



BETH OR Spotlight

July-August 2018 | Volume 62, Issue 6 | Tamuz-Av-Elul 5778



July Worship Schedule

July 6

Shabbat Pinhas

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

July 13

Shabbat Matot-Masei

5:30 pm Camp Chaverim Munchkin
Minyan

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

July 20

Shabbat Devarim

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

July 27

Shabbat Va'etchanan/Nahamu

5:30 pm Shabbat In Our Park Picnic
(Rain or Shine)

6:30 pm Shabbat In Our Park
Worship Service

August Worship Schedule

August 3

Shabbat Ekev

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

August 10

Shabbat Re'eh

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

August 17

Shabbat Shoftim

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

August 24

Shabbat Ki Tetze

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

August 31

Shabbat Ki-Tavo

6:00 pm Pre-Neg

6:30 pm Shabbat Worship Service

Table of Contents

From the Rabbi's Desk Rabbi Gregory S. Marx.....	1
President's Corner	2
From the Rabbi's Desk Rabbi Jason Bonder	3
Religious School News.....	4
Early Childhood Education.....	5
Member & Youth Engagement.....	6
Volunteer Spotlight.....	7
Social Action.....	8-9
Social Justice	10
Brotherhood	11
Sisterhood.....	11
Beth Or Events.....	12-13
High Holy Days 5779.....	13
5778 Memories	14-15
Celebrating Your Simcha	16-17
Chai Lights/ Pre-Neg and Flower Donations.....	18
Memorials and Contributions.....	19

July/August Candle Lighting Times

Friday, July 6 • 8:14 pm

Friday, July 13 • 8:12 pm

Friday, July 20 • 8:07 pm

Friday, July 27 • 8:02 pm

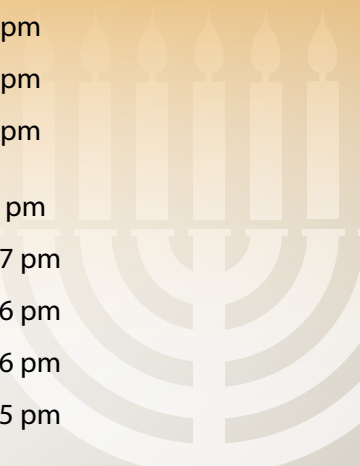
Friday, August • 7:55 pm

Friday, August 10 • 7:47 pm

Friday, August 17 • 7:36 pm

Friday, August 24 • 7:26 pm

Friday, August 31 • 7:15 pm



Welcoming Rabbi Jason Bonder and Rina Lebovitz To Our Community

Rabbi Gregory S. Marx, Senior Rabbi

As Jews, we revere the life and character of Moses. The rabbis of old, called him “Moshe Rabbeinu,” Moses our teacher, in our sacred literature. So what characteristic do you believe he best teaches? Of all his deeds, what do you think is the most significant window into his character? Some would say his **passion and anger**. When he first saw an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave, he got involved and killed the taskmaster. Moses got angry a number of other times in his life. He lost his temper when the people rebelled



Rabbi Gregory S. Marx

From the Rabbi's Desk

against him, saying that they wanted to go back to Egypt. He lost his temper when the people built a golden calf. He lashed out in anger when the people complained about the terrible conditions in Sinai. He taught us to care and to be passionate in his pursuits.

Some argue that it was his **love of justice**. He stood up to Pharaoh and demanded freedom for the oppressed. Others would argue that his prime characteristic was his **faith**. He believed in a better tomorrow and that God would fulfill the covenant and bring his oppressed people home to freedom. Still others respected him as a **teacher**. He was the one who communicated Torah to his people. He took the holy ideas from the mountain top and brought them to the people so that they could “do and understand.”

Above it all, I respect Moses for his **humility**. He saw God in the common bush that was burning in the desert. I find it amazing that Moses would find the presence of God in a common ubiquitous lowly plant. Yes, it was burning, but that was not, in point of fact, that uncommon in the desert. The arid heat often would spontaneously ignite things. Moses' humility allowed him to feel God's presence in the lowest of plants; not in the mountains or in the heavens; not in the roaring seas or star-lit night sky. Moses saw the extraordinary in the ordinary bush of the desert.

All of this brings me to a singular point. We are welcoming the newest member of the Beth Or family; Rabbi Jason Bonder. He joins us with his wife, Rina and their two adorable children, Mark and Sophie. Both he and Rina have family ties in this area, so coming to Beth Or is a bit of a homecoming for them. As I discuss their arrival with many in the area, I am amazed that there are so many people who already know and are fond of them. He has a reputation for being a scholar, a great teacher, an athlete and a mensch. In the short amount of time that he has been with us, he has become an integral part of our congregational family and has blessed us with his experiences and fresh ideas.

I admire him for many reasons. Like Moses, he is faithful, passionate, caring, concerned with the welfare of others, but most of all there is a gentle/humble kindness about him. In May, he took the time to call me and offer condolences on the passing of the Reform Movement's seminary president, Aaron Panken. That tells me a great deal about this gentle soul of a rabbi.

We are delighted and honored to “welcome home” Jason and his family. May he take us to new heights and teach us in word and in deed, as did our faith's or our people's teacher, Moses.

My Jewish Year

David Simon, Beth Or President

By now we are all looking forward to our summer vacations that were planned, or perhaps you are still in the planning stages. I certainly hope that all of Beth Or has a safe and enjoyable summer. Now that my first year as President has come to a close, I can't help but look backward. Although, the election was in June 2017, I did not feel like the President until the High Holy Days when I had to deliver a speech at both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Public speaking, then and now, is nerve racking and uncomfortable for me. But after the holidays were over, I breathed a sigh of relief, and tried to settle in. What made it easier were the people that I work with, from the professional staff, the clergy, the Board of Trustees, my fellow officers, and the many volunteers from the congregation. It is evident to me that Beth Or is led, populated, and staffed by some very friendly, dedicated and competent people. And it makes it a pleasure to work with them (although as President, I certainly don't do as much as they do).



David Simon

President's Corner

And speaking of the Beth Or staff, 2018 marks some serious milestones for some of them. This year four members of the Beth Or staff will celebrate significant anniversaries. They are:

Amy Abrams – Executive Director – 5 years;

Genevieve Yanity – Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director – 10 years;

Darryl Green – Maintenance – 15 years

Ellen Wichterman – Administrative Assistant to our Assistant/Associate Rabbis and Assistant to the Director of Accounting – 20 years!

Please be sure to thank and congratulate each one of them for their many years of service to Beth Or.

Finally, I thought that I would add a book review to my article. This may be a bi-monthly occurrence, or it may be the last one I do, but here goes. At the URJ Biennial in Boston this past December I had the pleasure of being the emcee for a presentation by author, Abigail Pogrebin, on her recent book titled, *My Jewish Year, 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*. Abigail is a former producer for 60 Minutes and has written for several publications including *Newsweek*, *New York* magazine, the *Forward*, and many others. She is also a Reform Jew and current synagogue president. *My Jewish Year* is her third book where she relates the year in which she devoutly followed and observed all 18 Jewish holidays, regardless of whether or not her family followed her in her journey. Since I was her emcee, and after hearing her presentation, my interest was piqued, so I decided to buy her book and read it. I am recommending the book because I enjoyed her sense of humor and the easy narrative. The book served as a kind of refresher course on the Jewish holidays. Will I follow her lead and try to observe all 18 holidays, including 6 fast days (who knew?), no. But I found her perspective, and that of the many rabbis she interviews and quotes, to be interesting and educational. So as you plan your summer vacations, why not take in *My Jewish Year*. I'll even lend you my copy.



Rabbi Jason Bonder

From the Rabbi's Desk

**Jewish tradition
reminds us that we
can't get absorbed by
any one identity.
Each of us has too many
gifts to give.**

Who Am I?

Rabbi Jason Bonder, Associate Rabbi

Thank you, Congregation Beth Or, for allowing me to introduce myself. Writing this article could not have come at a better time. In sharing who I am with you, I have found the blessing of reminding myself of who I am.

My wife Rina and I, along with our son Mark, welcomed our daughter, Sophie, into the world this past November. Sophie's arrival brought us immense blessing and joy. It also brought much change. Baseball on TV has been replaced by Sesame Street. The toys in our home seemingly multiply overnight. Workouts are less frequent these days. The opportunity to ask "Who am I?" amidst these changes has been so helpful.

Jewish tradition reminds us that we can't get absorbed by any one identity. Each of us has too many gifts to give. In the book of Genesis, God asks Adam in the Garden of Eden — **אֵיכָה** "Ayeka" — Where are you? I read that as God asking Adam to discover himself all over again. "Where are YOU, Adam?" "What role are YOU playing in the Garden of Eden and in the world?" The beauty of community is that the group expects us to ask ourselves, "What gifts do I have to offer to my family, to my community, to my tradition, to the Source of Life?"

So, who am I? I am passionate about learning and teaching. I love learning ancient texts, and I love learning the texts of our lives – we write them daily. As Bahya Ibn Paquda once wrote, "Days are scrolls. Write on them only what you want remembered."

I love Hebrew and I have a deep love for Israel. I constantly look to practice my Hebrew. Hebrew speakers, I welcome any opportunity to speak with you "b'lvrit"!

I love sports. My baseball journey led me to my first trip to Israel, and endurance athletics are a passion of mine.

Rina, Mark, Sophie and I, look forward to meeting all of you! Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and thank you for welcoming me as the newest Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Or.

Important School Dates

Summer break!



Please note that the first day of Sunday School is **September 23**.

First days of Hebrew School are **October 8 & 9**.



Leonard &
Madlyn Abramson
Education Center

CONGREGATION BETH OR

How Do You Celebrate Success?

Aaron Niensenshultz, Director of Religious School

We like to recognize our students for their special achievement, and I'd like to use my column this month to share the names of students who won awards at the end of this past school year.

Rueben Wolfert Memorial Award

This award goes to a graduating senior who has remained consistently engaged at Congregation Beth Or, from his/her early childhood education through post-Confirmation classes. Students who win this award demonstrate personal strength, integrity, and commitment to the Jewish people. It was our honor to present this award to **Taylor Fried**. Good luck in college, Taylor — we'll miss you!



Aaron Niensenshultz

Danny Eisman Memorial Award

Presented to a Confirmation Class student every year, this award represents the highest values of our Confirmation class, going to a student who attends regularly, engages thoughtfully with the class material, strives to improve him/herself and his/her Jewish practice, and encourages others through their example. How thrilling it was to present this award to **Nathan Robbins**. Your *pintele yid* — your Jewish soul — is an inspiration to us all!

Deborah Gene Eisman Award

This award, in memory of Deborah Gene Eisman, is given to one student each from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades who exhibits exemplary behavior, completes outstanding work throughout the school year, and displays excellent attendance. Our winners this year were **Jake Hill, Hannah Miller, Dahlia Kaplan, and Elizabeth Glassman**.

Derech Eretz Award

The Derech Eretz award is given to students who show respect and kindness toward themselves and others, who are polite and helpful and who take their Judaism seriously, excelling in their Jewish studies and having strong attendance. Our winners this year were: **Matthew Appleton, Cate Brecher, Emmy Brownstein, Lily Brownstein, Claudia Cagnoli, Evan Cohen, Lindsay Cornbluth, Skye Desjardins, Colin Enck, Olivia Feldgus, Marissa Fortunato, Daniel Gass, Noah Gibbs, Josh Gladstone, Josephine Grosser, Mallory Hersh, Sadie Hess, Camryn Horwitz, Nate Jackson, Ari Jaffe, Maddie Kaufman, Matthew Koch, Dani Kundtz, Leo Kuznits, Jordyn Levine, Shane Lincow, Anna Lotman, David Lotman, Lyvia Marcus, Ryder Orenstein, Jacob Orlick, Maddox Pestrack, Jacob Picker, Tori Rabin, Brianna Ratson, Will Rice, Zachary Rosenberg, Allie Rothstein, Emily Schurr, Andrew Schwartz, Nathan Seligman, Emerson Shapiro, Matthew Shohen, Luke Slobotkin, Abigail Stein, Matthew Toyberman, Samantha Weinstein, Ryan Wiener, Devon Young, and Charlie Zislis**. Well done, everyone: you make us into a better place, every day!

Make an Appointment to Relax This Summer

Lisa Yoskowitz, Early Childhood Director

Summer lives in our imaginations throughout the year because it nourishes our souls. The warmth...the fun...the sheer deliciousness. Time to explore, to make new friends, to lie on your back and watch the clouds billow. The vivid aliveness and freedom...and then "reality sets in."

Are you really relaxing or are you glued to your iPhone and your e-mail? How do you shut down work at the end of the day and where do you find time for yourself and your family?

You CAN reclaim summer for your family. In fact, you can make this the best summer ever with your kids. It doesn't take travel or a lot of money. And you can do it even if you're working and your kids are in day camp. All it takes is your time.

That's right, your time. I know that it seems like we never have enough time. If you're anything like most parents, you have a long list of things that need to get done and you feel a little (or a lot!) overwhelmed. But it's summer. And your appointment book should have the words "relax" penciled in. So finding that sweet spot of "just enough" activity without over-scheduling is the goal.

Why not decide now to make the most of this opportunity to connect with your kids? Here are three simple tips to make this summer your best summer ever with your family.

1. Set aside some time every day to have fun with your child.

Whether it's running through the sprinkler together on a hot afternoon or counting the stars on a blanket in the backyard before bedtime, do at least one thing each day to connect and have fun. Remember, what matters is always how it FEELS, not how it LOOKS. Your child doesn't need a Martha Stewart activity; just a loving connection with you.

2. Commit to de-stressing and just enjoying your life this summer.

Kids pick up our attitudes. If you're stressed, they'll be stressed, and they'll fight with each other and drive you crazy. Even if you have to go to work, can you find a way to dial down your stress for the summer? And if you're lucky enough to be home with the kids, don't you deserve a delicious summer as much as your children do? Your positive attitude will create a relaxed, happy mood in your house.

3. Institute daily reading time and regular library visits.

Books open the imagination, make time disappear, and give kids a wholesome alternative to screens. Reading to your child develops a love of stories and books, which is what starts them wanting to read on their own.

Our legacy here at Beth Or includes a connection to God that anchors our children to values and beliefs, enhancing their lives with purpose, stability and meaningful traditions, so if you are looking for a way to connect more with spirituality this summer you can accomplish this right here.

- **Munchkin Minyan** (the Camp version) will be held on Friday, July 20 at 5:30 pm
- **Shabbat in Our Park and Worship** – Friday, July 27 at 5:30 pm.
- Join us for **Shabbat Services** every Friday night beginning at 6:30 pm.

So, the "power of the pause" isn't tied to any amount of time. It's about how that quality of time is spent.

I hope that this summer allows you to pencil in the word "relax" into your planner and do just that.



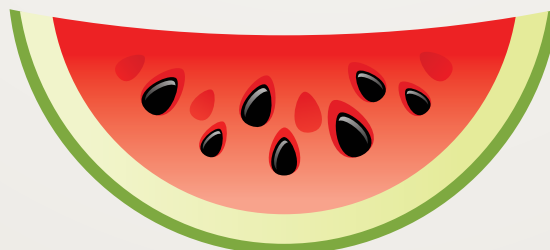
Lisa Yoskowitz



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

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Discover ♦ Grow ♦ Shine



Engagement Is Sweet



Jillian Glick

Jillian Glick, Director of Member & Youth Engagement

When I first became the Youth Director I made sure that my space was a comfortable place for all visitors. Especially the teens who frequented my office. As all good Jews, these kids enjoyed eating. I always stocked the office with goodies – lollipops for kids who have braces, tootsie rolls for those who like chocolates, Twizzlers for a little licorice, and temporary tattoos for those who can't eat candy at all. Always something for everyone.

I can always count on children from the CECE stopping by around pickup time for a lollipop. This is a great way for me to get to know them and their parents as the children grow and move into the Religious School. They always return with a friendly smile to say hi and grab a treat!

Whenever we have a BOFTY trip, I bring a stash of sweets with me for the bus. This typically helps with the afternoon slump and gives everyone the sugar rush they need to get through a day. I brought my famous sweet treat bag with me on a trip to NYC with APEX this past fall. Many participants were grateful for the afternoon sugar high. It also got people talking about their favorite candy, or a general shared interest.

For me, engagement is getting to know all the wonderful people who populate our community. Sometimes it involves a conversation with a sweet treat. Sometimes the conversation is the sweet treat. Visit anytime and tell me something good that's going on in your world. I promise to reward you with something good!



VOLUNTEER

Spotlight

Volunteering at Congregation Beth Or — My Journey

by Leslie Weiss

When I was asked to write an article describing why I volunteer at Beth Or, my immediate thought was “why wouldn’t I volunteer”? However, that was not always my response. . .

As I reflect on my volunteer journey over the past 15 years of being a member of this congregation, I'll tell you, it was a very slow one. I wasn't interested in the early years; too busy, working full time, raising kids, can't squeeze another thing on to my plate, etc, etc. I suspect many of you reading this article understand my rationale for not engaging in our community. Interestingly, all those reasons still exist (except the kids are raised!) but my rationale is no longer valid.



Leslie Weiss and Family

My interest in volunteering started with a phone call from a work colleague and congregant (thanks Marv Schwartz!) asking me to help with the Inter-Faith Hospitality Network and it snowballed from there. Over the years, I've participated in various committees and, finally joining the Board of Trustees. I must say, it feels incredible to help others, find a sense of community, make new personal connections and overall, do my small part to make the world a better place.



I love word clouds. They are a great visual to use in presentations to drive your message. This one perfectly describes why I volunteer at Beth Or.

— *Leslie*

Speaking of volunteering, Evan and I are co-chairing our 2019 fundraiser to celebrate **Rabbi Greg and Laurie Marx's 30th Anniversary** with Beth Or.

Please **SAVE THE DATE, May 4, 2019!** It's a guaranteed meaningful, fun and community building night to thank the Marx's for their dedication and service to our congregation. More details coming over the next months.

SOCIAL Action

Every Month is Mitzvah Month at Beth Or

At a recent Beth Or Social Action Committee meeting, it was concluded that every month at Beth Or is Mitzvah Month!

Thanks to the incredible energy and commitment from Committee members, there will be even more opportunities for congregants to plug in to starting in the New Year 5779.

Until then and over the summer months, we welcome seeing you at one of our activities that builds community and helps those in need:

- **Corner of the Land** – Plant and harvest vegetables that will be donated to Inter-faith Housing Alliance in Ambler. For further information and dates, please contact Chairs Bruce Dorsey or Mitch Diamond: bdorsey@arbutusbio.com, mdiamond@atkore.com.
- **Knitting Circle** – If you would like to start knitting or want to continue honing your skills, please join the Knitting Circle in the Herzfeld Library on a Wednesday night or Sunday morning. Knitted blankets and hats are donated to more than 20 hospitals in Greater Philadelphia and caps are shipped to Israel for IDF soldiers. For further information and dates, please contact Chair Faye Benshetler: Febx@comcast.net.
- **Meals that Matter** – Cooking with Meals that Matter puts dinners on the tables of KleinLife's seniors who reside independently but are unable to shop and prepare meals on their own. MTM volunteers meet in the Main Kitchen. For further information and dates, please contact Chair Caren Gutman: carengutman@gmail.com.
- **Jewish Relief Agency** – The JRA serves more than 6000 low-income Philadelphia area residents who are experiencing food insecurity. Please join fellow congregants on a Sunday morning adventure to the warehouse to pack boxes and/or deliver to JRA recipients. For further information and dates, please contact Marlene and Bob Cohen: rcohenesquire@gmail.com or 484-681-4512.

Beth Or's year-round collections continue to be robust thanks to the goodwill of our congregants. Non-perishable food may be dropped off in the bin in the Main Lobby vestibule. All other collection bins are located in the Religious School lobby. Below is a list of current collections and information about the recipients.

- Non-perishable food is donated to Inter-faith Housing Alliance to assist individuals and families living in transition. (i-fha.org)
- Household items are donated to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society for families who recently left a refugee camp and have resettled in the Philadelphia area. (hiaspa.org)
- Toiletries and gently used clothing are donated to Mitzvah Circle, an organization that offers "material support to individuals and families dealing with crisis, poverty, homelessness and serious illness." (mitzvahcircle.org)
- Children's toys, books and school supplies are donated to Cradles to Crayons providing "children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive - at home, at school and at play." (cradlestocrayons.org)

The Social Action Committee welcomes your participation and any ideas you may have for new programs that fit our mission to assist, encourage and empower those in need within our community and society at large.

Todah Rabah!

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

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



Hunger doesn't take a vacation...

This may have a ring of humor to it, but there is nothing funny about having an empty fridge any day of the week. Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) to the rescue. One Sunday each month, volunteers gather to pack boxes of food and make deliveries. Most delivery routes are within 10-15 minutes from the JRA warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia.

Volunteer turnout is lower during the Summer, so Beth Or members Marlene and Bob Cohen are organizing a group to join them at the JRA on Sunday, July 8.

Please RSVP to Marlene and Bob to let them know what you would like to sign up for (box making, packing or delivery). They may be reached at 484-681-4512 or rcohenesquire@gmail.com.

- **Box Making** — 8:30 am to 10 am
- **Food Box Packing** — 10 am to 11:30 am
- **Food Delivery** — 10 am to 3 pm (typically will take one hour to complete delivery of 8-12 boxes)
- **Express Pick Up** — 8:30 am to 11 am (skip the warehouse and go directly to the loading dock to pick up your route and boxes)

Answers to FAQ:

1. The JRA welcomes volunteers with bagels and coffee!
2. Carpooling from Beth Or is optional. Please let Marlene and Bob know if you are interested.
3. Driving directions and a map are provided by the JRA to volunteers making deliveries. (www.jewishrelief.org)
4. The JRA requires closed-toe shoes in the warehouse.



“The planet’s going to survive — the question is, will we?”

— Robin Bell, Professor at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and president-elect of the American Geophysical Union

The Beth Or Social Justice Committee is committed to educating, advocating and taking action on issues aligned with Jewish values. In 2017, the Committee identified climate change as one of those issues. The plan was to focus on educating ourselves more thoroughly before moving towards advocacy and action.

Over the course of four months from December 2017 to March 2018, the Committee scheduled various opportunities to discuss “Climate of Hope” (Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope) with fellow congregants, led by a professional facilitator. On April 13 we brought it to a close with Rear Admiral David W. Titley, Director of the Penn State Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk as our Shabbat Guest Speaker.

An abundance of information addressed the immediate nature of this global condition which requires our attention. Below are selected highlights to spur us to action:

1. It starts with each of us. We can vote for elected leaders who support issues vital for a cleaner and safer environment. We can make an impact on local representatives by making our voices heard. We can make lifestyle changes that will lead to a healthier and sustaining society.



2. Michael Bloomberg helped launch the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy because he believed that cities and municipalities may be poised to respond more directly and expediently than the national government. This organization covers “7400 cities and local governments from six continents and 121 countries representing more than 600 million residents.” (globalcovenantofmayors.org) Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney is a member of the Covenant of Mayors.

3. Multiple factors contribute to personal carbon footprints and those generated by utilities, transportation, food production, manufacturing, and other sectors of the economy. We should boldly approach those factors that are manageable and view them as solution-based, rather than turn a blind eye.

4. Climate change has occurred (past tense). Today’s conversation must include a snapshot of where we are as a precursor to discussing what the future looks like and what improvements we can make. NASA has developed an astounding 36-second visual that puts us all on the same page. To view, search online: NASA global climate change 1880-2017.

5. On April 19, the American Lung Association released its ‘State of the Air 2018’ which reported that the U.S. experienced an increase in ozone pollution. Closer to home, Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks, Chester and Delaware Counties were assigned an ‘F’ grade for ozone pollution. This grade raises the risk for various populations, such as the elderly, children, asthma-sufferers, and persons with COPD.

Where To Go From Here

We suggest that each of us measure our carbon footprint today and repeat this exercise a year from now. An online carbon footprint calculator may be found by searching ‘carbon footprint calculator’.

We encourage you to become familiar with the EPA (epa.gov/energy-independence) and views that counter their actions (e.g., rac.org/environment).

We want to hear from you! Please contact us if you are interested in leading or participating in the Beth Or Social Justice Committee’s efforts towards improving our environment for future generations.

Thank you for your support.

Char Leung Friedenheim & Craig Schulz
Social Justice Committee Chairs

Beth Or BROTHERHOOD



Brotherhood

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Fellowship • Community
Service • Support

A Miracle in The Desert

Allan Posner, Brotherhood President



Allan Posner

I recently returned from my first trip to Israel and had the experience of a lifetime. The depth of history, culture, food, fashion and its views were amazing. Andrea and I were fortunate to spend two weeks seeing a good portion of the country not from a bus tour but rather through the eyes of a guide steeped in 67 years of citizenship as a Sabra. We saw the usual requisite sites as first timers but it was the unusual that made our experience memorable. We stood on the top of Masada and visited an area where an ancient synagogue once existed. Inside a small cave was an elderly scribe working on a Torah scroll. I spoke Hebrew to him and he spoke English to me. Along the road we saw an old original McDonald's with the golden arches. In the middle of what seemed like "no man's land" with dust flying everywhere, we enjoyed malabi custard on a hot day served from a shack. Andrea and I also sat at the edge of a cliff overlooking beautiful sparkling water sipping homemade limoncello and eating pita we bought from an Arab farm stand. Finally, we ate in an Arab restaurant in Haifa and WE were the ONLY Jews there. What an experience!

Then, The Miracle in The Dessert occurred. Our guide Arik said it rarely ever rains in the Negev at the end of April. He was beside himself. Not only did it rain, it flooded areas causing destruction and unfortunately the death of nine teens. We witnessed torrents and traveled roads covered with debris of rock and mud. But... through all the devastation we witnessed the miracle of growth. In the middle of useless arid land, vast areas of green fields and forests sprout. Israel has turned a desert of nothing into everything imaginable. Truly a miracle.

Miracles occur every day. As Brotherhood President I have also been privileged this year to witness the miracle of growth in your children at our Religious School. I had the privilege to present all third-grade students their new siddur as they begin studying towards their B'nai Mitzvah. Brotherhood is proud to donate these books on behalf of our organization. Likewise, I have witnessed your children maturing into teens during Confirmation services. All of your children are part of the miracle to sustain Judaism for future generations.

While summertime is lazy and hazy, our members will be busy working with Aaron and Jillian to expand our reach and support them with new and exciting programs. Your children are the miracle at Beth Or and Brotherhood is a part of that.

Beth Or SISTERHOOD



Sisterhood

CONGREGATION BETH OR

Fellowship • Community
Service • Support

Sisterhood Connects Beth Or Women

Jodye Green, Sisterhood President

On behalf of Beth Or Sisterhood, I'd like to welcome all of the women of Beth Or to join us in creating a community where we offer something for everyone. From theater trips to knitting, wine tasting to trivia night, Unity Seder to Sunday brunch, we offer many opportunities for you to become connected.

Aside from what Sisterhood can do for you, we also contribute to our community by helping to support our students in both pre-school and religious school programs, provide scholarships to rabbinic and cantorial students, maintain an apartment where families can transition from homelessness to independence and support many other acts of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*.

"Like" us on Facebook...check us out in the Beth Or Spotlight and bulk mailings...follow us to see what we're up to and where we're going; join us at our monthly meetings (first Wednesday of each month), become involved, get connected...we're not your Bubbie's Sisterhood.



Jodye Green

Beth Or EVENTS

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

Adult Programs

SAVE THE DATE

APEX Washington, DC Bus Trip

Sunday, October 14

Join Cantor Green and APEX as we travel to Washington, DC for the day.

We will start our day visiting the US Holocaust Memorial Museum — specifically the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. This center features new exhibits about the Crisis in Syria. Afternoon details will be finalized soon, but will include another tour and dinner! Don't miss this wonderful and exciting day. Final details and pricing coming soon. This trip is sponsored by APEX and open to all.)



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

Artists – ARTSisters Exhibiting now through September 5

ArtSisters is a group of professional women artists who empower each other and their community through their art.



Holidays and Shabbat Events

Camp Chaverim Munchkin Minyan

Friday, July 13 • 5:30 pm

All young families are welcome. RSVP to Sharon Carlin in the CECE office: scarlin@bethor.org.

Shabbat in our Park Dinner & Worship

Friday, July 27 • 5:30 pm

Our annual Shabbat service and outdoor cookout is back! Bring your own lawn chairs and picnic blankets and sit outside on the grounds with your family and friends. (Tables/chairs provided for those who need.) Please bring a ready-to-

serve side dish that goes with a meat meal. No dairy, pork or shellfish, please!

If it rains or is too hot, we will move our event inside to the Rosenfeld Social Hall. RSVP by July 20 using the RSVP portal on the website home page, or click the link on the calendar.



Selichot Movie, Dinner and Worship Service Saturday, September 1 • Dinner & Movie, 6:30 pm; Worship Service, 8:30 pm

Join us for a communal meal and watch the movie 3 Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, a story of revenge, atonement and character, followed by an inspirational Selichot service as we begin to prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. At the conclusion of the service, we change the Torah mantles from the everyday to the pristine, white covers, signifying that the Days of Awe are upon us. RSVP for dinner/movie by August 24 using the RSVP portal or contact Barbara Murtha, bmurtha@bethor.org.



Special Events

ADL Bearing Witness Program

Tuesday, July 24 • 6 pm – 9 pm

Join Rabbi Marx as we welcome Catholic educators for a mock Shabbat dinner followed by a discussion about our relationship with Israel.

American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Brotherhood

Friday, August 3 • 12 Noon – 5 pm

The Red Cross is in urgent need of all blood types. Please donate blood and help save a life. Register online via the website RSVP Portal for the time slot of your choice, or contact Stu Briefer at smbriefer@gmail.com and he will register you. This event is sponsored by Brotherhood.

CECE Dessert Picnic

Wednesday, August 29 • 6 pm to 7 pm

Come celebrate the new school year with new and old friends!

High Holy Days 5779

Selichot • Saturday, September 1

Erev Rosh Hashanah • Sunday, September 9

Rosh Hashanah First Day • Monday, September 10

Rosh Hashanah Second Day • Tuesday, September 11

Kol Nidre • Tuesday, September 18

Yom Kippur • Wednesday, September 19

Look for an all-new High Holy Days information packet with worship schedule, ticket reservation forms, participation forms, parking details, babysitting and more to be delivered to your home mailbox in mid July. You will also be able to access the information and forms on our website. Reservation deadline is August 17. The first 50 to respond receive a parking pass for the Beth Or parking lot. Please call the office with any questions: 215-646-5806.



5778 Memories

1. Beit Sefer Cafe
2. Confirmation Class Trip to Israel
3. Meals that Matter
4. 3rd Grade Siddurim Ceremony
5. Hebrew Tech Class
6. Mitzvas Day
7. Beth Or Travels to Poland and Israel
8. Tot Mitzvah
9. Corner of our Land Garden
10. Purim Carnival
11. Adopt-A-School
12. Sukkot Junior Choir
13. Tzedekah Kids
14. Youth Game Changerz Event
15. Religious School Honors Rabbi Gerber
16. Sisterhood Cooking Class
17. Chanukah Bazaar



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8





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 — 2017/18

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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Chai-Lights — July/August 2018

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Josh, Tracey, Noah, Kayla & Dani Bresler

Stephen McKenna, Joana Danon-McKenna, Mason, Matisse & Maverick McKenna

Jack & Bonnie Rothstein

Aaron, Emily, Ethan & Molly Marks

Glen Barry, Melissa Gibson-Barry & Madeline Barry

Ross, Margo, Abigail & Eliana Hurwitz

May Their Memory Be A Blessing

Bruce Bogdanoff, uncle of Ira Brownstein

Judith Shapiro, mother of Allen Shapiro & grandmother of Jaime Murley

Ronald Cohen, uncle of Bob Cohen

Arthur Hyman, father of Lisa Shopper

Harold Herman, father of Richard Herman

Spencer S. Solodar, father of Todd Solodar

William End, father of David End

Michelle Maze, cousin of Mandy Perry

Quentin Wagner, father of Donna Wolf

Hannah Merker, aunt of Beth Rubin

Harold Jacobson, father of Bill Jacobson & grandfather of Miriam Conner & Rebekah Jacobson

Lloyd Peskin, grandfather of Wes Peskin (Jillian Glick)

Marilyn Ortner, sister of Jeff Asch

Naomi Sussman, wife of Marc Meketon

Geraldine Kelman, grandmother of Craig Kelman

Martha "Marsi" Breslau, mother of Benjamin Barbash

Mazel Tov

Birth of Sam Hudson Maleeff Russo, grandson of Stuart & Lynne Maleeff

Wedding of David Goldstein to Bonnie Libby

Baby Naming of Benjamin Levi Sussmann, grandson of Barry & Ellen Sussmann,

Wedding of Ross Rutman, son of Robert & Audrey Rutman, to Samantha Bogus

Baby Naming of Eliana Riley Snyderman, granddaughter of Paul & Dale Snyderman

Birth of Carter Klein, son of Jesse and Laurie Klein

Birth of Evan Sanford Goodman, grandson of Phil & Pennye Goodman & great grandson of Ina Goodman

Baby Naming of Aidan Jacob Glaser, son of Gary & Staci Glaser & grandson of Mark & Bernice Glaser

Engagement of Lizzy Lipkin, daughter of David & Shelley Lipkin, to Scott Goldfarb

Birth of Oliver Van Benthem, son of Zach & Michelle Van Benthem and grandson of Larry & Ilene Stella

Pre-Neg and Flower Donations

Additional April Donations

Flowers:

April 27 • Marian Wolfert donated centerpieces for the Chai dinner in memory of Reuben Wolfert and in honor of Chai members

July Donations

Picnic Donations – Shabbat In Our Park:

July 27 • Brotherhood will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers & water ice & Sisterhood will provide drinks and desserts



Memorials and Contributions

Rabbi Marx's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of

LEWIS UDIS

David & Carol Udis

PHYLLIS ABRAMS

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Elaine Slott

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SYLVIA COHEN

Gary & Helene Fisher

DORA DUKART

Gary & Marlene Dukart

SAMUEL SCHULTZ

Harry Schultz

ALBERT AROUH

Julie Fried

ROSE RUBIN

Larry & Beverly Samson

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MARLENE BELL

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Joyce Brodsky

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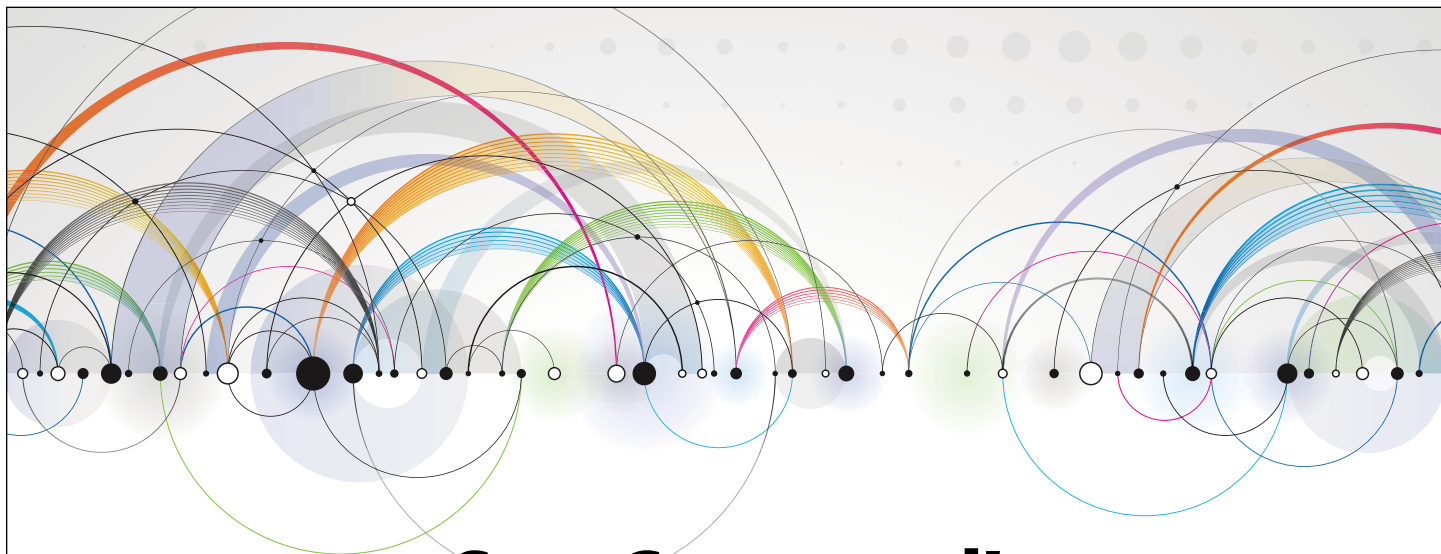
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