hundred Israeli students taking a tour of the Camp. We spoke to them throughout their visit and at the end we were honored to participate in their service of commemoration. They invited me to pray along with them and to lead them in El Maleh Rachamim, the prayer for the dead and Mourners Kaddish. We sang Israel's national anthem with the ashes of the victims of the Holocaust in the background and with Israeli flags fluttering around us. I, along with many other Beth Or members in our group, was moved to tears. While we went there to remember the martyrdom of our people, there were signs of rebirth.

Fourth, we are all aware of the troubling rise of anti-Semitism in the United States. According to the ADL, there were nearly 1,300 anti-Semitic incidents in the first nine months of 2017, including physical assaults, vandalism and attacks on Jewish institutions — a 67% increase over the same period in 2016, already exceeding the 1,266 incidents reported all of last year. Especially disturbing is the high number of anti-Semitic bullying and vandalism incidents that have taken place in K-12 schools and on college campuses across the U.S. And we know that many school-based incidents don't even get reported.

Writing this in the shadow of the worst anti-Semitic event in recent history, I am mindful all the more of the need to stand with and by the state of Israel as a haven for persecuted Jews, and to be ever vigilant against the rising hate we see in our own country. May we denounce bigotry, anti-Semitism and racism wherever we see it. That, for me, is one of the greatest lessons of the Holocaust.

A Busy, Fulfilling Year at Beth Or

David Simon, Beth Or President

Since this article will be published in January, I want to make sure that I belatedly wish every member of Beth Or a Happy Chanukah and also acknowledge and recognize the fine work of our Social Action Committee, chaired by Susy Krimker and Margie Chachkin, in organizing last month's Mitzvah Month events. The wide range of programs and opportunities that occurred during the month surely had the Beth Or community engaging in Tikkun Olam. We should thank the committee members and be proud of the entire Beth Or community who participated in Mitzvah Month events. In addition, I want to call your attention to an article published on November 20 in the Houston Chronicle about Beth Or's charitable efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The article was titled "*Pennsylvania Synagogue Sends a Stunning Gift to Texas Flood Victims*" and is recommended reading for all congregants. You will find a link to the article on the Beth Or Facebook page.



David Simon

President's Corner

There certainly are a lot of benefits to being Jewish and reasons to be proud of Beth Or (see above). Some of them are spiritual. And others, well, not so much. One of my clearest childhood memories is from fifth grade when one of my fellow classmates asked me about Chanukah and said to me "*you mean you really get a present every day for eight days?*" The jealousy and envy was apparent, and boy did I feel good. Did I tell him that not all of the presents were large or very expensive; of course not! I just let him imagine the week-long gift fest that occurred in my house. Well, we just celebrated another of those secondary benefits of being Jewish. We get to celebrate the New Year twice, once for Rosh Hashanah and again on January 1. I want to wish a happy and healthy new "calendar" year to each and every member of the Beth Or community.

The balance of Beth Or's fiscal year will bring some great events and changes. As we all know, at the end of June, Rabbi David Gerber will move to New Orleans to become Senior Rabbi at Congregation Gates of Prayer. Our congregation will honor Rabbi Gerber and his wife Lauren with several events over the weekend of April 20 - 22. Samantha Drossner has agreed to chair the event committee (thank you Sam). I hope you mark your calendars to join us in thanking David and Lauren Gerber for their service to Beth Or over the past 6 years. Meanwhile, our process to find a new Assistant Rabbi has already begun. We have completed the first step in the process with the filing of a formal application with the Central Conference of American Rabbis ("CCAR"). Actual interviews of interested candidates from the Hebrew Union College take place in early February in Cincinnati. Interviews of candidates will also take place at Beth Or later in the spring. First vice president, Josh Gottlieb, is chairing the search committee which will be conducting the on-site interviews at the synagogue. More information will come as this process progresses.

Last but not least, let's go Eagles!

Pennsylvania synagogue sends a stunning gift to Texas flood victims

By Alyson Ward Published 6:02 pm, Monday, November 20, 2017

**HOUSTON
CHRONICLE**





Rabbi David Gerber

A Hopefully Untimely Article

Rabbi David Gerber, Associate Rabbi

One of the great challenges of writing articles for the Beth Or Spotlight is that it is difficult to be timely. The production process of the magazine takes several weeks, which is no doubt due to the excellent quality and production value and the hard work of the amazing people who put it together. 😊 I am writing this article in early November, knowing that you may not read it until January and therefore there is a chance that the topic of this article may not be totally relevant.

Sadly, my confidence level of the relevance of this article is pretty high.

Over the past several years I have had an overabundance of practice in honing an unfortunate skill. I am referring to the practice of writing responses to mass shootings and gun violence in our country.

I hope I am wrong. I hope that in the roughly six weeks between writing this article and its distribution the leaders of our country have begun the process to have a legitimate study on why our country is prone to this kind of violence.

For too many years we have listened to politicians stand defiantly and proclaim, without a shred of evidence or humility, exactly what the problem ISN'T.

I don't need to go into the arguments on both sides of the issue because we all have heard them on a repeated loop for years if not decades. What we haven't heard is a call for real change from our leadership.

The response from our country's executive branch after the church shooting near San Antonio is that this is a mental health issue. If the president really believes this, then by the time you are reading this article, we should expect a clear direction forward to study mental health and its relationship to gun violence.

If, like I suspect, we are still standing in the same place, then we can be assured that we are merely listening to the empty winds of politics.

I hope I am wrong. I hope that as you are reading this you are thinking about how untimely this message is. I hope we are well into a comprehensive study of why we are so disproportionately affected by gun violence. If this article rings true, however, we must get back to work. We must elect leaders who will act to make us safe from this epidemic.

From the Rabbi's Desk

We must get back to work. We must elect leaders who will act to make us safe from this epidemic.



Important School Dates

Monday, January 1

No School: Winter Break

Tuesday, January 2

No School: Winter Break

Sunday, January 14

No School: MLK Day

Monday, January 15

No School: MLK Day

Tuesday, January 16

No School: MLK Day

Sunday, January 21

1st Grade Family Ed

Friday, February 2

K, 1, and 2 Family Shabbat

Sunday, February 4

3rd Grade Family Ed

Sunday, February 4

4th Grade Field Trip

Friday, February 9

Confirmation L'taken Trip

Sunday, February 18

No School: Presidents' Day

Monday, February 19

No School: Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 20

No School: Presidents' Day

Religious School NEWS

Aaron Nienshultz, Director of Religious School

Purim arrives at the very end of February this year, and I hope you're looking forward to our shpiel and carnival (check out the Events page for more information on what we have planned). I know that people often think of Purim as a children's holiday — we give out candy, everyone behaves in a silly way, and of course there are costumes to be worn. While these behaviors might seem childish, the motivation for them comes from an important place.

The costumes for instance — why do we dress in costumes on Purim? One notion holds that God's hand is disguised in the story of Esther; Esther appears to save the Jewish people by telling King Ahashverosh who she really is, masking the fact that the salvation of the Jewish people is a miracle from God. We therefore wear disguises to celebrate hidden miracles in the world around us. In another opinion from tractate Megillah in the Talmud, we read that Jews of the time dressed in a way that was not normal for them to avoid standing out: basically, people wore costumes to mask who they really were. We therefore celebrate our daily freedom to be who we are by wearing silly costumes on Purim — the opposite of what our people experienced when they had to disguise themselves every day.

Regardless of the reasons, Purim is a fun holiday, and I urge you to come hear our Purim Shpiel on Wednesday evening, February 28, and to celebrate with us at our Purim Carnival on Sunday, February 25. Let's embrace a little joy together!



Aaron Nienshultz



Leonard &
Madlyn Abramson
Education Center

CONGREGATION BETH OR



In The Depth Of Winter...

Lisa Yoskowitz, Early Childhood Director

January. What come to mind? Cold, wind, darkness, and feeling that spring is still months away. And at this time of year, learning that “Within me there lay an invincible summer” is the key to enjoying every season. And, since our children feed off of the moods that we convey, here are some things we are doing at Beth Or to keep the joy alive!

- **Family Shabbat on Friday, January 5 and Friday, February 2**
Bring your children and the entire family! Relax and enjoy the music, the singing and all the spiritual moments that this sacred family time can be. Shabbat Services begin at 6:30pm.
- **Music Shabbat on Friday January 26**
Another great way to make this time of year meaningful. Spend the evening welcoming in Shabbat with Dan Nichols and the Junior Choir at 6:30 pm.
- **Purim Carnival and Purim Shpiel on Sunday, February 25**
Join in the fun! Come spend the day with us celebrating Purim! Wear your costumes and attend the carnival and the “Purim Shpiel!”



Lisa Yoskowitz



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

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Discover ✨ Grow ✨ Shine

And, for those times that you can't make it to Beth Or, here are some other great ideas to help put a smile on your child's face!

- **Make greeting cards** for residents of a local nursing home. Then take a 'field trip' to deliver them together.
- **Make paper snowflakes** and hang them up in unexpected places around your home.
- **Play board games together** and don't forget to introduce your children to some of your favorites!
- **Visit your local library** and check out books on winter themes. Then come home and take turns reading to one another. Bonus: use your phone to record one another reading and then save the recordings for bedtime stories on a night when you're extra exhausted.
- **Sit silently together and "listen" to the snowfall.** (It's amazing how quiet your children will be when you ask them to "listen" to the snow.)

Finding beauty in the "depth of winter" is not always easy, but allowing ourselves to see it through the eyes of our children, might just be the key to embracing each and every day.

Shabbat Shirah



Jaime Murley



Cantor Jaime Murley, Junior Choir Director

The Torah portion, Beshalach, marks a very musical moment in Jewish biblical history. It is in this portion that we read how Moses and Miriam lead the Israelites out of Egypt, across the Sea of Reeds, and then erupted into a celebration of song and dance, singing widely known songs such as *Mi Chamocha* and *Ozi V'zimrat Yah*. Because of the wealth of music in that week's Torah portion, that Shabbat is called Shabbat Shirah ("Sabbath of Song"). Each year our congregation highlights this Shabbat by creating a service brimming with extraordinary music. This year, we are having something truly special!

Dan Nichols, accompanied by our Junior Choir, will be leading our congregation in Shabbat

worship on January 26. Dan Nichols is truly a Jewish rock star. He is a product of the URJ Jewish camping movement and has toured Jewish camps across North America for the last 15 years. A classically trained singer, Dan received his Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance at the University of North Carolina. In 1995, realizing the potential of music to make powerful connections with Jewish youth, Dan established the Jewish rock band Eighteen. Since that time, Dan and Eighteen have released 11 albums. Songs like, *L'takein (The Na Na Song)*, *B'tzelem Elohim*, *Kehillah Kedoshah*, *Turn The World Around*, and *Sweet As Honey* have become Jewish communal anthems throughout North America. Dan has been featured at conferences and conventions of nearly every major Jewish movement, including the URJ Biennial, NFTY Convention, BBYO International, Limmud and the Wexner Heritage Program.

Since September, the students in our religious school have been having a fabulous time learning the music of Dan Nichols. They have come up with hand motions and dances to many of his songs and show so much *ruach* ("spirit") when singing them!

But don't think for a minute that this service will only appeal to our younger congregants! In fact, because Dan has such a talent for writing beautiful and spiritual melodies,

Cantor Green and I have been singing his music in the regular Shabbat services for years. Adults in our community who regularly attend services will recognize his *Hinei Mah Tov*, *Mi Chamocha*, *Or Zarua*, and countless other Dan Nichols melodies. So, mark your calendars and be sure to attend this amazing musical Shabbat at 6:30 pm on Friday, January 26, 2018! It will truly be a night to remember!

Junior Choir January/February Calendar

January 5

Family Service, 6:30 pm

January 7

Junior Staffers Escape
Room Party (time TBD)

January 26

Shabbat Shira with
Dan Nichols

February 2

Family Service at 6:30 pm

February 25

Purim Shpiel
Performance #1

February 28

Purim Shpiel
Performance #2



Imagining a World without Hate...

ADL's 2017 Youth Leadership Conference

Jillian Glick, Director of Member & Youth Engagement

This past November, I had the privilege of accompanying 6 of our Beth Or 10th & 11th graders to the annual youth leadership conference with the Anti-Defamation League. This year's theme was Exploring Diversity, Challenging Hate. Over 500 teens from the greater Philadelphia area met to discuss challenges they face every day when it comes to prejudice and stereotypes. This conference helped give our students tools to combat bullying. It also gave them a different perspective, being able to learn alongside peers from different backgrounds. The world is a better place knowing that the ADL continues this youth leadership conference and all of their teen education programs.

One of our students, Becca Porter, who is a junior at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and a Junior Choir Junior Staffer, as well as a Madricha in our Religious School wrote the following about her day:

"I found my experience at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to be deeply enlightening and extremely refreshing. For the morning workshop, we were split from the group we came with and put into a group of about 20-30 strangers. At first the prospect of being with strangers was a little daunting, however, I quickly learned its purpose. Being with strangers took away any past judgement or knowledge you may have had with peers from your own school and was a great way to learn about new perspectives and opinions. The people in my group bonded quickly over a shared love of activities and hobbies as well as the realization that we've all experienced differing aspects of prejudice, stereotypes, and bullying. It was refreshing to have an intellectual conversation where different viewpoints and opinions were not only welcomed but understood. Recognizing these shared problems in our society is only the first step to implementing the tactics we used to have a meaningful conversation in the real world. We then proceeded to the afternoon workshop, where small groups of kids from the same school or organization were put together in the same room. We discussed the effects of social media in the classroom at length. This workshop was extremely helpful and most particularly enlightening. We were presented with a particular issue and viewed how it could vary in different schools as well as solutions that we could bring back to our own school. I loved being a part of this amazing conference. It was truly outstanding to be in a room full of peer leaders who have the same goals as I do. I will take what I learned from this experience wherever I go."

For more information about the ADL's mission and resources they provide, please visit www.adl.org.



Jillian Glick



SOCIAL Action

Inter-Faith Hospitality Network

The Inter-faith Hospitality Network (IHN) provides an emergency shelter program. It is one of the programs of the Interfaith Housing Alliance. IHN provides Montgomery County families experiencing homelessness with a safe place to stay for up to 90 days. The program also provides supportive services to assist families through this difficult time. They learn through this process to improve their life skills and decision-making abilities, and to develop resources necessary to become self-sufficient. In our area, nineteen Congregations are involved in this unique shelter delivery model. The congregations serve families for one month each year. The families are provided with a room to sleep and volunteers from the congregation prepare and share meals, provide overnight assistance, and help with transportation needs.

Congregation Beth Or has been involved with this Program over 19 years, initially volunteering at other Churches. For the past 10 years, we have been hosting up to three families staying overnight at Beth Or

during the entire month of February. While Inter-Faith works in partnership with community congregations, the program is non-denominational. On a daily basis, the participating families visit Inter-Faith Housing Alliance where staff provides intensive case management and comprehensive support services to help families resolve their homelessness. The model can accommodate families of various compositions, although most families served are single-parent, female-headed households with young children.

Last February, Beth Or enlisted over 100 volunteers throughout the month, many volunteering on numerous days. In total, there were nearly 1,000 volunteer hours logged in by caring members of our Beth Or community.

We often wonder if we make a difference in these families' lives, since we do not hear from them after they leave the program. IHN included in their newsletter the personal experience of a family that we recently housed at Beth Or:

Meet Kayla

After my divorce, my two young children and I had no place to live. The secretary at our church told us about Inter-Faith.

When we first entered the shelter, I felt trapped. There were strict rules. I couldn't tell anyone where we lived. No one could visit, and we had to be in by dinner time. By the end of the first week, though, something happened. I was humbled by everyone's kindness.

The volunteers treated my kids like they were their own. After my stay in the shelter, I entered Inter-Faith's transitional housing program at Hope Gardens. I found a second job, saved my money, and after two years I purchased my own home.

Here's what I learned in that time. My success is not measured by how much money I make or where I live. It is measured by how I persevered through a nasty divorce and homelessness. I was determined to be self-sufficient, and Inter-Faith gave me the tools I needed.

It was the worst time of my life — but in a funny kind of way, it was also the best, and I wouldn't change anything about my life or my story."



We do make a difference. Please think about the success of this family, especially when February rolls around. This program succeeds because of our caring community.

We are now scheduling Beth Or volunteers for the entire month of February, 2018. We need to provide dinners, overnight chaperones and, if needed, provide transportation between Beth Or and Hope Gardens in Ambler. Please use our online scheduling website for more information and to sign up on the days convenient for you.

The web link is: <http://www.carecalendar.org/logon/224429>
The security code is 1111.

Advance the calendar to February, 2018. Select the days and activities for which you wish to volunteer and provide the information requested. Be sure to enter your cellphone number so we can contact you in the event of any last minute changes. E-mail and cell phone data are accessible only to the coordinators.

We greatly appreciate your past and future support.
Susy Krimker and Marv Schwartz, Co-chairs

Meet Our B'nai Mitzvah Student

Adam Grossman

November 25, 2017

For my Mitzvah project, I incorporated my love of baseball. To help others, I worked with the **Horsham Little League Challenger Division**, which was created in 1989. This Division enables boys and girls with physical and mental challenges to enjoy the game of baseball. Using the buddy system, we worked with the players on the field. The Challenger Division also works to reduce or eliminate registration fees and provide baseball equipment for those in need. As part of my fundraising activities, I donated a portion of my Bar Mitzvah monies to this great cause. I welcome any



Beth Or members to join me this spring by being a buddy and donating what you can. Some of the Challenger wish list items include:

- New bats that contain the USA Baseball logo
- Baseball cards for our peer baseball card trading events
- Funds to pay for the lights during our Fall Ball Season
- Bleachers and benches for our players and families to sit on during the game
- Gift cards to sporting goods stores for players who can't afford equipment

To find out more how you can help, please contact Libby Felten at HorshamChallengers@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER

Spotlight

Alyson Caplan

Eleven years ago, I had a son at the Beth Or Preschool, an infant daughter and a work-from-home job as an event planner. Since my son was in school for just a few hours, and the Beth Or Café offered free WIFI, I often parked myself with my daughter, my computer and a cup of coffee to work for a few hours. I came upon other preschool moms and jumped into the Preschool Committee. A few mornings a week I would sit, work, drink coffee and “yenta” with this inspiring group of women. We planned fundraisers, teacher appreciation dinners and social action programs. This was my introduction to volunteering at Beth Or, but really it was my introduction to Beth Or as a community.

The years following my preschool days brought my involvement in the Membership Committee, event committees and eventually a spot on the Board. The “work” that I do as a volunteer isn’t work to me... it is simply a fulfilling part of my life as a member of the Beth Or community.

Does one volunteer to become part of a community? Or does joining the community inspire one to volunteer?

I’m not sure what the answer is for me. What I know is that the community at Beth Or is strong, supportive and welcoming, and I am proud to be a part of it.



Beth Or SISTERHOOD

Resolve To Make A Sisterhood Connection In 2018

Jodye Green, Sisterhood President

What's a new year without a list of resolutions? We all make resolutions, some more reasonable than others, some more personal than others but all made with the most sincere intentions to be better people and do better for our families, our friends, and our community.

I propose adding one additional resolution to your list that can help you accomplish several of your individual and communal goals. It is painless, fun and easy to achieve and can enhance your connection to our congregation and our Jewish community. Take my 2018 Sisterhood Connection challenge and add just one program or activity to your 2018 calendar.

Our 2018 program year is packed with many exciting activities to choose from. Pick one (or many) that appeal to you and check for starting times and fees on our digital billboards and bulk mailings.

Sunday, January 21 – Rabbi Gerber is joining us for brunch at Estia followed by Les Miserables at the Academy of Music, he'll be discussing the Jewish connection to Les Mis.

Sunday, February 11 – Sample delicious wines from around the world.

Wednesday, March 7 – Paint your own Miriam's Cup with famed artist Mordechai Rosenstein

Tuesday, May 2 – Join in the discussion of a provocative book selected by the "One Book One Jewish Community" initiative

Thursday, May 10 – Replenish your spring/summer wardrobe at our Trunk Show

Aside from these special programs, we have our monthly staples. Observe Sisterhood in action during one of our board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, play (or learn) Mah Jongg every Tuesday evening, and make blankets, hats and other items that bring comfort to congregants in hospitals and nursing homes by joining our Knitting Circle on the second Wednesday of each month.

Take the 2018 Sisterhood Resolution challenge and simply show up. I guarantee you will not be disappointed!



Jodye Green



Sisterhood

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Fellowship • Community
Service • Support

Please Support the

Tarshis Gift Shop

Proceeds Benefit Beth Or Sisterhood Programs

Stop in for these items and more:

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

Hours:

- Sunday: 9 am-1 pm • Monday & Tuesday : 9 am-12 noon & 4:30 pm-6 pm
- Wednesday through Friday: 9 am-12 noon

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

Spotlight on SISTERHOOD'S Woman of the Year

I am one of many

The following is an excerpt from Faye Benshetler's acceptance speech at the annual Sisterhood Woman of the Year Shabbat and Dinner which was held this past October 27.

"The only time I want everyone's attention on me is when I teach. The rest of the time I much prefer to be in the background. Because, as I see it, I am one of many.

I am one of many who have taught public school and Hebrew school and truly loved doing it 95% of the time.

I am one of many who work in the field of special needs. We truly want to make life better for those families that face significant challenges and yet remain strong and loving.

I am one of many who knit and crochet so that others are warm and comforted.

I am one of many who volunteer to help, and make our synagogue and world a little bit better and kinder.

What I do is neither significant nor extraordinary. I do lots of little things because selfishly, I love doing them.

I am a reflection of all of you who have shaped me in many wonderful ways.

If I am a good woman, it is a tribute to my parents Rose and Jack Taransky who taught me to be kind, generous and strong.

It is a tribute to my husband Eric who is my best friend, my loudest cheerleader and my dearest love.

It is a tribute to our sons Jeff and Evan - I love you with all my heart-but you should call home more often.

It is a tribute to my mother-in law Marilyn, cousins Allan and Susan, and my family members that couldn't join us tonight.

It is a special tribute to my Aunt Shirl who gives with an incredible loving heart. At 93 she still is the best cook in the family and an inspiration to us all.

It is a tribute to my "besties" who are my extended family. They always have my back and I can count on them to make me laugh.

It is a tribute to my Celebrations family who embody the spirit of New Orleans and despite concussions and illness let the good times roll!

It is a tribute to my sister hookers and all of the outstanding women of Sisterhood that make this congregation vibrant. And in the spirit of equity I send a shout out to Brotherhood, too

It is a tribute to Rabbi Marx, Rabbi Gerber, Cantor Green & Cantor Murley and all the Beth Or staff that remind me that I must stand up as a Jew in a not so warm and fuzzy world.

So I stand before you as a very small part of this kehilla kedosha.

We are all in this together, being a part of a much greater mitzvah.

I stand before you humbled that you have looked at all the little things I do and found them worthy of this honor. I am deeply grateful. Thank you."



Faye Benshetler

Congratulations Faye — and THANK YOU for representing many.

Beth Or BROTHERHOOD

Men of The Year... Man of The Year

Allan Posner, Brotherhood President



Allan Posner



I hope everyone had a joyous time celebrating with family and friends during the festive season of Thanksgiving and Chanukah. For those who attended our Annual Dinner and EAGLES tailgate party the fun never ended. The Man of a Thousand voices Joe Conklin was amazing and Brotherhood hopes to make our dinner even better next year.

How is it possible that all these events take place within our synagogue? There is not a secret Brotherhood angel who magically appears to plan, shop, promote, set up and clean up after all of you leave. The magic is all the Brotherhood members who give generously of their time, effort, energy and funds to make our events the best they can be for the entire congregation. Thank You!

On Friday January 19, Brotherhood will honor all our members as we gather for Brotherhood Shabbat and dinner immediately following. It is a time to share and participate in a special service conducted by long time member Bob Simon and all members who wish to stand on the bimah as one united group. This year will be a special night for other reasons as well.

Occasionally, Brotherhood bestows our highest honor to a member of our group or congregation... Man of The Year. This period in time is different and should be. Brotherhood is proud to announce that Beth Or's very own, Aaron Nielsenshultz, will receive Brotherhood's highest honor. Aaron is the Director of our religious school but that is not his greatest accomplishment. What is?

Most of our congregation does not know that this past summer he gave the ultimate gift to humanity. After random testing Aaron became a match for a fellow congregant and donated his kidney to save that person's life and then in short order was back in his office doing what he does best, educating. He made the decision quickly and without hesitation. The reason most of you don't know what our Man of The Year did was simply because he decided to do what he had to do quietly and without fanfare.

As President of Brotherhood and on behalf of our entire membership we would like to congratulate Aaron and his family. We hope you can attend our very special Shabbat evening on Friday January 19 at 6:30pm. Please go to the Beth Or website for other details.

Mazal Tov to Aaron!

SAVE THE DATES: January 19 • Brotherhood Shabbat
February 3 • Tu B'shevat Festival Celebration
February 21 • Rabbi Marx visits Brotherhood

Stay Connected!



Join our



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Like, comment and share our posts!



Sign up for our weekly Chai-Lights and Community Matters e-mail blasts on the Beth Or website homepage, www.bethor.org.

Beth Or EVENTS

Adult Programs

APEX Brunch with Mordechai Rosenstein

Sunday, March 11 • 9:30 am-11:30 am

(note new time!)

No charge to Beth Or members if you RSVP by Wednesday, March 7. Otherwise pay \$10 at the door.

Join APEX and our Artist in Residence, Mordechai Rosenstein for brunch and a morning of "Coffee, Coloring and Kibitzing." Mordechai will give a lesson on the creation of the alphabet and then talk about a few of his pieces. Attendees can then add color and illumination to his templates. RSVP to Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org.

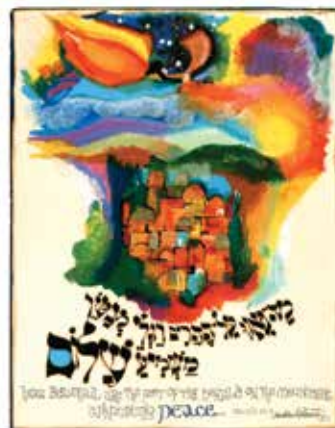
APEX is the Adult Programming Experience Committee which presents events geared toward congregational members 55 and over. All Beth Or members are welcome to attend APEX events.

Art Gallery

Artist – Claire G. Lynch

Opening Reception: Friday, January 12 • 6 pm- 6:30 pm

The Olitsky Gallery is pleased to present the beautiful landscapes of Claire G. Lynch. Please join us on January 12 to meet the artist. For Claire, capturing the inner essence of her subject inspires her work. Light and its effects on the painting are most important elements. Claire says, "Being in the moment to enjoy the exploration and process guides me." Her influences are the 17th, 18th, and 19th Century Flemish, French, and Spanish artists. The exhibit continues until February 7.



Artists – Sunday 6th Grade Religious School Students

Opening Reception: Friday, February 9 • 6 pm-6:30 pm

Our 6th grade students have been studying the meaning of prayers, and the different ways artists have presented their thoughts about prayer. They have learned about color, symbols,

layout, and other artistic ideas and have identified a prayer that has special significance to them. Then, using writing, drawing, collage, photography, found-art, or other techniques, the students have created meaningful expressions of their own connections to prayer, complete with a written explanation for why they made the choices that they did. Come see their art exhibition in the Olitsky Gallery until March 7!

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Events

Annual Brotherhood Shabbat and Man of the Year Dinner — honoring Aaron Nienshultz

Friday, January 19 • 6:30 pm Worship Immediately Followed by Dinner

Brotherhood is honored and participates in this Shabbat worship. All are invited to dinner following services, where Brotherhood will celebrate the 5778 Man of the Year — Aaron Nienshultz. Advanced RSVP required on the website RSVP portal. Cost: \$18/person. Checks should be made payable to Beth Or Brotherhood. Contact Bob Simon at YobobSimon@gmail.com or 610-547-0943 with any questions.

Sisterhood Brunch and Theatre — Les Miserables

Sunday, January 21 • Check Website for Time

Spend the day in Philly. Join Rabbi Gerber and Sisterhood for brunch at Estia and then enjoy one of the most beloved musicals, Les Miserables, at the Academy of Music. Visit the Beth Or website or read your weekly Chai Lights e-mail for time, cost, RSVP and other details.

Sisterhood Wine Tasting

Sunday, February 11 • Check Website for Time

Sample delicious wines from around the world. Look for details on the Beth Or website, monthly events booklet, or weekly Chai Lights e-mail.



Special Events

One Book One Congregation "Climate of Hope" Book Series: Dinner & Book Discussion

Hosted by Margie Chachkin

Tuesday, January 30 • Light Dinner at 6:30 pm;

Discussion from 7 pm-8 pm

Join Margie at her home (824 Wright Drive, Maple Glen) to enjoy a light meal followed by a book discussion facilitated by Beverly C. Rosen. This event is another opportunity to discuss "Climate of Hope", this year's book selection by the Beth Or Social Justice Committee. RSVP in advance with Barbara Murtha at bmurtha@bethor.org.

Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM))

February 2018

Beth Or once again supports JDAIM by incorporating a variety of activities into our worship, education and other programming to showcase how our community opens our arms to all, and how we can all do our part to promote inclusion, compassion and tolerance. Look for more details in weekly Chai Lights and school emails.



Civil Dialogue for Uncivil Times

Thursday, February 8 • 7 pm-9 pm

The path to peace between Israelis and Palestinians is heavily debated within our Jewish communities. J.J. Goldberg, editor-at-large of the Forward, and Jonathan Tobin, senior online editor of Commentary, will debate arguments from the Left and the Right about the nuances of this complex situation. These two Jewish-American thought leaders and will demonstrate how we can come together to determinedly but civilly articulate one's opinion. Join us for an engaging and informative evening full of lively discussion. This event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested at jewishphilly.org/dialogue.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Celebration Weekend Honoring Rabbi David and Lauren Gerber

Friday-Sunday, April 20-22

Help us celebrate the Gerber family before they head to New Orleans! There are events all weekend long. Friday night is a special Shabbat service. Saturday night, join us for dinner and dueling pianos — Bourbon Street Style! Sunday, our religious school students will join in the celebration. Check the website, weekly emails & monthly events booklet for tribute book information and event RSVPs!



Israeli Movie Night at the Ambler Theater

Thursday, April 26 • 7:30 pm

The Beth Or Israel Committee presents an evening at the Ambler Movie Theater featuring a movie and discussion led by Rabbi Marx. More details coming soon! Contact Patty Bassman at patty6@aol.com with questions.

Lifelong Learning:

News and Nosh

Sunday, January 21 • 10 am

Head to the Schmear Café, grab a bagel and get ready to discuss current events with Rabbi Marx! No RSVP required.

Men's Discussion Group

Wednesday, February 21 • 6 pm-7 pm

Following the Brotherhood monthly meeting, join Rabbi Marx to discuss important topical issues. No RSVP required.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Allen Apter Memorial Beit Sefer Café

Tuesday, March 6 and 13 • 6:30 pm-9pm

This free program, sponsored by Beth Or's Lifelong Learning Committee, will feature scholars from across the country, historians, artists, hands-on activities and more!

Each evening's schedule: First Class: 6:30-7:30 pm • Break with light repast/social time: 7:30-8pm • Second Class: 8-9 pm

Look for a brochure with full details and registration information to be mailed to your home in January! Advance RSVP will be required.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE
UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sisterhood Miriam's Cup Making
Wednesday, March 7 • 7 pm

Join Sisterhood and our Artist in Residence, Mordechai Rosenstein, for a creatively fun evening painting your own keepsake Miriam's Cup. Cost: \$20/person. Register on the website RSVP portal.

Sisterhood Trunk Show & Sale
Thursday, May 10 • 6:30 pm-9:30 pm

Save the date for a girl's night out of shopping, delicious food and cocktails. Pick up some of spring's latest fashions and accessories. More details and RSVP to come soon!

Brotherhood Wine Sale
Sunday, March 11, 18, and 25 • 9 am-1 pm

Stop by Brotherhood's table in the Spain Lobby and stock up on a delicious assortment of Kosher for Passover wines. Your wine purchases help support Beth Or programming.

Holidays and Shabbat Events

Music Shabbat featuring Dan Nichols and the Junior Choir

Friday, January 26 • 6:30pm

Join us for a very special Shabbat Shira filled with ruach and the music of Dan Nichols. Refer to the Junior Choir article for details.

Tu B'Shevat Music Festival • Summer in February
Saturday, February 3 • 7 pm-10 pm

We're bringing a bit of summer back in February, so get ready for some fun! Don't miss Beth Or's first ever Tu B'Shevat Music Festival, including music, dancing, international food and more!



Since Tu B'Shevat is the New Year for Trees, admission for this event is the purchase of a NEW tree in Israel. You can purchase your tree on line: <http://usa.jnf.org/jnf-tree-planting-center/> (just bring your receipt) or simply bring \$18 to the door and we will make your donation for you. Minimum: One tree per family. Advanced RSVP required via the website RSVP portal. Contact Jillian Glick, jglick@bethor.org with any questions..

Purim at Beth Or!

BOFTY Purim Carnival
Sunday, February 25 • 10 am-2 pm

Support BOFTY by attending this family friendly day of fun! Highlights include food, moon bounces, face painting, carnival games, hamentashen baking, Camp Harlam visitor table and prizes! All proceeds benefit the youth group and help with scholarships for our teens to attend NFTY events! Costumes are encouraged! If you or your teen would like to volunteer, please contact Jillian Glick at jglick@bethor.org.

Purim Shpiel
Sunday, February 25 • 10:10 am and 11:20 am

The junior choir presents the annual Purim Shpiel for our Sunday school students. This year's Shpiel features some well-loved characters!

Purim Family Dinner, Worship Service and Shpiel
Wednesday, February 28 • Character Dinner at 5 pm followed by Worship at 6:30 pm

Join us for a family-friendly Pizza dinner. Meet and mingle with some of your favorite princes and princesses. This event is free, but advanced RSVP via the website RSVP portal is required. Purim service, shpiel, megillah reading follow dinner, along with special beverages for the adults to celebrate the holiday.

Mishloach Manot Snack Bag Packing
Friday, March 2 • 7:30 pm

On Purim, we are commanded to give gifts to the poor. At this time of year, we conduct our annual congregational food drive. Please consider donating non-perishable food items and join us following the Family Shabbat service to pack all of the items and prepare them for distribution to this year's beneficiary, the Boys & Girls Club.



Support Groups:

If you or someone you know is struggling with a challenging life moment or transition, support is available. Cantor David Green coordinates counseling and support groups for a variety of issues, depending on the interest level in forming a group. You may join at any time.

Current support groups include:

Bereavement Support – facilitated by Cantor Green, meets in Cantor's office the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of each month, 8 pm-9 pm.

Divorced Women Support – facilitated by Judy Phipps, meets in Rabbi Gerber's office on one Wednesday each month, 7 pm-8 pm. Consult the website calendar or contact Cantor Green for schedule.

NEW!

Adult Caregivers of Aging Parents Discussion Group – facilitated by Michelle Schwartz, meets in Cantor Green's office on one or two Wednesdays each month, 7pm-8pm. This group will focus on the emotional, physical and financial challenges facing caregivers, such as conflicts with siblings, impact on marriages, how to care for one's own emotional needs, dealing with lack of time, energy, resources, financial constraints, etc. Consult the website calendar or contact Cantor Green for schedule.



Parenting Teens Support Group (for parents of teens 12-15) – facilitated by Michelle Schwartz. This group will form if there is interest and will focus on general parenting issues, navigating social media, teaching coping skills, encouraging independence while maintaining safety, and raising caring and compassionate children. Time and location TBD.

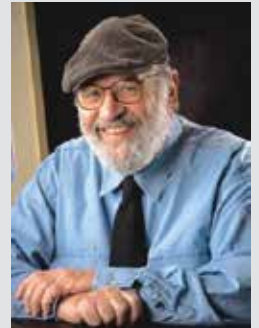
For more information, please contact Cantor Green at 215-646-5806, ext. 218 or dgreen@bethor.org.

Mordechai Rosenstein Artist in Residence

Tuesday, March 6 – Sunday, March 11

Since 1979, Mordechai Rosenstein has created Jewish Art and put it up in people's homes, synagogues, and agencies throughout the world.

Mordechai creates a myriad of pieces utilizing vibrant colors and flowing lines that transform the art of Hebrew calligraphy into a modern day feast for the eyes.



Mark your calendar for all of these incredible programs. There is an event for everyone!

Tuesday, March 6

6:30 pm • Art Becomes Me – this Lifelong Learning class will be part of Beit Sefer Café. Refer to the Beit Sefer Café brochure for details and RSVP information.

Wednesday, March 7

7:00 pm • Pinot & Painting with Sisterhood – Enjoy a creative and fun evening painting Miriam's Cup with your friends. Cost: \$20/person. RSVP required.

Friday, March 9

Time TBD • Life/Blessing/Peace – Art with CECE Students

6:30 pm • Torah Paints A Picture – Mordechai will present the d'var Torah during Shabbat Worship. No RSVP necessary.

Saturday, March 10

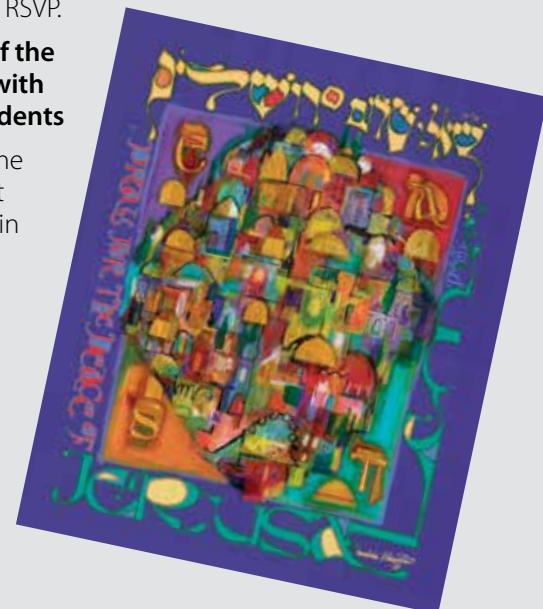
9:30 am • Parsha HaShavuah with Torah Study Group. – No RSVP necessary.

Sunday, March 11

9:30 am • Coffee, Coloring & Kibbitz – APEX Brunch. See APEX event for details and RSVP.

11:15 am • Secret of the Hebrew Alphabet with Sunday School Students

All Week • Stop by the Spain Lobby to meet Mordechai Rosenstein who will be painting a picture to gift to Beth Or. He will also display his art which will be available for purchase during his visit with us.



Chai-Lights — January/February 2018

New Members

Michael, Fernanda & Max Vogel
Gary & Judith Kurtis
Evan, Jennifer, Savannah & Graham Segal
Darren, Stacey, Lyla & Cody Sand

Rejoining Members

David & Ilene Fridling
Harvey, Monica, Jacob & Jillian Fracht
Jane Alpern
Harvey & Mary Avarbock

May Their Memory Be a Blessing

Phyllis Abrams, congregant
Steve Ehlers, brother-in-law of Beth Rubin
and uncle of Jennifer & Hannah Ehlers
Rhoda Glaskin, mother of Susan
Greenberg
Trudy Katz, sister of Larry Katz
Caren Goleman Strong, cousin of Elaine
Kelbick
Joseph Seboek, father of Jenifer Seboek
Alan Fineman, grandfather of Robyn
Randa
Bill Campbell, son-in-law of Earl & Deena
Rochvarg & brother-in-law of Alyson
& Jimmy Caplan
Ellen Silberman, daughter of Jerry &
Harriet Silberman
Philip Berman, father of Richard Berman
Charles "Buddy" Briefer, uncle of Stuart
Briefer
Joan B. Levithan, mother of Scott Levithan

Mazel Tov

Birth of Elisha (Eli) Chanan Schulz,
grandson of Mark & Joyce Schulz
Birth of Aidan Jacob Glaser, son of Gary
& Staci Glaser and grandson of Mark
& Bernice Glaser
Birth of August Eli Zeiger-Guerra,
grandchild of Stuart Zeiger & Olga
Guerra
Baby Naming of Sydney Lee Chang,
granddaughter of Steve &
Linda Lupin
Baby Naming of Aaron Joshua Carp, son
of Eric & Rachael Carp

Engagement of Michael Wheatman,
son of Steven & Ellen Wheatman to
Kristina Sorensen
Wedding of Joshua Berman, son of
Sharyn Berman & Richard Berman, z"l,
to Rachael Shapiro
Wedding of Jill Gilman and Howard
Altman
Wedding of Dan Zeehandelaar, son of
Mona Zeehandelaar & Ken Harris,
to Kevin Lieber
Wedding of Ryan Pearlstine, son of Neal
& Sharon Pearlstine to Lindsey Pearl
Bar Mitzvah of Dillon Frankel
Bat Mitzvah of Ava Schrier

Pre-Neg and Flower Donations

Additional November Donations:

Pre-Neg:

November 3 • Jean Aghen in honor of Eli Aghen's 80th birthday

Flower Centerpieces for Selichot Dinner:

September 16 • Karen Silverberg and family in loving memory of Michael Silverberg

February Donations:

Pre-Neg & Flowers:

February 10 • Fred and Stacy Frankel in honor of Dillon Frankel's Bar Mitzvah

February 24 • Joshua and Kimberly Schrier in honor of Ava Schrier's Bat Mitzvah





Celebrating Your Simcha

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

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

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

Approved Caterer List — 2017

Annemarie's Cuisine Annemarie Silva	215-806-7675
Barclay Caterers (Kosher) Steve Hellinger or Larry Drossner	215-612-2837
Ben & Irv's Deli Michael	215-355-2000
Betty the Caterer (Kosher) Peter	215-224-8400
Infinity Caterers Fred Morganstein	215-509-7280
In the Bag David Rubin	215-653-0660
Izzie's Deli Dan Maltin	484-322-2126
My Caterer (Kosher) Toby Weitzman	609-206-3553
Panache Catering by Foodarama (Kosher) Gary Rosenwald	215-633-7100
Pumpernick's Deli Paul Klein	215-393-5800

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Evelyn Levy
Recovery of DONALD KAPEL
Larry & Beverly Samson
BRETT DARNELL's Bar Mitzvah
Jonathan & Judy Beck
Stephen & Barbara London
CINDI PASCERI's 75th Birthday
Bima Honor
Vincent & Cindi Pasceri
Bat Mitzvah of
HALEY CATE DROSSNER
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Paul & Ann Beaulieu
JACOB'S SCHWARTZ's Bar Mitzvah
The Schwartz Family

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Eric & Faye Benshetler
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Scott, Ellen, Brett &
Alex Levithan

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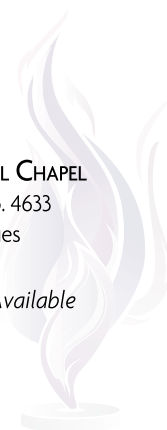
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