



Beth Or Spotlight

November-December 2018 | Volume 63, Issue 2 | Heshvan-Kislev-Tevet



November Worship Schedule

Friday, November 2 Shabbat Hayei-Sarah

- 5:00 pm** BOFTY Spaghetti Dinner
5:30 pm Munchkin Minyan
6:30 pm 5th Grade Family Shabbat
Worship in the Gitlin Sanctuary
6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
in the Haines Chapel
Both Services will be followed by a
Dessert Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, November 3

- 9:00 am** Shabbat Worship with the
Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Paul, son of
Michael and Amy Paul in the Gitlin
Sanctuary
9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the
B'nai Mitzvah of Anna and David
Lotman, children of Keith Lotman and
Amy Prosen in the Gitlin Sanctuary

Friday, November 9 Shabbat Toledot

- 6:00 pm** Veterans Shabbat Dinner
7:30 pm Shabbat Worship Honoring
Veterans and Active Service
Personnel in the Gitlin Sanctuary,
followed by a Dessert Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, November 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 Bat Mitzvah of Anna Caplan,
daughter of Jimmy and Alyson
Caplan in the Gitlin Sanctuary

Friday, November 16 Shabbat Vayetzei

- 7:30 pm** Shabbat Worship with the
Adult Choir in the Gitlin Sanctuary,
followed by a Dessert Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, November 17

- 9:00 am** Shabbat Worship with the
Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Gross, son of
Steven and Genevieve Gross in the
Gitlin Sanctuary
9:30 am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the
B'nai Mitzvah of Jake Menaker, son
of Debra and Stephen Menaker and
Jordan Weiss, son of Steven and
Hallie Weiss in the Gitlin Sanctuary

Friday, November 23 Shabbat Vayishlah

- 7:30 pm** Shabbat Worship in the
Gitlin Sanctuary followed by a
Dessert Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, November 24

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the
Bar Mitzvah of Chase Goldoor, son
of Brad and Lisa Goldoor in the Gitlin
Sanctuary

Friday, November 30 Shabbat Vayeshev

- 7:30 pm** Shabbat Worship in the
Haines Chapel followed by a Dessert
Oneg Shabbat

December Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 1

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

Friday, December 7 Shabbat Miketz

- 6:15 pm** Community BYOC Candle
Lighting
6:30 pm Chanukah Glow Stick and
3rd Grade Shabbat Family Worship
in the Gitlin Sanctuary
6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Worship
in the Haines Chapel
7:45 pm Family Friendly Dinner,
Israeli Dancing with RAK-DAN

Saturday, December 8

- 9:00 am** Shabbat Worship with the
Bat Mitzvah of Allison Adelman,
daughter of Robert and Pamela
Adelman in the Gitlin Sanctuary
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 Dylan Horwitz, son of
Seth and Dayna Horwitz in the Gitlin
Sanctuary
12:00 pm Celebrations Shabbat
Program

Friday, December 14 Shabbat Vayigash

- 5:30 pm** Munchkin Minyan
7:30 pm Shabbat Worship with the
Adult Choir in the Gitlin Sanctuary,
followed by a Dessert Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, December 15

- 9:30 am** Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Worship with the
B'nai Mitzvah of Marissa Fortunato,
daughter of Kevin and Alicia
Fortunato and Justin Miller, son of
Jarret and Lisa Miller in the Gitlin
Sanctuary

Friday, December 21 Shabbat Vayehi

- 7:30 pm** Shabbat Worship in the
Haines Chapel followed by a
Dessert Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, December 22

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

Friday, December 28 Shabbat Shemot

- 7:30 pm** Shabbat Worship followed
by a Dessert Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, December 29

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

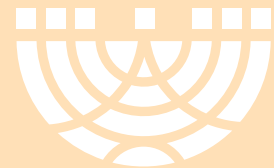


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Rabbi Gregory S. Marx

From the Rabbi's Desk

**We live on after our
years by devoting
ourselves generously to
causes that we value.**

The Saving Power of *Tzedakah*

Rabbi Gregory S. Marx, Senior Rabbi

Groucho Marx once joked, "Last night I had a cholesterol-free dinner. I had baked squash, skimmed milk and gelatin. I am not sure whether eating like this every day will make me live longer, but it is sure going to seem longer."

We spend a great deal of time and effort fighting the aging process. We exercise, eat right, get enough sleep and from time to time go to great expense to look younger. Billions of dollars are spent every year trying to defy the aging process. One of my favorite phishing sites on the web asks me to take a look at how the movie and television stars of yesterday look today. The point is to show how terrible they now look. No matter what we do, we cannot combat the march of time.

Philip Roth, who recently passed away wrote a book "Everyman." It is one of the most depressing books I have ever read. Roth describes a Jewish man who lives in New Jersey, who is growing old. He lives in a Senior Center where he is surrounded by people whose minds and bodies, like his own, are becoming weaker day by day. He loses good friends, one after another. He has no close relationship with anyone. He has married and divorced three times. His children have little to do with him. His brother lives far away. His childhood friends are all scattered and he has not seen any of them in years. And he has no belief in, and no hope for, an afterlife. Every day another part of his body wears out. As the book draws to its close, he is getting ready to go into the hospital for his seventh surgery in seven years! And so, as Philip Roth puts it in a memorable line: "Old age is not just a defeat; it is a massacre!"

We are all getting older, and for some of us, we are terrified. But, we need not be afraid, for our tradition has an antidote to the isolation of aging and ultimately death. With all sincerity consider the words of Proverbs: "*Tzedakah tatsil mimavet*"—"giving *tzedakah* delivers us from death." Every faith has a cure for death. For some it is faith in the next world, for others it is reincarnation. We Jews turn to *tzedakah*. How? First, giving *tzedakah* helps us turn away from the isolation of aging and helps us think about others in need. It links us together with other people and combats the loneliness of aging. Those who give are never really alone. Second, we create a lasting legacy through our philanthropy. Even if our name is not on a building or a program, by giving *tzedakah*, we link ourselves and our souls with the work to institutions that will outlast our limited number of years. We live on by devoting ourselves generously to causes that we value. Third, *tzedakah* may save the very person we are helping from death. If you give to another in crisis, that money, food or clothing will assist them over their rough spot. *Tzedakah* may mean the difference between life and death.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, let us think about the saving power of *tzedakah*. It certainly will save some that suffer from death, and it might even save us as well. *Tzedakah* is our answer to Philip Roth's despair at the loneliness, the isolation and the deterioration that he, and we too, fear so much in old age.

If you should read Roth's book, don't forget to end with Proverbs and a little Groucho Marx.

Beth Or Matters

David Simon, Beth Or President

It is close to the High Holy Days as I write this article. During each of my speeches for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur I spoke briefly about how Beth Or matters. At Rosh Hashanah I said that by having a child in Religious School or at the Center for Early Childhood Education, or by participating in one of the over 160 events held or attending one of the various adult education classes, you were saying that Beth Or matters. At Yom Kippur, I said that if Beth Or matters to you, it was a good reason to donate to the Annual Appeal. I hope I was right in both cases.

I am sure that Beth Or matters to every one of our members, or they simply wouldn't join and remain members. But I want to know if that is true. So, I am asking everyone who reads this to e-mail me (dasimon@comcast.net), or leave a note in my Beth Or mailbox that tells me why Beth Or matters to you. Simple as that. All notes or e-mails will be kept confidential and I hope to include your words, anonymously, in my last Spotlight article in the spring. But for now, I will start and tell you why Beth Or matters to me and my family.



David Simon

President's Corner

Beth Or matters to me because it has been part of my entire life. I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah, my confirmation, my marriage, the B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmation of my daughters, all at Beth Or. It is part of my personal history, and I hope, my future. It matters because I wanted my children to have a Jewish education and a base from which to start their lives. I don't know where their lives will take them spiritually (no parent does), but it was important to Stephanie and me to give them a Jewish start. Beth Or provided it. Beth Or matters because of the many friends that I have made in the past several years. It matters because I feel comfortable in the building. Now more than ever, it matters because I have had some small part in its leadership, and hopefully in its sustainability. I know that ten or twenty years from now if I drive by the intersection of Butler Pike and Welsh Road and I see an office building or some other commercial enterprise, I would be very disappointed, to say the least. So please take a moment and let me know why Beth Or matters to you. They say that if you ask two Jews for their opinion, you will get three answers. So, I figure if I ask 1,000 members for their opinion, I should get lots of responses.

Finally, I want to wish all of our Beth Or families a happy Thanksgiving and happy Chanukah.





Rabbi Jason Bonder

Why I Love “Cloud Guy” So Much

Rabbi Jason Bonder, Associate Rabbi

At a pivotal moment in the 2016 Dreamworks movie, *Trolls*, a booming voice emerges from nowhere. It warns our heroes, Poppy and Branch, as they choose a tunnel. “Choose a hole wisely! For one will lead to Bergentown, and the others, to certain death!” “Who was that?” Branch asks.

Then, “Cloud Guy” appears. This adorable dude then begins talking with Poppy and Branch. Check out the scene here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnJSFn4jbuc>

I **LOVED** Cloud Guy from the moment I saw him. So I looked him up and found that he is known only as “Cloud Guy.” He has no name! And that’s when I realized why I love him so much. He is an anonymous guide.



From the Rabbi’s Desk

Cloud Guy and this anonymous man both teach us that the unknown people who we encounter on our paths in life are essential to our stories.

The weekly Torah portions in this time of year tell the story of Joseph. Early in that story, Joseph also encounters an anonymous guide.

Torah tells us, “When he [Joseph] reached *Shechem*, a man came upon him wandering in the fields and asked him, ‘What are you looking for?’ He [Joseph] answered, ‘I’m looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are pasturing?’ The man said, ‘They have gone from here for I heard them say: Let us go to Dothan.’ So Joseph followed his brothers and found them at Dothan.” (Genesis 37:14-17).

Rashi says that this man was the angel Gabriel. Ibn Ezra suggests that it was just a random guy.

No. The man in the Joseph story wasn’t Cloud Guy.

But Cloud Guy and this anonymous man both teach us that the unknown people who we encounter on our paths in life are essential to our stories.

In *Trolls*, Cloud Guy asks Branch to give him a high five. But Branch is reluctant to do so. We, the audience, see in Branch’s interaction with Cloud Guy that it is not easy for him to have fun or express happiness. This journey towards happiness is Branch’s big development throughout the movie.

Back in the Torah, the anonymous man asks Joseph, “What are you looking for?” And Joseph answers quite readily, “I’m looking for my brothers.” But we know from the dreams that Joseph shared with his brothers that Joseph consistently pushed his brothers away in his youth. Joseph had a lot of work to do on himself if he wanted to cultivate a relationship with his family.

At this time of year, many of us will gather with family. This year, when I express gratitude for all of the primary characters in my life, I also want to make space for appreciating the “Cloud Guys” in my life. If we pay close attention, we can learn from the strangers in our world. Every person is a teacher in some way.

As I reach the halfway point of my first year here at Beth Or, I want to thank all of you who were once “Cloud Guys” in my life, and are now a part of my life in a more consistent way. I have grown immensely from my experiences here at Beth Or, and I look forward to much more growth, learning, and celebrating, in the months and years to come. Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Chanukah, and Happy New Year!



Important School Dates

Friday, November 2

5th Grade Family Shabbat and
2020-2021 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family
Dessert Reception

Sunday, November 4

6th Grade Family Ed

Sunday, November 25

No school — Thanksgiving

Friday, December 7

3rd Grade Family Shabbat

Sunday, December 9

Kindergarten Family Ed

Sunday, December 23

No school — Winter Break

Sunday, December 30

No school — Winter Break

Religious School NEWS

Think Good, And It Will Be Good

Aaron Nielsenshultz, Director of Religious School

Our Religious School Theme for the year is “Look for the Good,” and it might be easier than you think! One nice way to look for the good is to play the Three Good Things game: when you have time with your children (at home, in the car, on the way to Hebrew school — wherever you have time), ask them to tell you about three good things that happened that day. Have them talk about what happened, how it felt, and why it happened, and make sure that the language stays positive. An article published in *American Psychologist* in 2005 suggests that following this practice for two weeks provides an immediate boost in happiness, and the boost in happiness continues for up to six months later.

It might be surprising on its surface, but when I think about it, I think this idea makes a lot of sense: by examining the good in our lives daily, by reliving those memories, and by reflecting on what led to them, we can begin to re-see our world. As the Tzemach Tzedek, a 19th century Hassidic Rebbe used to say, “Think good, and it will be good”; by refocusing on goodness, we start to see more of it around us. Before you know it, you’ll be surprised by the number of good things you’ll find in your life, and you might even find that you have too many to list each day. And as always, I’d love to hear how it goes if you try this idea.

And speaking of looking for the good: many thanks to our student Savannah Segal and her parents, Evan and Jennifer, for giving me one more chance — in the last Spotlight, I gave Savannah a shout-out and I wrote the wrong name. My apologies, and thanks for letting me make *teshuva*!



Aaron Nielsenshultz



**Leonard &
Madlyn Abramson
Education Center**

CONGREGATION BETH OR

November/December Candle Lighting

Friday, November 2 • 5:39 pm

Friday, November 9 • 4:32 pm

Friday, November 16 • 4:26 pm

Friday, November 23 • 4:21 pm

Friday, November 30 • 4:18 pm

Friday, December 7 • 4:17 pm

Friday, December 14 • 4:18 pm

Friday, December 21 • 4:21 pm

Friday, December 28 • 4:25 pm

Thankful - /THaNGKful/

Adjective • Expressing gratitude and relief • “An earnest and thankful prayer.” • Synonyms: grateful, appreciative, to be filled with gratitude.

Lisa Yoskowitz, Early Childhood Director

Sitting together at the Thanksgiving table reminds me of the need to be thankful. Here we are enveloped in the warmth of family, the delicious smells wafting from the kitchen and the coziness of the environment. How could we not be thankful? But shouldn't everyday be Thanksgiving?

(Not the part of the holiday that calls for gorging on turkey and pumpkin pie or lazying about with family and friends, but the part where people deliberately pause to reflect and count their blessings.) Wouldn't it be great to live each day with gratitude in our hearts and in our minds?

To help with this process, I've compiled a list of ways to do this:

- 1. Focus on being grateful. Learn to be grateful for what you already have, while you pursue all that you want.** One of the greatest lessons in life we can learn is to be thankful for what we already have. But gratitude can indeed be a “work in progress” so to prepare our hearts to be reflective and thankful can be a process and not always the “ah-ha” moment that we hope for.
- 2. Appreciate the things you have. The great secret of life is to cultivate the ability to appreciate the things we have, not compare them.** Do not take for granted the many things we have that we did nothing to earn, such as life itself, the beauty of nature, the great country that we live in, or the love of our family and friends.
- 3. Have an attitude with gratitude. As the mind goes, so go the emotions.** In the hustle of to-do lists and work deadlines, sometimes it's too easy to block out the details of the day, forgetting that each and every day holds precious gifts.



Zipporah S. Abramson
Center for Early
Childhood Education
CONGREGATION BETH OR



Lisa Yoskowitz

One very important aspect of life that I am thankful for is the community here at Beth Or and the CECE. So, if you want to come out and hone your newly acquired “gratitude skills” this is the place to do just that! There are some great community-based events listed below:

Friday, November 2 — Join us before Family Shabbat Worship for a family dinner including games, raffles, and fun with friends! Suggested donation: \$10/adult; \$5/kid (12 and under).

Sunday, November 4 — Red Cross Blood Drive 9 am-2 pm. “Give Blood. Give Life.”

Sunday, November 18 — Chanukah Bazaar 9 am-2 pm

Friday, December 7 — Glow Stick and 3rd Grade Family Shabbat followed by Israeli Dancing with Rak-Dan 6:30 pm

If we really know how to look for them, we can find an awful lot of things to be thankful for — even those things that may drive us nuts at the time. Perhaps that is why the Talmud (Menahot 43b) commands us to say one hundred blessings, one hundred things to be thankful for, every day. Now, that may sound like a lot of blessings to say, but if the assignment was, “come up with one hundred things to complain about every day,” my guess is that we could all do that in about three and a half minutes. The truth is, how we view the world affects how we act in the world. We certainly have one hundred things that we do every day — make phone calls, hold meetings, eat meals. The question is, through what lens do we look at those events? And if we try to find one hundred things to be thankful for every day, we begin to experience our world as a world that is renewed with blessings each and every day.

When I Say NFTY, You Say PAR!

Jillian Glick, Director of Member & Youth Engagement

There are lots of exciting things happening for our youth in the next few months. One thing you and your 9th – 12th grade teen should consider is going to a NFTY event! NFTY is the reform movement's national youth group and PAR is the Pennsylvania Area Region. Teens from across PA, South Jersey & Delaware join together a few times per year to partake in leadership training and social programming.

This past September Beth Or hosted PAR's annual leadership kallah. Beth Or's own Robbie Newman is the Membership VP for the region and we love having a close relationship with large scale youth programs.

"The reason I love NFTY is because it is where I have met some of my best friends and where I learn to better myself as a leader!" — Robbie Newman, 17, NFTY PAR Membership VP

Want to learn more? Visit www.pennsylvania.nfty.org or contact Regional Director of Youth Engagement — Amanda Wachstein — awachstein@nfty.org.

Upcoming NFTY Events:

- Fall Kallah at URJ Camp Harlam – November 16-18
- NFTY 678 for 6th, 7th and 8th graders – December 1
- WNSTY Social Action Weekend at Main Line Reform Temple – January 18-20

Upcoming BOFTY Events:

- BOFTY Spaghetti Dinner – Friday, November 2
- K-2nd Grade BOFTY Power Fit Kids – Sunday, November 4
- 2nd – 6th Grade BOFTY Movie Day – Sunday, November 18
- 7th – 12th Grade Fried Chicken Chanukah Lunch – Sunday, December 2
- K – 6th Grade Chanukah Dance Party – Sunday, December 9



Jillian Glick



Celebrate with Me (Us)!

I am now in my official 11th year at Beth Or and I have celebrated so many simchas with all of you. Countless B'nai Mitzvah, graduations, confirmations, weddings, births, grandchildren, and more — so many joyful events. Now it's my turn!

As most of you know, I am getting married in December to a wonderful guy — his name is Wes Peskin. Wes and I are both lucky to be part of such a warm and caring community. **Wes and I hope that you can help bless us at our aufruf on Friday, November 23 at 7:30 pm during services with an oneg to follow.** If your teens are home from college — I would love to see them also!

To Sing Or Not To Sing, That Is The Question!



Jaime Murley



Cantor Jaime Murley, Junior Choir Director

By now you have heard the fabulous Junior Choir sing at High Holy Day services and at Family Shabbat services. What you may not know is that behind the scenes, the Junior Choir is made up of incredibly fine children, backed by amazingly supportive parents, all of whom dedicate so much time and energy to making the Junior Choir what it is....FABULOUS!!

In addition to the services mentioned above, the choir attends weekly Sunday rehearsals, they participate in many holiday celebrations including Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Chanukah, they sing at social action events, nursing homes, and bookstores, and they put on the congregational Purim Schpiel every year.

If you're on the fence about having your son or daughter join the choir, let me assure you of the benefits. Our Junior Choir members have a deeper understanding of the Jewish holidays than any other student in the religious school because they have a front row seat at every Jewish event. They learn the songs and prayers through repetition, they become comfortable with Hebrew, services, and being up on the bimah and they create Jewish memories with friends and family that will last a lifetime.

This is the perfect time of year to join the choir, because the major holidays have passed and the choir gets to have some fun! Our annual laser tag party takes place in November; Chanukah and its celebrations are right around the corner; our post Shabbat events like movie nights and ice cream socials create a tight knit community full of Jewish kids who share a love of music.

So, don't hesitate any longer! Contact Cantor Jaime Murley at jmurley@bethor.org to talk about Junior Choir and if it's right for your family.

Junior Choir November/December Calendar

Friday, November 2

Family Service, 6:30 pm
(5:45 pm rehearsal)

Sunday, November 11

Paul's Run/Laser Tag trip, 1 pm

Sunday, November 18

Purim Schpiel rehearsal #1,
1-2:30 pm

Sunday, December 2

Fried Chicken Chanukah
Luncheon (Grades 7-12)

Friday, December 7

Chanukah Shabbat, 6:30 pm
(5:45 pm rehearsal)

Sunday, December 9

Chanukah DJ Party (Grades K-6),
1 pm

Sunday, December 16

Purim Schpiel rehearsal #2, 1-2
pm followed by staffers to Escape
Room, 3 pm



Meet Our B'nai Mitzvah Students

Harrison Paul November 3

For my Mitzvah project, I participated in an Outreach Program called **"Top Soccer."** It is an organization under the U.S. Youth Soccer organization which helps create and run soccer programs for children with physical or intellectual disabilities throughout local communities. One of the partners I worked with was a boy named Billy who was eleven years old. During our sessions, I was able to use my soccer skills to teach him to pass and control the soccer ball on the field. To me, the most fun and rewarding part was seeing a smile on Billy's face after each soccer session. I plan to continue to volunteer in the future to help children develop new skills with similar programs like Top Soccer.



process repeats, raising whole communities out of poverty. If you are interested in supporting Heifers International please email us at familylotman@gmail.com or visit www.heifer.org.

Anna Caplan November 10

For my Mitzvah project, I decided to support **FIDF (Friends of the Israel Defense Force)**. The FIDF supports the soldiers who protect Israel and Jews worldwide. This past summer I packed a bag with essentials for a soldier in Israel, which my Mom delivered in person. I also attended the FIDF Gala and was honored for being one of the youngest FIDF supporters. I will be holding a fundraiser at Beth Or to raise money and awareness for the FIDF. The money we raise will go to educational, cultural, recreational, and social services programs and facilities that provide hope, purpose and life-changing support for the soldiers in Israel. We will record Rabbi Bonder and Aaron Nienshultz being taped to a wall, so look for more information on how you can participate!



David Lotman November 3

For my Mitzvah Project, I am raising funds for **Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE)**, the world's largest private source of food allergy research funding. I have been living with severe peanut and other food allergies, and I thought it would feel great to help other people like me. Every time we sit down to eat, we have to read food labels and plan carefully to avoid a life threatening reaction. I hope all of the money I raised for FARE will lead to a cure and a better quality of life for people with food allergies. I really hope someday food allergies will no longer exist. But, while people do have them, I realized I could do something to help. If you are interested in making a donation, please e-mail us at familylotman@gmail.com or visit www.foodallergy.org.



Maxwell I. Gross November 17

My Mitzvah Project is working with the **Jewish Relief Agency**. On certain dates I pack boxes of food and then, with the help of my Dad, deliver them on various routes to the list of the needy. I have been involved in this project for several years with the support of my Dad — the driver. Last year we obtained a hand truck which made me completely independent to deliver the boxes. Each year we sign up for more routes. In total, this program services several thousand hungry people.



We try to get the same routes each service day. The people, who I now know, always have a few pieces of candy for me. At the end of a long day, my Dad and I are physically exhausted, but we feel great for all of the families we are helping. I am looking forward, in a few years, to when I can fulfill the entire responsibility when I drive. If you would like to volunteer at Jewish Relief Agency, go to <https://www.jewishrelief.org/>.

Anna Lotman November 3

For my Mitzvah Project, I am raising money for **Heifers International**, an amazing organization that has raised 32 million people out of poverty in 25 countries. However, 1 billion people still need help. My Mitzvah Project will help Heifers International to buy livestock, teach veterinarian skills, provide education on how to farm land and help people to become self-sufficient. Participants also have an agreement to share the equivalent of what they received from Heifers (livestock, farming tools, skills, etc.) with a neighbor in need. Then, the



Jordan Weiss

November 17

For my Bar Mitzvah project I walked this year in the **Philadelphia Walk to End Bladder Cancer**, to raise awareness and honor the memory of my Grandma Rita, a beautiful and special lady, who died from bladder cancer in 2014. My grandma was kind, caring, and courageous, and she truly made this world a better place with her acts of kindness. I baked cookies and had a bake sale at Beth Or to raise money for the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) which is the organization people turn to in order to learn more about this horrible disease. To learn more about BCAN visit <https://www.bcan.org/>.



Jake Menaker

November 17

My Mitzvah project is near and dear to me. I want to help the **ASPCA**. The ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of rescue, adoption and welfare and has worked tirelessly for over 150 years to put an end to animal abuse and neglect. Some of their work includes:

- Saving animals from dogfighting, puppy mills, hoarding and other cruelty-related situations.
- Providing animals medical care and rehabilitation
- Helping thousands of animals find loving homes

I will be doing volunteer work at the animal shelter and I will be collecting donations on the day of my Bar Mitzvah. If anyone would like to donate, things that are needed are: dog beds, food, toys, blankets and treats. All checks can be made out to the ASPCA. Thank you!!!!



Chase Goldoor

November 24

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I will be volunteering for and donating to **Tennis Buddies Squad**. Tennis Buddies Squad is a tennis clinic for special needs children and adults located at Montgomery County Community College. I chose to work with this charity because I love tennis and I wanted to help people. At the weekly clinics I either pick up tennis balls or feed tennis balls to the participants. I am also collecting new tennis equipment for the weekly clinics.



Allison Adelman

December 8

I have been volunteering at **The Mitzvah Circle Foundation** for my Bat Mitzvah Project. The Mitzvah Circle Foundation supports people through tragedy and crisis by providing individualized support. My family and I first discovered this organization when my Mom participated in a volunteer event at work. Since then, we have volunteered a few times a year. During my recent visit, I spent time organizing donated clothing and packing boxes for families in need. I also had the chance to help with a new project called the Period Supply Program. This Program's goal is to increase access to period supplies for women and girls who do not have resources to obtain these essentials. Without them, women and girls miss work and school. I hope that by volunteering and helping organizations like The Mitzvah Circle Foundation, I can make a difference. To donate to The Mitzvah Circle Foundation visit <https://mitzvahcircle.org/>.



Marissa Fortunato

December 15

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I made blankets for babies in the **Abington Memorial Hospital NICU**, where I spent time after I was born 7-1/2 weeks premature. My parents received a blanket donated to the NICU for me, and I wanted to "pay it forward." To raise money for supplies, I partnered with Inspyr Socks, who sells athletic gear with motivational messages on them (www.inspyrgear.com). They donated 20% of the profits of all gear that I sold. From that fundraiser, I was able to make 26 blankets plus make a \$50 donation to the NICU. I hope that I made a difference in a family's life by making a blanket for their baby. I hope to keep helping and making people's days better long after my Bat Mitzvah.



Justin Miller

December 15

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I chose to raise money to fight cancer through **Swim Across America**. SAA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising money and awareness for life-saving cancer research, clinical trials, prevention and treatment. It does so by hosting open water and pool charity swims across the country and donating the proceeds to world-renowned hospitals. I asked friends and family to sponsor me in a one-mile swim. To learn more, please visit www.swimacrossamerica.org.





Mitzvah Months • November & December 2018

Striving — Caring — Making a Difference

The Beth Or Social Action Committee is guided by our mission to assist, encourage, comfort and empower those in need within our community and society at large. Through a variety of social action projects offered year-round, we promote tikkun olam (repairing the world) and gemilut hasadim (acts of kindness).

We are grateful for the guidance and support that we receive from our clergy, and for the leadership of our more than 30 Social Action Committee members. Through the efforts of the Beth Or community, our outreach continues to grow.

Historically, the Committee has planned an annual Mitzvah Day which morphed into Mitzvah Months and Mitzvas Day (December 25) a few years ago. In keeping with this tradition, we are pleased to announce the activities scheduled this year over the course of two months, November (Cheshvan and Kislev) and December (Kislev and Tevet).

Thursday, November 1 – Sunday, November 18

Beth Or Troop Connections/BOTC, toiletry collection for American soldiers serving overseas
– Chair Susy Krimker (susykrimker@gmail.com)

Sunday, November 4

Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by Beth Or Brotherhood
– Chair Stu Briefer (smbriefer@gmail.com)



Monday, November 5

Meals That Matter, cooking
– Chair Caren Gutman (carengutman@gmail.com)

Sunday, November 11 & Wednesday, November 14

Knitting Circle, knit blankets and hats for IDF soldiers and local hospital patients
– Chair Faye Benshetler (febxc@comcast.net)

Sunday, November 18

Alex's Lemonade Stand, support pediatric cancer research – Co-chairs Lynn Levy (hannahsmom4ever@comcast.net) and Fred Dugan (fgdugan@comcast.net)



Sunday, December 2

Meals That Matter, cooking
– Chair Caren Gutman (carengutman@gmail.com)

Our Closet, collection drive – Co-chairs Jennie Nerenberg (brucenjen@verizon.net) and Rachel Steinberg (levinerb@yahoo.com)

Knitting Circle, knit blankets and hats for IDF soldiers and local hospital patients
– Chair Faye Benshetler (febxc@comcast.net)

Sunday, December 9

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, help families with a child at CHOP – Chair Lynn Levy (hannasmom4ever@comcast.net)

Mitzvah Circle, collections – Chair Marv Schwartz (marvdebschwartz@verizon.net)

Wednesday, December 12

Knitting Circle, knit blankets and hats for IDF soldiers and local hospital patients
– Chair Faye Benshetler (febx@comcast.net)



Mitzvah Circle, sort at the warehouse – Co-chairs Dale and Rebecca Laing (dalelaing73@gmail.com) and Jody Pascal (jodyp2005@verizon.net)

Sunday, December 16

Jewish Relief Agency, pack and deliver food to seniors – Co-chairs Marlene and Bob Cohen (msckidsot@aol.com)

Tuesday, December 25 – Mitzvas Day

Bake and deliver cookies to local police, thanking them for their round-the-clock service
– Chair Susy Krimker (susykrimker@gmail.com)



St. Christopher's Hospital, bring cheers to young patients and their families – Co-chairs Fred Dugan (fgdugan@comcast.net) and Beth and Bernie Johl (bandbjohl@comcast.net)

Inter-faith Housing Alliance, cooking – Chair Barbara Spilove (bsbubbie@comcast.net)

Knit 'n Knot, create 'fleece-tie no-sew' blankets for Inter-faith Hospitality Network families who Beth Or will host in February 2019
– Chair Faye Benshetler (febx@comcast.net)

Additionally, we will announce other projects in the coming months:

Fox Chase Cancer Center Bake Sale

– Chair Judy Bernstein

Adopt-a-School in Norristown – Co-chairs Jody Pascal, Beth Johl, Judy Bernstein, Theresa Knee

Help-a-Senior in Philadelphia
– Chair Abby Gilbert-Freedman

Mental Health Awareness Month (May)
– Chair Dawn Hogan



Please contact us, or the Chairs named in this article for further information, or sign up using Beth Or website RSVP Portal.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Today!

Susy Krimker, Social Action Chair
Margie Chachkin, Social Action Vice-Chair

Beth Or “Hookers” Celebrate Bat Mitzvah Year

Jodye Green, Sisterhood President

Twenty “crafty” women, most of whom are proud members of Beth Or’s Sisterhood, are celebrating their Bat Mitzvah-----13 years of knitting and crocheting hats, chemo-caps, afghans, teddy bears, and other items that bring warmth and comfort to those in need.

Under the direction of Faye Benshetler, Sisterhood’s 2018 Woman of the Year, these crafters share their gifts and talents with elderly residents of the Abramson Center for Jewish Life, patients in treatment at the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Karnell Cancer Center, Abington Hospital and families served by the Mitzvah Circle, a Harleysville-based nonprofit that provides a helping-hand to people in crisis.

Faye also distributes lap afghans and teddy bears to Rabbi Greg Marx and other clergy who visit with hospital or homebound congregants and community members. “Recently, Rabbi Marx visited a woman in the final stages of cancer. She was profoundly grateful for the afghan and wrapped it around her shoulders as they prayed together,” Faye recalled.

Beth Or congregants suggest community organizations that would benefit from the fruits of the groups’ labors of love. Mona Gold, Director of Volunteers at the Abramson Center for Jewish Life, gave Faye’s name to a friend of hers who works with the Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces (FIDF). Thanks to this connection, the group now creates black-knitted caps which serve as liners for helmets worn by Israeli soldiers.

“You never know who will directly benefit from the gifts we create,” said Faye, who explained that this sense of anonymity exemplifies the highest level of tzedakah. She emphasized that “All of our crafters derive great joy and satisfaction from being part of a group that makes a difference in the lives of others.”

Faye expressed her thanks to current members: Marlene Belkin; Sandi Byron; Marlene Cohen; Ellen Harper; Felice Kahn; Joan Kober; Lois Lambersky; Dina Levin; Vivian Lichtman; Hildy Richelson; Eileen Sappir; Debbie Schwartz; Barbara Spilove; Deb Steinberg; Jill Tarabar; Jody Walker; and Karen Weiss. “Their time, skill and dedication make it all happen,” she said, adding that “Collectively, the group has made 48 lap afghans, 27 blankets, 160 hats, 54 helmet liners, nine scarves and 27 teddy bears in the past year!”

Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels are encouraged to continue this great mitzvah. Call Faye at 215-542-9121 or e-mail her at febx@comcast.net to learn how you can get involved.



Jodye Green



Beth Or Sisterhood

Make it a Great New Year for Montco Families Who Need Emergency Housing

Volunteer with the Inter-Faith Hospitality Network

This February, we will open our synagogue to three families in need of emergency housing. Beth Or is proud to be one of 19 Montgomery County churches, synagogues, and mosques that participate in this emergency shelter program run by The Inter-Faith Hospitality Network (IHN). Thanks to this compassionate coalition of faith communities, families in transition have a safe space to stay for up to 90 days while participating in programs that help enhance their life skills, improve their decision-making abilities, and develop the resources they need to become self-sufficient.

Beth Or will transform several lower-level classrooms into studio apartments for families participating in this initiative of the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance. Volunteers from our congregation will prepare and share meals, help with transportation needs, and serve as overnight chaperones for our guests, many of whom are single-parent families with young children.

This is our 20th year of involvement in this extraordinary program. Last year, more than 100 congregants participated, logging more than 1000 volunteer hours.

Let's celebrate our second decade as an IHN community partner and help make Beth Or a warm and welcoming place for these families in transition. Please use our online scheduling website for more information, and to sign up on the days convenient for you to make and share a meal, drive families to and from the synagogue, and/or "camp in" overnight on one of our deluxe air mattresses to chaperone our February guests.

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

Let's commit to performing this mitzvah of welcoming the stranger into our spiritual home.

For more information, contact Lynn Edelman, at 215-280-3841 or Nancy End, at 215-266-1055.

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 and 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

Beth Or Brotherhood

The Color Red... The Gift of Life

Allan Posner, Brotherhood President



Allan Posner



So many holidays in such a short amount of time. From Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur along with Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Brotherhood hopes you had a chance to participate in the many wonderful programs offered including those our membership sponsor. Did you visit us at the Welcome Back Breakfast or celebrate with us at the Beer Garden during Sushi Sake Sukkah? If time was precious but you saw our amazing Car Show 2018 or attended our Holocaust Brunch, thank you! I would also like to thank the many volunteers who help make our partnership with Beth Or possible. Without you, our members, we couldn't do it. My personal thanks!

As Fall begins to appear with leaves scattering, that signals Mitzvah Month is on the horizon. I begin to think about the beautiful colors all around us. The one color that stands out in my mind is red. Why red? Red reminds me of a mitzvah we must all perform if possible. The Philadelphia region suffers from a chronic shortage of blood and the by-products it produces. Approximately 3.5 million Americans would die each year without the gift of life, blood. Just one pint of donated blood can save three lives. On Sunday November 4 from 9am-2pm, Brotherhood will sponsor our annual Fall Mitzvah Red Cross Blood Drive. Under the direction of the amazing Stu Briefer, we hope to make our November collection equal to or greater than August when we had a record 98% capacity and collected 46 donations. The lives that our congregants save are endless. With your help we once again aim to save others. Save a life and perform a mitzvah. Register early! Thank you to all our congregants who donated and thank you Stu for all your hard work.

Don't forget to register for the Veteran's Shabbat and Dinner on November 9. Pay your respects for those who sacrificed to save others. A mitzvah as well.

Remember, after giving the gift of life, see a true-life story. Register early online for **Brotherhood's Annual Dinner on December 4** as we present the EAGLES' Mr. Invincible... Vince Papale. Hear his amazing real-life story of overcoming long odds to be a sports star and cancer survivor as well. Eat, drink, and socialize with our members while bidding on great items at our silent auction. Gentlemen and their boys over age 13 are invited.

Brotherhood would like to wish everyone a Happy Chanukah as you gather with your families and celebrate another miracle and gift to us as Jews. Sour cream or apple sauce is always the argument with latkes but either way... enjoy!

KOSHER WINE SALES

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

Use the Beth Or affiliate link on [kosherwine.com](http://bit.ly/2K6vuQa): <http://bit.ly/2K6vuQa> or click the KosherWine symbol on the bottom right side of the Beth Or website home page, "Connect With Us" section.

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

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

Questions? Contact info@bethorbrotherhood.org.



Jody Pascal, Rituals and Practices Co-Chair

I am my Mother's daughter... plain and simple. That is the reason I volunteer at Beth Or. Yes, of course, I want to pass it forward, perform acts of *Tikkun Olam*, and for selfish purposes get back more than I give. But truly I have to say that it was the example my mom had set for me when I was a young girl.

Ironically, I grew up belonging to Temple Beth Or, in Clark, New Jersey. It is there where I spent my youth and young adulthood. That is the place where I watched and helped my mom, her fellow congregants and friends, create the magic. From Sisterhood President, to Chair of Ways and Means, my mother devoted her time to her Beth Or. I can remember helping her and her "Mah-jongg ladies" cook meals for needy Jews in the community. We sat and repaired the sanctuary prayer books together, and set up the social hall for the annual fundraisers. I could go on and on, but the bottom line...she is who I thank for helping instill the spirit of doing for someone other than oneself.

At Congregation Beth Or I have been blessed to volunteer with the best of them. About 15 years ago I began my volunteer journey with my Rituals and Practices

Co-chair and friend, Bob Simon. I couldn't have asked for a more dedicated, and knowledgeable person to work with for all these years. And yes Bob, "it's a wrap for the 5779 Hi Hos!" I would be remiss if I didn't say that I am inspired every year by the many exceptional volunteers we encounter, doing this job. I speak for Bob and myself when I say that we are honored to serve our congregation in this way.

This synagogue has endless opportunities for a member to find a niche, or two, or three to do good for many inside and outside our walls. This page would be completely filled if I were to list all the people who carry out deeds of kindness and have been role models for me at our shul. Particular past presidents, and our Clergy and staff have encouraged and enabled me to be a part of something bigger than myself. But truly it is the Committee Chairs and their altruistic team of congregants who humble me most. From Social Action to Caring Congregants, to Rituals and Practices, the committees are the heart and soul of this Kehillah Kedoshah. And I am so fortunate to have these endless opportunities to work with the most selfless folks anywhere. What a gift I have been given.

So, as the saying goes, children learn what they live, and in volunteering, I honor the lessons my mother put forth for me. Little did we know that one day I would have my very own Beth Or to help fill my soul when I volunteer.



Beth Or Events

ADULT PROGRAMS

AARP Safe Driving Class

**Basic Class – Tuesday & Wednesday,
November 13 & 14 • 10 am - 2pm**

Refresher Class – Tuesday, November 20 • 10 am - 2 pm

Take a class and get a significant discount on your car insurance. Both courses are open to both AARP members and non-members over 50 years of age. AARP membership card will be required to register for the lower participant fee. Please bring your driver's license to class. Course fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-AARP members. Please RSVP with payment to Beth Or, attn Jillian Glick, 215-646-5806, ext. 234, jglick@bethor.org. Checks should be made payable to AARP.

APEX Brunch & Discussion with Rabbi Bonder Sunday, December 9 • 10 am - 12 noon

Join APEX and Rabbi Bonder for brunch and stimulating discussion on the topic "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" We will look at our tradition's wisdom around whether or not this world is fair, and what that means for us as Jews in the 21st century. Through asking this tough question, Jews throughout the centuries have found great meaning, beauty, and solace in tough times. We will discuss how we can use this wisdom to bring great meaning into our lives both in tough times and celebratory moments.



This event is free with advanced registration. Contact Barb Murtha at bmurtha@bethor.org to RSVP by Wednesday, December 5.

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 – Shimon Braun

**Opening Reception:
Friday, November 9 during
Oneg Shabbat**

The Olitsky Gallery welcomes the exciting work of Shimon Braun. Born in Poland in 1938, Shimon survived the Nazi occupation by escaping to Russia. Come learn about



Shimon's varied and illustrious career as an Israeli Gymnastic Champion, internationally known dancer and choreographer, Israeli television star and — throughout it all — extraordinary painter. The exhibit continues through December 12.

Artist – Naomi Sussman, z'l

**Opening Reception:
Friday, December 14
during Oneg Shabbat**

The Olitsky Gallery is thrilled to present an exciting quilt display of longtime Beth Or congregant, Naomi Sussman, z'l. Naomi sadly passed away this past May at age 63. Her husband Marc and her children Sam and Rachel put together this exhibit in her honor.



Her vivacious spirit and upbeat personality touched all who knew her. In 2003, Naomi started designing quilts. She spent countless hours planning and creating beautiful and colorful quilts that express her quirky love of color and her creative talent.

Naomi earned a Masters in Low Vision Rehabilitation and a certificate in Orientation and Mobility from Salus University that is focused on assisting the blind. Proceeds from the exhibit will support the Salus University scholarship fund to support students of Low Vision Rehabilitation. The exhibit continues through January 9.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD EVENTS

Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Brotherhood

Sunday, November 4 • 9 am – 2 pm

All Beth Or members are urged to participate. Donate blood and help save a life! There is an urgent need for blood donations of all types. Must be 17+ (or 16 with parent's consent) Appointments available every 15 minutes. Register using the website RSVP Portal, or contact Stu Briefer at smbriefer@gmail.com.

Chanukah Bazaar sponsored by Sisterhood Sunday, November 18 • 9 am – 2 pm

Check off your holiday shopping lists with unique gifts from a variety of vendors at our annual Chanukah Bazaar. Great finds — Jewelry, Clothing, Accessories, Fine Art, Candles, Soaps, Stained Glass, Gift Items, Judaica and more! Don't forget our delicious latkes! For additional information, contact Sherry Spector, sspector1949@gmail.com or Ricki Herman, rickidana@gmail.com.

Annual Brotherhood Dinner and Silent Auction featuring Vince Papale

Tuesday, December 4 • 5:45 pm – 9 pm

Join Brotherhood for our annual fundraiser. Enjoy great food, fun, laughs, auction and a chance to win \$2,000! This special evening features Mr. Invincible – Philadelphia Eagles legend and noted motivational speaker, Vince Papale! Cost: \$50 for Brotherhood members, \$60 for non-members, free for Brotherhood Mensch members. RSVP in advance using the RSVP portal on the website homepage. For more information, contact Allan Posner at info@bethorbrotherhood.org.

Wine Tasting & Trivia Night with Sisterhood

Thursday, December 13 • 7 pm

Enjoy a night with Sisterhood at Cardinal Hollow Winery in Lansdale. This event includes wine tasting and trivia, lite bites, wine sampling and dessert. Cash bar also available. RSVP to Ellen Mirbach, semirbach@gmail.com by November 30. Cost: \$30/person, payable by check made out to Beth Or Sisterhood. Payment due by December 5.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sisterhood NYC Bus Trip & Broadway Play

Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 8:30 am – 8 pm

Join Sisterhood for a day in New York City to see the exciting new comedy musical, "Tootsie" at the Marquis Theater. Bus leaves Beth Or at 8:30 am. Spend some time strolling around NYC and enjoy lunch on your own before the 2 pm matinee performance. Cost: \$175/person for Beth Or members, \$200/non-members includes bus transportation and theater ticket, front mezzanine seating. RSVP to Ellen Mirbach, semirbach@gmail.com, by January 29, 2019. Checks should be made payable to Beth Or Sisterhood and sent to the Beth Or office, attn: Ellen Mirbach. Contact Melisa Lubinski, mbmjmom@gmail.com, with any questions.



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.

HOLIDAYS AND SHABBAT EVENTS

11th Annual BOFTY Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Friday, November 2 at 5 pm

Help support Beth Or Youth at this annual youth-run family-fun FUNraiser! Includes activities for kids and raffle baskets. Gluten free pasta and sauce options available. \$10 for adults, \$5 kids 12 and under (suggested donation). RSVP via the RSVP Portal. Questions? Contact Jillian Glick — jglick@bethor.org.

Veterans Shabbat and Dinner

Friday, November 9 • Dinner at 6 pm followed by worship at 7:30 pm

Veterans and active duty personnel are invited guests of the Arnold Berkowitz Memorial Fund. Family, friends and congregants are welcome to attend for a couvert of \$23/person. For more information, contact Elsa-Lu Berkowitz at 215-643-4700 or berktaxpa@aol.com. Shabbat guest speaker is Beth Or congregant Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Bob Feldman, a contractor serving as an Africa analyst with the U.S. Army's Foreign Military Studies Office.

Community Chanukah Candle Lighting, Glow Stick Family Shabbat, Dinner & Israeli Dancing

Friday, December 7 • Candle Lighting, 6:15 pm, Worship Service, 6:30 pm

Beth Or is aglow with lights as we celebrate Chanukah during this special Family Shabbat service featuring the Jr. Choir. Bring your family's menorah and join us for a community candle lighting in the Social Hall prior to services. Following services, join us for a family-friendly dinner, with entertainment and Israeli Dancing by Rak Dan. This event is free but advanced RSVP required via the website RSVP portal.

Celebrations Shabbat

Saturday, December 8 at 12pm

Join us for a special program tailored for families with special needs children.

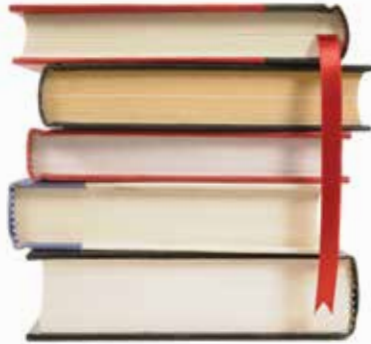
Celebrations is focused around the theme of Shabbat, and provides an opportunity for special needs children and their families/friends to socialize while connecting with their Jewish heritage. The program begins with a very brief worship service which includes a few songs and prayers, led by our Rabbinic Intern, Janine Jankovitz. The service is followed by an informal social activity and brunch. Celebrations takes place on select Saturdays throughout the year. Refer to the calendar for additional upcoming dates.

There is no fee to participate, and anyone in the community is welcome to participate. For additional information, please contact Faye Benshetler, Febx@comcast.net.

Beth Or Events

LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong Learning
Classes are free for Beth Or members (\$50 for non-members) with advanced registration, using the Lifelong Learning Classes Fall/Winter 18-19 link on the website RSVP portal or contact Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, 215-646-5806.



Diversity of the American Jewish Community **Tuesday, November 13, 7 pm**

Rabbi Marx leads an exploration of the cultural implications of the Jewish community becoming increasingly diverse.

Cantor's Lunch and Learn **Tuesday, November 20 & 27, 12 pm**

Join Cantor Green to explore our relationship to God through the writing of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Topics include personal Jewish identity, national Jewish identity, perspectives on God and our unique relationship as a people with Israel

Getting Yourself in Order **Tuesday, November 20, 7 pm**

Join Rabbi Marx to discuss how we, as Jews, can spiritually live a life of meaning and purpose.

Can we be Perfect in an Imperfect World? **Tuesday, December 11, 7 pm**

Join Cantor Green for a study of Biblical lessons about our imperfections and their application for the 21st century.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Social Action Mitzvah Months **November & December 2018**



A synagogue-wide 2 months of Tikkun Olam! Several donation and volunteer opportunities every weekend in November & December, culminating with our third annual Mitzvas Day, Tuesday, December 25. See Social Action Article, pages 10 & 11 for dates and full details.

BETH OR IN DEL RAY, FLORIDA

Torah Study with Cantor Green **Wednesday, January 23, 7pm - 9pm** **At the Del Ray, Florida home of Barry & Marlene Green**

Are you spending time this winter in Florida? We are bringing a bit of Beth Or to you! Join Cantor Green for Torah study with your Beth Or friends to discuss the Meaning of Life.

Two universal questions will be explored:

1. What happens when I die?
2. What is the meaning of life?

The Rabbis of the Talmud respond to this topic, by stating there are 7 questions you are asked when you go to heaven. We will explore these 7 questions, and "Cheshbon ha-Nefesh - there will be an accounting of the soul."

Please RSVP with Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org, 215-646-5806, ext. 220, by January 15. Attendance is limited to the first 30 people who register. Once you have registered, further details will be provided.



SAVE THE DATE

— CELEBRATING —

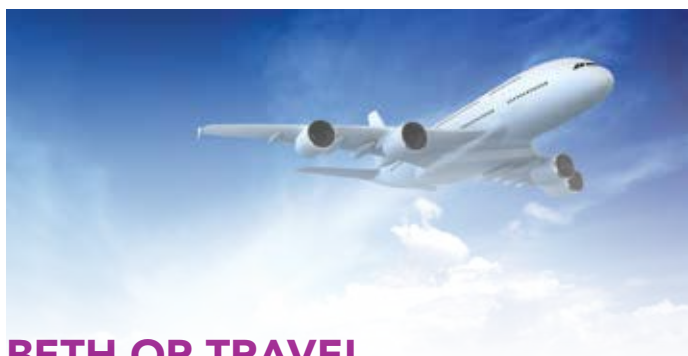
30 Years!

Rabbi Gregory & Laurie Marx



May 3-5, 2019

Details coming soon



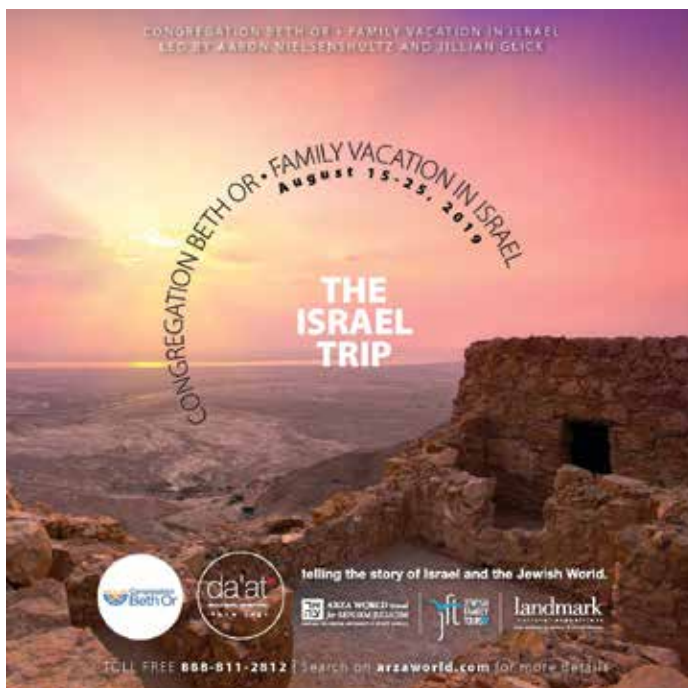
BETH OR TRAVEL

Travel with your Beth Or friends in 2019. Choose from 3 exciting trip options!

Family Vacation in Israel led by Aaron Nielsenshultz & Jillian Glick

August 15 – 25, 2019

Beth Or parents (and/or grandparents) and children are invited to join Aaron Nielsenshultz and Jillian Glick on a journey of inspiration, education and excitement. Experience Israel from ancient history to modern innovation. Feel the energy of Israel from the lively city of Tel Aviv to the desert. This family trip includes camels, kayaks and jeep outdoor adventures. Visit www.bethor.org/discover/beth-or-travel-2019 for full details, costs and registration. Contact Aaron Nielsenshultz, aaron@bethor.org, 215-646-5806, ext. 232 with any questions.



Amazing Spain & Portugal led by Rabbi Gregory and Laurie Marx

October 22 – November 4, 2019

Join Rabbi Gregory and Laurie Marx on an exploration of Spain and Portugal from a Jewish cultural perspective.

Destinations include Barcelona, Madrid, Toledo, Cordoba, Seville, Granada, and Lisbon. Visit www.bethor.org/bethortravel2019 for an itinerary and registration information. Contact Rabbi Marx, gmarx@bethor.org, 215- 646-5806, ext. 222 with any questions.



Teen Trip to Israel led by Aaron Nielsenshultz

December 19 - 29, 2019

Aaron Nielsenshultz will lead a special Israel experience tailored to teens. From camel-riding in the desert to urban adventures in Tel Aviv, our youth will make lifelong connections, be immersed in Israeli culture and learn about the challenges and triumphs of the nation. Visit www.bethor.org/discover/beth-or-travel-2019 for full details, costs and registration. Contact Aaron Nielsenshultz, aaron@bethor.org, 215-646-5806, ext. 232 with any questions.



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.



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 — 2018/19

Annemarie's Cuisine

Annemarie Silva215-806-7675

Barclay Caterers (Kosher)

Steve Hellinger, Larry Drossner or Ian Drossner.....215-612-2837

Ben & Irv's Deli

Lennie or Michael.....215-355-2000

Betty the Caterer (Kosher)

Peter.....215-778-2843

Infinity Caterers

Fred Morganstein.....215-509-7280

Izzie's Deli

Dan Maltin.....484-322-2126

Panache Catering by Foodarama (Kosher)

Gary Rosenwald215-633-7100

Pumpernick's Deli

Jeff Klein215-393-5800

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Vicki Miller

May Their Memory Be A Blessing

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Esther Bergman, aunt of Brad Pliner
Robert N. Hunn, cousin of Carol Packer
Florence "Floss" Milakofsky, wife of Howard "Hesh" Milakofsky, z'l and mother of Steven Milakofsky
Shirley Wolfe, mother of Ronda Moses
Bernice Klein, mother of Monroe Klein & grandmother of Joseph Klein
Helene Simoni, wife of Anthony Simoni & mother of Stefanie & Alyssa

Mazel Tov

Wedding of Rachel Siegel & Kevin Albright. Rachel is the daughter of Owen & Mary Lou Siegel & the granddaughter of Bill & Sally Siegel
Birth of Alexandra Gottlieb, granddaughter of Josh Gottlieb
Birth of Saylor Grace Milakofsky, granddaughter of Steve & Marsha Milakofsky, great granddaughter of Myer & Rita Bernstein & Florence Milakofsky, z'l

Wedding of Michael Wheatman, son of Steven & Ellen Wheatman, to Kristina Sorensen
Wedding of Alex Berman, son of Sharyn Berman & Richard Berman, z'l, to Brittany Kalchman
Wedding of Sarah Segal, daughter of Robert Segal & stepdaughter of Cindy Segal, to Michael Pappas
Wedding of Sarah Simon, daughter of Robert Simon, to Jarle Stone
Wedding of Jaime Duretz, daughter of Michael & Irene Duretz, to Adam Levine
Birth of Suri Eliana Stone, daughter of Josh & Reshma Stone & granddaughter of Steven Stone & Terry Stone

Birth of Jillian Marley Demar, daughter of Michael & Melanie Demar
Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Paul
B'nai Mitzvah of Anna & David Lotman
Bat Mitzvah of Anna Caplan
Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Gross
Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Weiss
Bar Mitzvah of Jake Menaker
Bar Mitzvah of Chase Goldoor
Bat Mitzvah of Allison Adelman
Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Horwitz
Bat Mitzvah of Marissa Fortunato
Bar Mitzvah of Justin Miller

Oneg and Flower Donations

November Donations:

Pre-Neg & Flowers:

November 2 • Michael and Amy Paul in honor of Harrison Paul's Bar Mitzvah
Keith Lotman and Amy Prosen in honor of Anna and David Lotman's B'nai Mitzvah
November 9 • Jimmy and Alyson Caplan in honor of Anna Caplan's Bat Mitzvah
November 16 • Steven and Genevieve Gross in honor of Maxwell Gross' Bar Mitzvah
Debra and Stephen Menaker in honor of Jake Menaker's Bar Mitzvah
Steve and Hallie Weiss in honor of Jordan Weiss' Bar Mitzvah
November 23 • Brad and Lisa Goldoor in honor of Chase Goldoor's Bar Mitzvah

December Donations:

Oneg & Flowers:

December 7 • Robert and Pamela Adelman in honor of Allison Adelman's Bat Mitzvah
Seth and Dayna Horwitz in honor of Dylan Horwitz's Bar Mitzvah
December 14 • Kevin and Alicia Fortunato in honor of Marissa Fortunato's Bat Mitzvah
Jarret and Lisa Miller in honor of Justin Miller's Bar Mitzvah



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Beth Or Spotlight

November-December 2018 | Volume 63, Issue 2 | Heshvan-Kislev-Tevet

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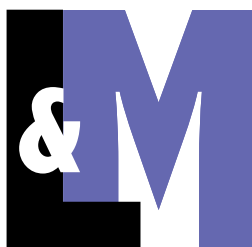
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