

DECEMBER 2020

Kislev/Tevet 5781

B'NAI ISRAEL



# SCROLL

VOLUME 78  
NUMBER 4

STAY CONNECTED



facebook.com/groups/BnaiIsraelCong/

www.bnaiisraelcong.org

UPCOMING

**ABRAHAM ACCORDS PEACE AGREEMENT**  
with Alan Ronkin See page 8.

UPCOMING

Let Us Build a World of Kindness (Ps. 89:3)

## Mitzvah Day(s)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6  
&  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Abigail Bortnick & Yvonne Klinger  
Chairs

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mitzvahday](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mitzvahday)

See page 6 for ways you can participate.



HAG HANUKKAH  
SAMEAH!  
FROM YOUR  
B'NAI ISRAEL FAMILY



Friday, December 11-  
Friday, December 18

Learn more on page 7.

## B'NAI ISRAEL HINEINI GIVING WEEK

November 29-December 6

JOIN US

See page 9 for details.

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# B'NAI MITZVAH

## בני מצוה

### Matthew Shane Stillman

December 5 | 9:00 AM

Matthew Stillman, son of Debbie and Dan Stillman, grandson of Charlotte Mirman, Ben Mirman and Judy Yellon, and Jake and Anita (ז"ל) Sillman is a seventh-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For his *mitzvah* project, Matty leads weekly Kabbalat Shabbat services over Zoom for residents of a local assisted living facility. Due to the pandemic, the rabbi who had previously led these services in person was no longer allowed to enter the facility. Matty's Bubby (Charlotte) lives there and he wanted to make sure that she and the other Jewish residents could still celebrate Shabbat together.



### Gila Hannah Safra

December 12 | 9:00 AM

Gila Safra, daughter of Sharon and Rabbi Michael Safra, granddaughter of Linda and Barry Rosenberg and Clara and Dr. Mark Safra, is a seventh-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For her *mitzvah* project, Gila is supporting two important community organizations—Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH) and Comfort Cases. The current pandemic has forced JFGH residents into complete lockdown for their own safety and well-being, so Gila is assembling entertainment baskets with games, puzzles and recreational items to make their time in quarantine more enjoyable. She is also supporting Comfort Cases, which helps children in foster care. Often foster children go from one home to another with their few belongings in a trash bag. The cases she is donating will bring dignity to these difficult transitional moments.



### Grady Howard Goldstein

December 19 | 9:00 AM

Grady Goldstein, son of Amanda and Dr. Mark Goldstein, grandson of Barbara Wind and Bernard (ז"ל) Morcheles, Glenda and Bernard Pollock, and Linda and Dr. Gordon Goldstein, is a seventh-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For Grady's *mitzvah* project, he volunteers with Meals on Wheels through JSSA and B'nai Israel, to hand deliver kosher meals to seniors. Along with the meals, Grady writes personalized letters to each recipient that include a short story, each with a cliffhanger, to make their days during the pandemic a bit brighter. The recipients have been so grateful and have even written letters back to Grady.



With great joy and pride, we invite you  
to join us as our daughter

*Gila Hannah*

גילה חנה

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, the twelfth of December

Two thousand twenty

Parashat Vayeishev - Shabbat Hanukkah

פרשת וישב - שבת חנוכה

Nine o'clock in the morning

B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, Maryland

Join us via livestream

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/dailyminyan](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/dailyminyan)

*Sharon & Rabbi Michael Safra*

**January is around the corner!** A friendly reminder that B'nai Israel policy is to pay the full balance of yearly membership dues by December 31st or be on a payment plan with the synagogue. Payments can be made by check, credit card, or stock transfer. As like every year, we make this request from a place of understanding, as we know that the current health crisis touches members of this congregation in different ways. For more information, please contact Hal Ossman, Executive Director ([hossman@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:hossman@bnaiisraelcong.org), 301-816-5563).



## RABBI'S MESSAGE

by RABBI MICHAEL SAFRA

Dear Gila,

In a couple of weeks, we are going to celebrate your *bat mitzvah*. It will be quite different from the *b'nai mitzvah* your siblings had (or you expected) but it will be very special. Mommy and I are so proud of your resilience, and also grateful for what you have taught us about the toll this pandemic has taken on this formative event in your life. You have helped me to better understand what your classmates and friends and their families are going through, and I hope that has made me a better rabbi and more empathetic human being.

I am quite impressed by the way you have approached your *bat mitzvah* studies as well. It has been a privilege for me to tutor you, as I did Rebecca and Ethan, and to experience your talents and enthusiasm first-hand. The truth is that we haven't had a lot of lessons in recent months because you have demonstrated the necessary skills and commitment to study much of the Torah reading on your own. My job has been limited to cheering, checking in and correcting a few mistakes (even people who know Hebrew need to be very careful with the vowels when reading Torah!).

The congregation is going to be in for a real treat when you lead services and chant Torah and Haftarah on December 12. A lot of people in this community remember when you were born. They have watched you grow up and been a part of your life in so many significant ways. Everyone will be impressed with how much you have learned. But that is not the only reason to be proud.

You know that *bat mitzvah* is not something you “have” or “get.” *Bat mitzvah* is something you become. *Bat mitzvah* means accepting responsibility for participating in Jewish life, which includes doing your part to improve the world. You learned quickly how to put on *tallit* and *tefillin*, and you have been wearing them every morning, during services at school or on your own at home, since your birthday. I am inspired by your love of Shabbat, which includes embracing the various restrictions. I am wowed by the way you interact with your friends, in one case even helping a friend learn her own *haftarah* just because it is something you enjoy.

Even growing up in a rabbi's house, these things are not automatic. Becoming *bat mitzvah* means learning to choose Jewish living—because you want to, not just because I want it for you—and making it your own. Mommy and I are sure to be beaming from the front row on December 12, but we are most excited for what will surely come next.

As you know, the Talmud records a debate between the schools of Hillel and Shamai over how to light the Hanukkah candles. Shamai suggests lighting eight on the first night and diminishing each night, while Hillel suggests our practice of beginning with one candle and increasing each night. Hillel justifies his practice by reminding his colleagues: “*ma'alin ba-kodesh v'ein moridin*, when it comes to matters of holiness, we always increase and never diminish.” On Hanukkah and in life, I pray that you will be inspired by this teaching because whether you are trying to repair the world or improve yourself, there is always more work to do. Keep growing every day, and, imagine the joys you will know, the lives you might change, and the people you will amaze.

*Mazal Tov* with love,  
Daddy

## Join Our Services by Video Live Stream or Telephone

### Shabbat

Friday evening, 6:15–7:15 PM  
Saturday, 9:00 AM –12:00 PM

*\*Limited in-person attendance is available for this Shabbat service. Please send an email to [allison@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:allison@bnaiisraelcong.org).*

### Daily Minyan

Monday–Thursday,  
7:15 AM & 8:00 PM  
Friday, 7:15 AM  
Sunday, 9:00 AM & 8:00 PM

### Video Live Stream Access

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/dailyminyan](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/dailyminyan)

**Audio** Dial-in: 1-929-436-2866  
Meeting ID: 788 352 437 #

### Phone Instructions

Dial 1-929-436-2866  
Meeting ID: 788 352 437 #

## B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION

6301 Montrose Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20852  
301-881-6550  
[www.bnaiisraelcong.org](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org)

Affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



B'nai Israel Congregation is an accessible building.

- MICHAEL J. SAFRA**  
Senior Rabbi
- MITCHELL H. BERKOWITZ**  
Associate Rabbi
- JONATHAN A. SCHNITZER**  
Rabbi Emeritus
- MATTHEW H. SIMON, DD, DHL**  
Rabbi Emeritus
- JOSH C. PERLMAN**  
Hazzan
- SARAH BOLTS**  
Associate Hazzan/Music Director
- ROBERT KIEVAL**  
Hazzan Emeritus
- HAL OSSMAN**  
Executive Director
- MOSHE BEN-LEV**  
Education Director
- RABBI PENINA ALEXANDER**  
Assistant Principal
- RACHEL SIEGEL**  
Early Childhood Director
- KAREN GERTON**  
Early Childhood Director Emerita
- NANCY GOLDBERG**  
Schilit Nursery School Assistant Director
- SARAH JARVIS**  
Director of Youth Engagement
- JILL GENDELMAN**  
Librarian
- NETTA ASNER-MINSTER**  
Congregational Shlichah
- AVERY SUDOW**  
Communications and Development Director
- JOSE (PEPE) STRAUSS**  
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- DR. STEVEN HAUSMAN**
- DR. FRED MESSING**
- DR. STEPHEN B. ROBBINS**
- JOEL SHANKMAN**
- JAY WECHSLER**  
Gabbaim



**NOTES**  
by CANTOR JOSH C. PERLMAN

Thank you so much for joining me and my family for the Perlman Five Virtual Concert. God willing when we are all able to be together again, we will have a Live Perlman 4 Concert to celebrate. I look forward to that day for so many reasons. We will have turned a corner heading toward the next new normal. In the meantime if you'd like to see the concert for the first time, or if you'd like to see it again, please e-mail me at [cantorjosh@gmail.com](mailto:cantorjosh@gmail.com) and I will send you a link.

As we head into Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, I wish you all a safe and joyful celebration. In the face of our many challenges both personally and globally, we still have many blessings to count. When we recite the *Shehecheyanu* this year, we will acknowledge the blessing at arriving at this moment in time. It is my deepest hope that next year, our moment in time is healthier while leaving the pandemic behind. Please stay safe and remember, wearing your mask protects not only you, but those you love. Wearing a mask can save someone else's life; your parents, children and grandchildren. It is such a small inconvenience for the greater good.

*Hag Urim Sameah!*

**There is ALWAYS something happening at B'nai Israel!**

**STAY CONNECTED**

If you are not receiving our electronic *Community Connections*, please send your email address to [laurie@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:laurie@bnaiisraelcong.org).

**Get Social With Us**



During this time of social distancing, make sure to stay connected with us via social media for latest updates, Facebook Live events, and more.

**Join our group on FB**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BnaisraelCong/>

**Follow us on Instagram**  
<https://www.instagram.com/bnaisraelcong/>



## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

by **KAREN POST**  
Treasurer

“Our Building is Closed, But Our Community is Open.”

We’ve been seeing that phrase from B’nai Israel since March and I’ve been thinking a lot about what it means. The Oxford Dictionary defines “community” as: “A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.” I think that definition doesn’t capture what “community” means to me when I think of the B’nai Israel community. Sure, our congregants tend to live in the same general area and Judaism is a particular characteristic that we have in common. But there is so much more.

I think the definition of “community” should include a focus on the relationships between and amongst its members. We’re not just a group of Jews who live near each other. I don’t think that makes us a community. Rather, we care about each other. We celebrate together in good times and we support each other in bad times.

My family was first introduced to B’nai Israel in 1998 when Rabbi Schnitzer graciously agreed to allow us to have our first child, Rachel, named at B’nai even though we were not members. This gesture was very important to us in deciding to enroll Rachel in the Schilit Nursery School two years later and to become members of the congregation. Our son, Michael, and our youngest daughter, Danielle, also attended the Schilit Nursery School and all three children attended Talmud Torah. In the last

20 years, we’ve celebrated baby namings, b’nai mitzvah and confirmations with our B’nai Israel Community.

Not only did our children make their first friends through B’nai Israel, but also my husband Jon and I met some of our dearest friends through B’nai Israel. Our circle of friends expanded beyond the parents of our children’s friends by getting involved. Jon met some great people by playing basketball and softball through B’nai. And, by joining the Board of Governors, I met a lot of people with whom I probably would not have otherwise had the pleasure of getting to know.

When my dad passed away last summer, I learned about the strength of our B’nai Israel community. The love and support shown to me during that difficult time from the clergy, staff, members of the Board of Governors, and congregants demonstrates that we are so much more than just “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.” One evening during *shiva* at my home, I turned around during the service and looked at the people who were there. Of course, my family and my closest friends were there. But there were so many other people there too—people I have gotten to know through my involvement at B’nai Israel. People I don’t socialize with outside of B’nai Israel but who care enough about me and my family to come to my house at one of the darkest moments of my life to show me that they care. To me, that is the true definition of “community.”

This year has been tough for everyone and we don’t know when things will get better. We all have feelings of anxiety, fear, and loneliness. So, do something. Get involved. There is so much going on at B’nai Israel, even during this pandemic. Sign up for a class. Attend an event. Participate in an activity. You will be reminded that it is true: “Our Building is Closed, But Our Community is Open.”

## SHABBAT Candlelighting & Havdalah

### DECEMBER

4/5	4:28 PM/5:05 PM
11/12	4:28 PM/5:05 PM
18/19	4:30 PM/5:07 PM
25/26	4:34 PM/5:11 PM

## HOLIDAY MINYANIM

Friday, December 25  
9:00 AM & 6:15 PM

Friday, January 1  
9:00 AM & 6:15 PM

### IF YOU ARE HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER . . .

Please contact Candace in the synagogue office (301-881-6550, [candace@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:candace@bnaiisraelcong.org)) to let her know the date you will be heading south and the date you plan to return, so that you will continue to receive our synagogue mailings.

Let Us Build a World of Kindness (Ps. 89:3)

# Mitzvah Day(s)

**Sunday, December 6  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**Collections & Projects  
in the Parking Lot**

**Wednesday, December 9  
12:00-6:00 PM**

**Red Cross Blood Drive  
indoors following protocols**

## **There is no better time to do a *mitzvah*!**

We are excited for this year's Mitzvah Day(s), two days of giving back to the community and supporting those in need. You can participate in so many ways: drop-off collections, parking lot projects, online donations, and the annual blood drive. All of our collections and projects will take place outdoors in our parking lot, and the annual blood drive will take place indoors on Wednesday, December 9, following all protocols and guidelines.

### **Contact Our Chairs with Questions**

Abigail Bortnick (abigail.bortnick@gmail.com) and Yvonne Klinger (yvonne.klinger@gmail.com)

## **COLLECTIONS - Drop off in parking lot from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM on Sunday, December 6**

- Cold Weather Gear for Interfaith Works (coats, gloves, and hats)
- Comfort Cases Contributions (new items only: small duffel bags, backpacks, and unopened travel sized toiletries)
- Montgomery County Humane Society (sheets, towels, blankets, cat/dog food, paper towels, toilet paper, sanitizer, liquid hand soap, and AAA batteriers)
- Yarn & Fabric for MDAFCE & Warm Up America Foundation (washable yarn and washed/ironed cotton fabric)
- Snowflake Holiday Gifts for Weller Road Elementary School Students
- Cleaning Supplies for our Refugee Family
- Thoughtful Treasures for Children's Inn
- Phoenix Computers - Donations & Volunteer Opportunities (offsite)

Help Phoenix Computer in their mission "to empower low income families and the disabled by providing low cost refurbished computers." Visit their website, [www.phoenixcomputers.info](http://www.phoenixcomputers.info), to learn more about donating using computer equipment and for volunteer opportunities. Phoenix Computers and its predecessor, Project Reboot, were founded by B'nai Israel member, Gerry Rosenkranz. They have participated in Mitzvah Day for about 20 years.

## **PROJECTS**

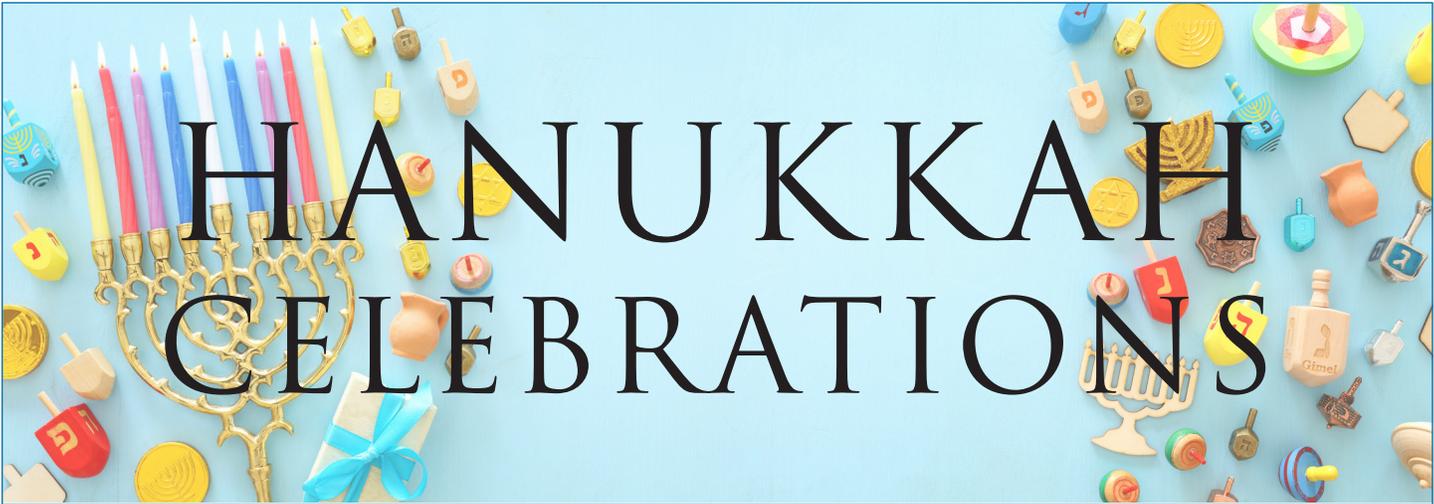
- Brunch for Interfaith Works Women's Shelter (Offsite)
- Thank You Cards for First Responders
- Letters to the Residents of the Hebrew Home

## **ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES**

- Children's Inn Amazon Wish List

*Mitzvah Day is made possible by the generous support of the Mildred and William Kaplan Social Action Endowment.*

Visit [www.bnaisraelcong.org/MitzvahDay](http://www.bnaisraelcong.org/MitzvahDay) for more information about our collections and programs.



# HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS

EIGHT WINTER NIGHTS › EIGHT MOMENTS OF LIGHT

## **Bonim & Machar: Hanukkah Celebrations (Grades K-5)**

Sunday, December 13

1:00-2:00 PM

Gather your supplies and get ready to make some awesome Hanukkah goodies! Play some dreidel and hang out with all of your Bonim and Machar friends. Watch for an email from Sarah Jarvis, Director of Youth Engagement, to register for this program.

## **Light with Light**

with Eliana Light, Artist-in-Residence

Monday, December 14

6:30 PM

On this Festival of Lights, let's sing, celebrate, and explore all the light in our lives. Enjoy music, stories, and candlelighting. Register online at <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/lightwithlight.html>.

## **Festival of Light: Eight Enlightening Hanukkah Facts**

Wednesday, December 16

12:00 PM

Join our *shlich*a Netta Asner-Minster for eight unique facts about Hanukkah in Israel specifically and generally. Go to <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/festivaloflight> for access information.

## **USY: Dreidel Tournament (Grades 9-12)**

Wednesday, December 16

5:00-6:00 PM

Get your dreidels ready for spinning and see who comes out the winner in this epic dreidel tournament! Watch for an email from Sarah Jarvis, Director of Youth Engagement, to register for this program.

## **It's an Israeli Hanukkah Celebration! (for families with kids grades K-6)**

Thursday, December 17

6:30 PM

Ever heard of the Moroccan doughnut, *sfenj*? Know about Israeli inventions? Join our *shlich*a, Netta Asner-Minster, to make *sfenj* while hearing about eight Israeli inventions that have brightened the world. You better listen carefully, there will be a Kahoot as well! Register online at <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/israelihanukkahcelebration> to receive the recipe for the *sfenj*.

LIGHT HANUKKAH CANDLES  
Thursday, December 10 through Thursday, December 17

# SARA & SAMUEL J. LESSANS ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE



## Talmud on Tuesdays Lunch & Learn (formerly Shabbat Afternoon Talmud Study)

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 PM

A Shabbat afternoon favorite moves to the Tuesday lunch hour! We will continue our exploration of the talmudic tractate *Beitzah*, focusing upon the celebration of our festivals. Newcomers are more than welcome to join us. No prior knowledge is necessary. Register online at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/adulteducationprograms](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/adulteducationprograms). Zoom information will be included in the confirmation email.



## Jewish History 101

with Netta Asner-Minster  
Wednesday, December 2  
(continuing for 7 more  
sessions skipping,  
December 23 & 30)  
7:30-8:30 PM

Fee: Member \$36, Nonmember \$50

Explore the major historical periods and events of Jewish history, beginning with the biblical period and up until 1917. Make your way through the Jewish communities of Babylonia, Spain, the Middle East, and Europe. This class serves as introduction to a course in the spring of 2021, Israel's Milestones, presented by the Hartman Institute. Register online at <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/jewishhistory101>. Zoom information included in confirmation email.



## Drop-In Hebrew Prayer Reading

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 22

2:30-3:30 PM

Practice your Hebrew reading of prayer and text with our *Shlichah* Netta Asner-Minster. This is designed for those who want to strengthen their Hebrew reading and familiarity with prayers. Recommended to bring and use the *Sim Shalom* prayerbook for Shabbat and Festivals. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/404382516>

## Friday Morning Torah Study (formerly Shabbat Morning Torah Study)

Friday, December 4 (Vayishlach)

with Danny Siegel

Friday, December 11 (Vayeshev)

with Jerry Reed

10:00-11:00 AM

Engage with the weekly *parsha* during these interactive discussions led by community members and by clergy. Contact Wendy Fanaroff with questions. Register online at <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/fridaymorningtorahstudy>. Zoom information will be included in the confirmation email.

## Singing Circle

with Cantor Sarah Bolts

Thursday, December 3

7:15-8:00 PM

Prepare for Kabbalat Shabbat services by singing together and learning new tunes with Cantor Sarah Bolts.



Please register online at <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/singingcirclewithcantorbolts>. Zoom information included in confirmation email.

## Israel's Most Daring Operations

with Netta Asner-Minster

Thursday, December 3

7:30-8:30 PM

Join our *shlichah*, Netta Asner-Minster, for this series exploring Israel's most daring operations. Learn how Israel created an intelligence agency that has become world-renowned and about the less-known fascinating operations that showcase the Mossad's unique abilities. Final session is on January 28.



Register online at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/israeldaringoperations](https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/israeldaringoperations). Zoom information included in confirmation email.

## Abraham Accords Peace Agreement: Diplomatic Relations and Full Normalization Between Israel and the United Arab Emirates

with Alan Ronkin

Director of the Washington DC Regional Office, American Jewish Committee

Thursday, December 10

7:00 PM

The AJC has played a key role in facilitating relationships between Jewish and Israeli leaders and leaders in several Gulf countries, including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Alan will enlighten us on the collaborative activities that are underway and prospects of other Arab countries developing formal diplomatic relations with Israel.

Alan Ronkin is an accomplished advocate and career Jewish professional who has been involved in Jewish community relations for nearly 30 years. Alan focuses on relationship building and policy development to support a society that reflects the best of Jewish values including support for Israel, equity, and appreciation of difference. He has built relationships with numerous community leaders including elected officials and clergy, led successful campaigns to defeat anti-Israel ballot initiatives, and advocated on behalf of domestic urban concerns.

This program is co-sponsored by Men's Club and Sisterhood. Please RSVP to Steve Goldberg ([smgold999@gmail.com](mailto:smgold999@gmail.com)).

## MEN'S CLUB

### Hearing Men's Voices: A Men's Club Monthly Dialogue on Men's Concerns

Sunday, December 13

8:00 PM

Men's Club members meet monthly for open conversation on personal, societal, cultural, religious, and political, and/or economic concerns led by Jeff Moss. RSVP to Wayne Berman ([wayneb4me@aol.com](mailto:wayneb4me@aol.com)).

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/  
adulteducation](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/adulteducation)

B'NAI ISRAEL HINEINI

GIVING WEEK

November 29–December 6

JOIN US

B'nai Israel's Hineini Annual Campaign provides critically-needed support, enabling us to sustain our high level of excellence. It's a call, and an opportunity to respond,

**"Hineini, here I am,"** and want to help. As we cannot stand shoulder-to-shoulder at this time, we must stand up in other ways.

During Hineini Giving Week, we will CELEBRATE B'nai Israel in your own words and learn the IMPACT that our Hineini Campaign makes on our community. Check your inbox for daily Giving Week emails!

If you have not already joined the hundreds of B'nai Israel members in supporting the Hineini Annual Campaign, now is the time. You can:

Make a Donation

Make a Pledge

*If you typically make charitable donations at another point in the year or just wish to not pay your contribution immediately, support Hineini Giving Week by making a pledge. B'nai Israel members can have a pledge added to your account to be paid during this fiscal year running through June 30, 2021.*

Thank you to all of those who have already contributed to our Hineini Annual Campaign. Membership dues, education tuition, and all other resources combined do not fully support the budget necessary to provide for our B'nai Israel community's needs, and this year we are facing an income short fall in the wake of not collecting High Holiday seat revenue. Thank you for supporting B'nai Israel Congregation!

If you have any questions or prefer to make your pledge over the phone, please contact Avery Sudow, Development Director, at [avery@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:avery@bnaiisraelcong.org) or 301-816-5569.

Visit [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/givingweek](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/givingweek) to be a part of Hineini Giving Week today!

B'NAI ISRAEL

HINEINI  
Annual Campaign  
2020–2021

**We are in this together.  
Our Hineini Annual  
Campaign is as important  
as ever.**

Our community's generous support each year for our Hineini annual campaign allows us to do so much to foster Jewish identity and grow our entire B'nai Israel community. Thanks to your support, we are continuing to host meaningful programming and worship opportunities that keep us connected even as we socially distance.

As we cannot stand shoulder-to-shoulder at this time, we must stand up in other ways. Supporting the institutions that have held us up in this crisis is not just philanthropic this year, it is imperative.

This is the time to support Jewish life. This is the time to build on our success. This is the time to make a difference. We hope you will consider raising your hand to say "Hineini/ Here I am" with a gift to this year's campaign.

Make your gift today by returning the pledge card you received in the mail, visiting [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/hineinicampaign](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/hineinicampaign), or by contacting our Development Director, Avery Sudow (301-816-5569, [avery@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:avery@bnaiisraelcong.org)).



# EARLY CHILDHOOD

by RENE LESSANS  
Curriculum Specialist



As our greater community delves deeper into the topic of equity, we as early childhood educators must look at the skills needed to bring equity, inclusion, and diversity to our world. How does this learning look in early childhood education? What we do now can impact our students for a lifetime. We begin this process by helping young children develop the skills of respect, perspective taking, sympathy and mindfulness.



These skills are incorporated into our everyday program at B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School. Children play "family", learning to care for others. This often involves serving meals and taking care of the small baby dolls. They ask questions like, "Would you like some strawberries?" and exclaim, "My baby is crying. She needs a bottle.!" Learning to observe a friend's facial expression and identify their feelings is another way to learn perspective.

A teacher might ask a child, "Why is your friend crying? What can we do to help him?" Animals in the classroom such as fish or ladybugs require awareness of other living beings needs as well.



Pairing children for "Buddy Work" also helps children learn to listen to others. In making a keychain, they ask their friend, "What color bead should I put on next?" The children learn to hear their friend's wishes.



Through yoga practice the children learn to "see" their breath as a small animal on their tummy rises and falls, and to take a moment to relax. When we are calm, it is easier to listen and hear what others are saying. Reading a variety of classroom literature that represents individuals of all different races, cultures, and backgrounds exposes children to others different than themselves.

Our children are aware of the important people working at B'nai Israel. They know the clergy, school administrators, security officers and maintenance crew are very special to our community. They learn to acknowledge, thank, and respectfully interact with everyone they encounter. Through these actions, they learn to see, understand and value the work of the people who help us learn, keep us safe, and maintain our environment.

Our teachers Glenda Koby and Sherri Finkel have many opportunities during their full day program to be role models. They prompt children as they pass the different adults in the building. Walking by Jonathan, the security guard, each afternoon as the children leave, the teachers encourage them to say, "goodbye" and now many initiate the conversations on their own, even wishing Jonathan "Shabbat shalom".

The children also learn the responsibility of keeping the classroom clean and tidy within their abilities and their efforts are complimented by the hard work of the maintenance staff. They are sure to say "hello" to all by name and express their gratefulness for the specific work that each person contributes to our school.

The playground is frequently wet in the morning, making many surfaces slippery. The maintenance staff come each day to dry the surfaces with towels and mops. The children take notice and have the opportunity to say, "Thank you". With towels in hand, they have begun to join in drying the playground. They ask where they can help and are directed to specific pieces of equipment. They are delighted to work alongside Mr. Marco, Mr. Luis, Mr. Jose or others. Each child has chosen to come out to help and each has shown great pride in participating in the purposeful work.



We are thankful for all the maintenance staff does so the children have a safe place to play and learn. We are especially grateful to these individuals who allow the children to join, provide direction to meaningful tasks and for making each child feel they are making an important contribution. They are excellent teachers. Joining in this teamwork is another way children learn about respect, responsibility, cooperation and the value of teamwork.

There are so many ways to bring the underlying skills of equity, inclusion, and diversity to our youngest learners. As the Curriculum Specialist, it is my responsibility to explore new and exciting learning opportunities for children. Bringing this most important learning to our school is an integral part of my work and I feel honored to be doing my small part in healing the world.



## YOUTH & EDUCATION

by RABBI PENINA ALEXANDER  
Assistant Principal

As the days grow shorter and nightfall seems to surprise us with how early it arrives, we are fortunate to have a festival in our calendar to help us manage this. Hanukkah, our festival of lights, adds warmth to the cold nights by commanding us to light candles each night and pierce the darkness with its display, both for our benefit inside and even more so for those outside. Our job on Hanukkah is to showcase the miracles we celebrate by placing our *hanukkiyah* (Hanukkah *menorah*) in a place where passersby can see and marvel.

But what about our inner light? What helps us keep it shining and growing? Psalm 27 teaches: “*Kaveh el-Adonai hazak v’ya’amez libecha v’kaveh el Adonai*. Look to God. Be strong and strengthen your heart. Look to God.” This psalm is said daily in the month leading up to the High Holidays as a way to inspire us to start the preparations for the Days of Judgement and Atonement. The repetition in the verse of focusing ourselves to God serves to remind us of an important piece of the High Holiday season, but the middle of the verse is equally worthy of attention. The imperative to strengthen our hearts has two elements: one is to strengthen ourselves and the other is to reach into our hearts to find and use that strength. *Ometz lev*, the term that emerges from the verse, is that inner strength that we can draw upon when we encounter challenges that affect us emotionally.

This year, our Talmud Torah students in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are delving into a new values-based curriculum in their Sunday classes called *La'briut: To Our Health and Wellness*. Via five values-focused modules, learners gain a variety of tools that build resiliency and supportive strategies for better managing the challenges that life can throw their way, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. We have spent October and November delving into the concept of *sukkat shalom*, identifying and creating spaces in our lives where we feel supported and comforted.

We have now turned our attention to *ometz lev* and to the notion that it takes inner strength of the heart to recognize when our emotions may be overtaking us and how to find the tools to help return us to a regulated state. Using examples from Torah and Jewish history, students will look to the examples of others in how to respond to challenging situation with strength of heart. They will spend time recognizing moments when they, too, were confronted with feelings that threaten to overtake them and how to draw upon their *ometz lev* to bring themselves back. They will hopefully be able to help those around them as well by sharing what they have learned. (For a short video on this module, click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dViTDQGcQkc&feature=youtu.be>)

Whether your kids are in Talmud Torah or not, we hope you will remember that you do not only need to find strength, comfort and regulation from outside your home or outside yourselves. We only need to practice cultivating our inner strength, our *ometz lev*, to remind us that we are resilient in the face of challenges and that we are able to channel what we are feeling into helpful or positive behaviors.

I wish you a happy Hanukkah and may your lights shine bright for others and for your family!



## December

### TOT SHABBAT

(Ages 5 and under with parent)

**December 5 & December 19**  
9:30 AM

### JUNIOR CONGREGATION

(Grades K–6)

**December 5** (3rd Grade Shabbat)  
**December 12** (4th Grade Shabbat)  
10:30 AM

### FAMILY MINYAN

**December 19**

10:15 AM

Tune in for these special Shabbat morning services with meaningful learning, spirited prayer, and engaging Torah reading. All are welcome. Contact Rabbi Berkowitz with questions ([mhberkowitz@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:mhberkowitz@bnaiisraelcong.org)).

### TEEN MINYAN

(Grades 7–12)

**December 5**  
10:30 AM

### BIRTHDAY SHABBAT

**December 5**





## YOUTH EVENTS

by SARAH JARVIS

Director of Youth Engagement

My favorite time of year is upon us, Hanukkah! This was my favorite holiday growing up, not for the reasons you may think like presents and no school. I love this holiday because of the traditions it brings along with it, such as lighting the menorah with your family each night. Growing up, we did not get to eat dinner together each night, but we always lit the *menorah* together. We would recite the prayers, take turns lighting the candles, and enjoy time together. These are memories I hold in my heart to this day as a way to remain close to my family, even though we are now living far apart.

For the past eight months we have all had to come up with new traditions for the celebration of our holidays. Whether it's moving everything outdoors, online, or doing it differently, we have all changed the way that we celebrate to fit this new way of life.

This has been something I have found to be especially beautiful. I have created new traditions with Aaron. I have had the opportunity to spend more holidays with my family in Florida, albeit virtually. I have had the chance to sit back and reflect on my own personal Judaism, creating new traditions and returning to older ones. We have started bringing in Shabbat by lighting candles, which is a great way for us to mark the end of a busy week working at synagogues. We make Shabbat dinner together and listen in on each other's services on Saturday morning. These new little traditions help us to shape our intentions and meaningful for us during these times.

I hope that in this time I can continue to make new traditions and make Hanukkah,

my favorite holiday, even more special this year. This year we are doing all of our normal traditions such as lighting the *menorah* and making *latkes*. But we are still thinking of how we can be intentional and create at least one new tradition this year. If you have created new traditions with your family email me to share.

One way that I am making it more special is by coordinating some awesome youth programming during Hanukkah! Bonim and Machar are doing Hanukkah crafts on December 13th. USY is having a dreidel tournament and Kadima is having an awesome Havdallah program. I can't wait to celebrate with all of you.

Carl & Doris Lane

## YOUTH DEPARTMENT EVENTS

**BONIM & MACHAR (GRADES K-5)**

**Hanukkah Celebration**

Sunday, December 13

1:00 PM

Gather your supplies and get ready to make some awesome Hanukkah goodies! Play some dreidel and hang out with all of your Bonim and Machar friends.

**KADIMA (GRADES 6-8)**

**Virtual Havdalah**

Saturday, December 19

7:00 PM

Join us as we say goodbye to Shabbat and hello to a new week with all your Kadima friends.

**USY (GRADES 9-12)**

**Dreidel Tournament**

Wednesday, December 16

5:00 PM

Get your dreidels ready for spinning and see who comes out the winner in this epic dreidel tournament!

**Teen Minyan (Grades 7-12)**

Saturday, December 5

10:30 AM

## Calling All Day School Families!

B'nai Day School parents are invited, welcome, and encouraged to join the Day School Committee. In past years, the committee has planned a number of popular events over the course of the year to engage Day School families in *shul* life. We may not have as many opportunities for in-person gatherings this year, but we are still committed to building a "community within a community" at B'nai.

Stay tuned for more information about an upcoming planning meeting and feel free to contact co-chairs Leah Tulin ([leahtulin@gmail.com](mailto:leahtulin@gmail.com)) or Paula Correa Silver ([pcorrea2002@yahoo.com](mailto:pcorrea2002@yahoo.com)) with any questions.

## COLLEGE CONNECTION!

If you are a college student or the parent of one, sign up for College Connection today. Packages have included Starbucks gift cards, holidays gifts, candy, and more.

Don't miss out!

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/college](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/college)



## BLUMBERG-ZALIS FAMILY LIBRARY

by JILL GENDELMAN  
Librarian

Hanukkah is here and while we can't meet in person, there are several ways to celebrate in your home. The library has wonderful Hanukkah materials for you and your children, including stories, craft books, movies and cookbooks for all ages. If you would like any material(s), go to <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/library> and scroll down to our on-line catalog. Use "Keyword" and the search terms Hanukah; Chanukah; Hanukkah, Chanukkah and Maccabees (each one separately). You can select materials by dropping them in your book bag. Send me your list ([bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org)) and I will be happy to leave your selections at the guards desk or deliver them to your home if you do not live too far from the synagogue. We also have some lovely on-line programs throughout the synagogue. Below are our library programs, always free and anyone is welcome. Have a happy and safe Hanukkah.

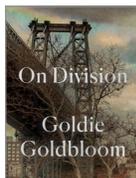
### Upcoming Programs

#### B'nai Israel Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, December 9  
11:30 AM-12:30 PM  
*On Division* by Goldie  
Goldbloom

*On Division* is an excavation of one woman's life, a story of awakening at middle age, and a thoughtful examination of the dynamics of self and collective identity. It is a steady-eyed look inside insular communities that also celebrates their comforts. It is a rare portrait of a long, happy marriage. And it is an unforgettable new novel from a writer whose imagination is matched only by the depth of her humanity.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/95377941120>



#### Monday Night Movie Discussion

Monday, December 21  
7:30-8:30 PM

*Is that You?* (1 hr. 23 min.; English)



This award-winning Israeli Film is the story of a 60 year old Israeli film projectionist, who has been fired from his job and is going now to the U.S. in a search the love of his youth. It is a romantic journey to 'The Road Not Taken' in life. To watch this movie prior to the discussion, rent it for \$2.99 on Amazon or FREE with Amazon Prime.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93798601215>

### Reading Recommendations

#### *Confessions of an Investigative Reporter* by Matthew Schwartz

Award-winning investigative reporter Matthew Schwartz reveals his inner thoughts and the inside stories viewers never saw. *Confessions of an Investigative Reporter* is funny, fast-moving, and dishy. It provides a rare look inside the world of local news from someone who spent four decades in it. It's not only for news viewers. It's for anyone who cares about justice and their community.

#### *The Order* by Daniel Silva

From Daniel Silva, the internationally acclaimed #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, comes a riveting new thriller featuring art restorer and legendary spy Gabriel Allon. Swiftly paced and elegantly rendered, *The Order* will hold readers spellbound, from its opening passages to its breathtaking final twist of plot. It is a novel of friendship and faith in a perilous and uncertain world.

#### *Half Moon Bay* by Jonathan Kellerman

Deputy Coroner Clay Edison discovers that buried secrets can be deadly in this riveting thriller from a father-son team of bestselling authors who write "brilliant, page-turning fiction" (Stephen King).

#### *Mistress of the Ritz* by Melanie Benjamin

A captivating novel based on the story of the extraordinary real-life American woman who secretly worked for the French Resistance during World War II—while playing hostess to the invading Germans at the iconic Hôtel Ritz in Paris—from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Aviator's Wife* and *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*.

## Introducing Our New JSSA Synagogue Liaison

jssa

NAOMI LEVINE  
MS, LGMFT  
Synagogue  
Liaison



The JSSA Synagogue Liaison program is a partnership between JSSA and local congregations as an additional support to families. As a JSSA Synagogue Liaison, Naomi LeVine, LGMFT, provides consultations, support, and referrals to members of our synagogue regarding a wide variety of concerns.

Naomi is a marriage and family therapist licensed in Maryland. In addition to couples and families, Naomi works with children, adolescents, and adults with a wide variety of concerns. She has experience providing mental health support in community clinic, domestic violence outreach, summer camp, and private practice settings. Her areas of focus include anxiety, emotional regulation, issues with self-image and identity, navigating transitions, pre-marital counseling, parenting, communication, and separation and divorce.

If you need support, please contact Naomi ([nlevine@jssa.org](mailto:nlevine@jssa.org), 240-405-6705).



## ISRAEL CORNER

by **NETTA ASNER-MINSTER**  
Congregational *Shlichah*

And just like that, almost a year has flown by. A year ago I shared in my Scroll article that on December 29 I would be marrying John, and now we will be marking our one-year anniversary at the end of this month. Looking back, I am very lucky and blessed that we got married when we did. But since then, this year has been difficult and become such a blur.

Since March the days and weeks have just blended together, making it difficult to truly feel the time that has passed. However, something that has really helped me personally is enjoying the peace and quiet of Shabbat.

I know I am not the only one who has felt this. There is an organization called One Table that assists 20s and 30s around the U.S. to create opportunities for Shabbat dinners. They do this through an online platform to sign up for dinners, as well as by providing some financial support for food and resources. In a study they did with their participants, they shared: “every day feels like Tuesday until Shabbat.” I have quoted it often and many others have said that it resonated with them.

Since the end of the *haggim* this year, my Shabbat has become very meaningful by reading two books: *A History of the Jews* by Paul Johnson (1987) and *A History of the Jews from an Israeli Perspective* by Asael Abelman (2019). And yes, I am reading them both at the same time. Not only have I enjoyed the peace and quiet of Shabbat, but I also have received a new perspective of my own life reading about the history of the Jewish people and what has been the reality of our ancestors.

While 2021 looks as unclear as 2020 was, I know that I and many others have found a routine in this new reality. There are many things to be thankful for, many things that we now can do for ourselves and our community during this time, and for me one of those things is learning about the Jewish people’s history that has led us to today.

On December 2, I will be begin teaching an adult education class, “Jewish History 101,” in which I will focus on Jewish history, from our nation’s beginning until 1917 (part 2 will be in the spring!), focusing on archaeological evidence, different Jewish communities worldwide, the development of Jewish centers, as well as the development of the Jewish people. Researching about Jewish roots, history, ancestry, and dispersion all over the world, has been fascinating, eye-opening, and meaningful during this time.

Focusing on history at this time has made me think differently about my wedding ceremony a year ago. This ceremony in a sense ties me to generations and generations back to Jewish people who have had the same exact ceremony as me. I find that personally meaningful and beautiful, and hope to share with you that significance along with the uniqueness of Jewish history.

*Hanukkah Sameah* and Happy New Year!



*The congregational shlichah program is made possible by a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.*

## Israel Date with Netta!

Are you interested in learning how to make Israeli food? Or learning how to play an Israeli game? Or do you have some burning questions about Israel?

Families, adults, and teens are invited to arrange a virtual or social distanced “Israel date” with our *shlichah*, Netta! Please fill out this form and Netta will get back to you soon.

<https://bit.ly/3aR9701>  
[netta@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:netta@bnaiisraelcong.org)

## UPCOMING ISRAEL PROGRAMS

### Drop-In Hebrew Prayer Reading

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 22  
2:30–3:30 PM  
See page 8.

### Jewish History 101

Wednesday, December 2  
7:30–8:30 PM  
See page 8.

### Israel’s Most Daring Operations

with Netta Asner-Minster  
Thursday, December 3  
7:30–8:30 PM  
See page 8.

### Festival of Light: Eight Enlightening Hanukkah Facts

Wednesday, December 16  
12:00 PM  
See page 7.



## It’s an Israeli Hanukkah Celebration!

(for families with kids grades K–6)

Thursday, December 17  
6:30 PM

Ever heard of the Moroccan doughnut, *sfnj*? Know about Israeli inventions? Join our *shlichah*, Netta Asner-Minster, to make *sfnj* while hearing about eight Israeli inventions that have brightened the world. You better listen carefully, there will be a Kahoot as well!  
See page 9 for details.

# SOCIAL ACTION

## SNOWFLAKE Holiday Gift Project



This year, once again, B'nai Israel will be helping to make holiday wishes come true for children identified by the Linkages for Learning Coordinator at Weller Road Elementary School. Donated gifts and gift cards will be collected in December. Contact Signe Wetrogan ([signe0420@verizon.net](mailto:signe0420@verizon.net)) with questions. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aacac22a02-snowflake5>.

## Meals for Interfaith Works Women's Shelter

Sunday, December 6  
11:30 AM

B'nai Israel will be providing brunch for the women at the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter at 11:30 AM on Sunday, December 6. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal. The meal items can be purchased or prepared in your home. There will be various options for drop off of your items. The meal items should serve 8 to 10 people and be in disposable pans. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aacac22a02-brunch1>. For more information, contact Signe Wetrogan ([signe0420@verizon.net](mailto:signe0420@verizon.net)) or Wayne Berman ([waynebe4mc@aol.com](mailto:waynebe4mc@aol.com)).

Let Us Build a World of Kindness (Ps. 89:3)

# Mitzvah Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Yvonne Klinger & Abigail Bortnick Chairs

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mitzvahday](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mitzvahday)

See page 6 for details.

Support B'nai Israel's

# PROJECT MANNA

**Urgently Needed Food Items**  
(though we take all nonperishable food items)

- Instant Oatmeal Packets (Original Flavor)
- Brown Rice
- Whole Grain Pasta
- Tuna/Salmon/Chicken (in Water)
- Dry/Canned Beans (Low Sodium)
- Natural Nut Butters
- Canned Vegetables (Low Sodium)
- Canned Fruit (in Juice)
- Fruit Cups
- Shelf-stable Individual Milk Boxes
- Cooking Oils & Spices



*Thank you for your commitment to this life-giving mitzvah!* All food items will be directed to the Manna Food Center.



Confirmation Class of 1988

## The Fine Arts Committee Needs Your Historic B'nai Israel Photos!

The Fine Arts Committee is working on a project to display the history of B'nai Israel through photographs. We are in need of the following:

### Confirmation Class

photos for the following years:  
any photos prior to 1954,  
1958, 1959, 1964, 1967, 1970, 1972-1982,  
1984-1986, 1994-2001, 2009-2013.

### Historical photos

of B'nai Israel synagogue and/or events that have taken place throughout its long history—weddings, b'nai mitzvahs, programs, graduations, class photos, etc.

If you have any of these photos, please consider sending them to us to reproduce. Your original photographs will be returned once they are copied.

Please contact Randy Sager ([randysager@gmail.com](mailto:randysager@gmail.com)) for more information.

## The new and expanding B'nai Israel Judaica Museum

is actively soliciting fine antique/vintage Judaica for its collection. If you have any items you would like to donate or would consider lending to B'nai Israel for display, please contact Randy Sager, Fine Arts Chairperson ([randysager@gmail.com](mailto:randysager@gmail.com)).

# MEN'S CLUB

## Service to B'nai Israel & Community Strengthening Jewish Values

### OCTOBER

October saw three of our signature programs all transitioning to Zoom with great success! The annual Health and Fitness Expo featured "Ask the Doctors" on Sunday, October 25 featuring Drs. Matthew Mintz, Peter Scherer and Bryan Steinberg. The format was a panel discussion with Zoomers given the chance to submit questions which all three doctors fielded. This program received rave reviews from both the Zoomers and the doctors, so much so that the doctors agreed to perhaps making this a quarterly event through the pandemic. We've heard from many congregants that they were sorry they didn't participate (about 35 did) so we hope you will take advantage of future doctor programs. In addition, as part of the Health and Fitness week, Dr. Dan Shapiro a developmental-behavioral pediatrician, on Thursday, October 29, presented a talk entitled "Supporting Children through the Pandemic and Beyond". Those school-aged parents who attended were very appreciative of the valuable perspective Dr. Dan shared. We want to thank the four doctors who participated in these events as well as Bram Hass for organizing and Andy Iserson for running this Zoom as well as other programs.

Our annual Political Forum was a HUGE Zoom success with all four area congressional candidates participating, each receiving a half-hour to state their case and field submitted questions from our moderator Jonathan Salant. Thanks goes to Jonathan for planning and hosting the event and to his son Ziggy for running the Zoom from Boston!

### NOVEMBER

Two major programs occurred in November connected to B'nai's initiative to learn more about racial justice in our community: the self-guided social-distanced in-person walking tour of Historic African-American Rockville on November 8 and the Zoom talk on the 12th featuring Ms. Miriam Bunlow of the Peerless Rockville Historic Museum. We capped the walking tour at 25 for social-distancing and the weather cooperated. The



Thursday Zoom presentation expanded on what we learned and provided us with a more extensive history of downtown Rockville. Many thanks to Steve Goldberg for organizing these two well-received programs.

Hearing Men's Voices, a small group discussion on November 15 led by Jeff Moss, was a frank discussion on whatever was on the minds of those participating with no holds barred.

On November 19, continuing with the social and racial justice initiative, our Jews and Brews featured Rabbi Safra addressing the Jewish perspective on these issues. This frank and lively discussion was open to all congregants.

### DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6, as part of Mitzvah Day, the Men's Club, Sisterhood and Social Action Committee will be delivering meals to the Women's Interfaith Shelter in Rockville. To participate and for more information please see the information on page 6.

On Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 PM, please join Alan Ronkin, director of the Washington DC regional office of the AJC, for a discussion of the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement. Details can be found on page 8. This event is co-sponsored with the Sisterhood.

Jews and Brews will resume in January. Wayne and I wish everyone a "Hanukkah sameah" and a safe and healthy end of the year. Let's SAY GOODBYE (and good riddance) to 2020 and welcome 2021 with "refuah shelayah"!

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mensclub](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mensclub)

## SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP

### Are you ready for Hanukkah?

We are open by appointment only  
and follow CDC rules for safety.

We have many new  
beautiful arrivals of:

*Tallitot*

Jewelry

Challah Boards

Challah Covers

Menorahs

Gifts for a New Baby

Wedding Gifts



To make an appointment,  
contact Debbie Anolik  
(kilona613@gmail.com) or  
Lisa Isenberg (301-963-4511).



## FOR ALL YOUR JUDAICA NEEDS

# SISTERHOOD



## Meals for Interfaith Works Women's Shelter

Sunday, December 6, 11:30 AM  
B'nai Israel will be providing brunch for the women at the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter at 11:30 AM on Sunday, December 6. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal. The meal items can be purchased or prepared in your home. There will be various options to drop off your items. The meal items should serve 8 to 10 people and be in disposable pans. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aacac22a02-brunch1>. For more information, contact Signe Wetrogan (signe0420@verizon.net) or Wayne Berman (waynebe4me@aol.com).

## Festival of Light: Eight Enlightening Hanukkah Facts

Wednesday, December 16, 12:00 PM

Our *shlich*a Netta Asner-Minster will surprise us with eight unique facts about Hanukkah in Israel.



## Judaica Shop - Open for Business!

By appointment only. Are you ready for Hanukkah? We have beautiful *hanukiyot*, candles, and gifts. Contact Debbie Anolik (kilona613@gmail.com). See page 16 for more information.

## Of course, flowers for Hanukkah!

Bring joy on the Holiday of Light by sending flowers to those you love. Arrangements can be customized! \$55 for local delivery and \$65 for out-of-area delivery. Contact Linda Heller for details (hellerbehr@gmail.com).

## Washington Jewish Week

*Washington Jewish Week* subscriptions are \$55 for one year and \$100 for two years (for seniors 55+, \$42 and \$76). Contact Linda Reisner for more information (301-519-1776, [Ireisner@me.com](mailto:Ireisner@me.com)).

## SAVE THE DATE

### Sisterhood Shabbat

Saturday, January 16

### Women's League Seaboard Region Spring Conference (Virtual)

Sunday, May 23

## What is Torah Fund? (Part Two)

Torah Fund supports five seminaries located in New York City, Los Angeles, Jerusalem, Buenos Aires, and Potsdam, Germany.



Each of the five schools also is part of a Judaica campus with a mission and function that is far broader than training rabbis. JTS, American Jewish University, Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, The Schechter Institutes, and University of Potsdam seek to be centers for Jewish learning for all Jews.

## The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS)

JTS was founded in 1886 through the efforts of two distinguished rabbis, Dr. Sabato Morais and Dr. H. Pereira Mendes, along with a group of prominent lay leaders from Sephardic congregations in Philadelphia and New York. Its mission was to preserve the knowledge and practice of historical Judaism. In 1887, JTS held its first class of ten students in the vestry of the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue, New York City's oldest congregation

JTS is a preeminent institution of Jewish higher education that integrates rigorous academic scholarship and teaching with a commitment to strengthening Jewish tradition, Jewish lives, and Jewish communities.

The Seminary's mission is based on six principles: Scholarship in Service to Judaism and the Jewish Community, Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Synergy (bringing students from its different schools together), Partnerships (with other institutions), Reaching New Types of Students, Engaging and Strengthening Conservative Judaism and the Religious Center.

The following schools are connected to JTS: List College (dual BAs with Columbia or Barnard), The William Davidson School (teacher training and educational leadership), The Rabbinical School, The Gerson Kekst Graduate School (master's and doctoral degrees in Jewish Studies), and H.L. Miller Cantorial School.

B'nai is very proud that graduates of JTS include our own Rabbis Michael Safra and Mitchell Berkowitz, and Rabbi Emeritus Jonathan Schnitzer. Rabbi Emeritus Matthew Simon received an honorary degree as well. In addition, Sharon Safra received her graduate degree from the Davidson School at JTS.

Contact Sue Taffet ([suetaffet@aol.com](mailto:suetaffet@aol.com)) and Debra Fredman ([jnfpntent@msn.com](mailto:jnfpntent@msn.com)), Torah Fund Co-Chairs to make a contribution.

## Mah Jongg Cards

B'nai Israel Sisterhood will order 2021 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$9 and the large card \$10. Orders must be received by Wednesday, January 27, 2021. The cards will be mailed directly to your home by the National Mah Jongg League approximately late March, 2021. Contact Harriet Levi at 301-598-3957 or Linda Reisner at 301-519-1776 ([Ireisner@me.com](mailto:Ireisner@me.com)) with questions.

### Mah Jongg Card Order

Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Is this a new address?  Yes  No

Phone Number

Email Address

# Standard card @ \$9 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Large print @ \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form along with a check payable to B'nai Israel Sisterhood (with a notation of Mah Jongg cards in the memo line) to:

Harriet Levi  
3701 International Dr. # 712  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
Attn. Mah Jongg

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/sisterhood](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/sisterhood)

# MAZAL TOV מזל טוב

## December Anniversaries

Matthew and Laura Gittleson – 2  
Marc and Meg Gold – 2  
Jonathan and Wendy Schiff – 2  
Alex Amdur and Gabriela Rosenberg – 4  
Dan and Lisa Miller – 5  
Adam and Michelle Shapourian – 8  
Lorin and Arleen Luchs – 10  
Don and Carol Vogel – 10  
Robin Wind-Faillace and  
Walter Faillace – 10  
Joseph and Rina Gelman – 14  
Jonathan and Amanda Stein – 15  
Steven and Gail Niedelman – 16  
Eli and Helain Dicker – 17  
Karen and Manny Gerton – 18  
Harry and Judy Lapping – 18  
Mort and Matlee Yadin – 18  
Danny and Debbie Glazer – 20  
Richard and Carolyn Hayman – 21  
Alan and Robin Schulman – 21  
Charles and Amanda Lehman – 21  
Craig and Bonnie Dickman – 22  
Steve and Eleanor Kahan – 22  
Ira and Harriet Platt – 22  
Larry and Sherry Wachtel – 22  
Leonard and Ruth Binn – 23  
Manny and Joan Eisenfeld – 23  
Michael and Patti Goldman – 23  
David and Natalie Zatz – 23  
Bob and Bonnie Chernikoff – 24  
Irv and Nancy Shapiro – 24  
Martin and Elaine Book – 25  
Stanley and Madelene Brager – 26  
Martin and Susan Kneller – 26  
Arthur and Patricia Neustadt – 26  
Larry and Susan Schor – 26  
Steven and Margie Hofberg – 27  
Helio and Leslie Zwi – 27  
Nathan and Marlene Cheney – 28  
Michael and Heather Jacobsohn – 28  
Stanley and Emily Kotler – 28  
Adam and Stephanie Lenkin – 30  
Jason and Jennifer Schwartz – 30  
Bruce and Judy Shapiro – 30  
Dan and Jamie Susskind – 30  
Brandon and Dana Hirsch – 31

## and Mazal Tov to...

**Gail and Paul Chod** on the birth of their grandson, Jacob Russell Chod. Mazal tov to the proud parents, Lauren and Bradley Chod.

**Amanda and Charles Lehman** on the birth of their son, Noah Barnet Lehman.

**Becca and Shawn Eskow and Christine and Yale Goldberg** on the birth of their son and grandson, Brooks Cohen Eskow.

**Cantor Ilana and Dr. Lawrence Wolpert** on the birth of their granddaughter, Olivia Luna Bauer. Mazal tov to the proud parents, Dr. Maya and Steven Bauer.

**Suzanne Edwards** on the birth of her granddaughter, Dalia Elyse Edwards. Mazal tov to the proud parents, Stephanie Weiss and Barry Edwards.

**Drs. Robin and Scott Koenig** on the birth of their granddaughter, Joni Rose Meyer. Mazal tov to the proud parents, Sara Koenig and Joel Meyer.

**Tamar and Justin Epner** on the birth of their son, Cobi Dayan Epner.

**Kathleen and Larry Fishbein** on the birth of their granddaughter, Madison Wynne Fishbein. Mazal tov to the proud parents, Lauren and Adam Fishbein.

**Judy and Howard Kramer** on the birth of their grandson, Henry Isadore Kramer. Mazal tov to the proud parents, Eva Davis and Justin Kramer.

**Sarah Jarvis and Aaron Berner** on their engagement.



We are all touched by  
B'nai Israel.

It makes a difference in our lives. And it is our endeavor to ensure that it makes a difference in our community for many years to come.

*As our parents planted for us, let us sow the seeds that will make a difference for our children and grandchildren.*

–Talmud Ta'anit 23a

CREATE YOUR JEWISH  
LEGACY

[www.jewishlegacygw.org](http://www.jewishlegacygw.org)

As we celebrate our successes, we are grateful for the commitment and generosity of those who came before us. Dues and annual donations do not provide sufficient resources for all we must do to sustain Jewish life at B'nai Israel. And so we invite and encourage you to create your own legacy.

It is so easy to make a planned gift or bequest through B'nai Israel's Create a Jewish Legacy Program. Simply include B'nai Israel in your estate planning as a beneficiary in your will, under your retirement plan or life insurance policy. It carries no financial obligation in the present, but it will have a huge and lasting impact on our future.

Avery Sudow  
Development Director  
301-816-5569  
[avery@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:avery@bnaiisraelcong.org)

# IN SYMPATHY זכרונם לברכה

*B'nai Israel Congregation mourns the loss of our beloved member:*

**DAVID MELTZER  
HARRIET REINES**

*B'nai Israel Congregation extend sympathies to our members:*

Michelle Bernstein on the loss of her father, **Harold Doses**.

Joel Shankman on the loss of his grandnephew, **Matthew David Loudon**.

Sherry Meltzer, Thelma Fisher, and Michael and Lisa Fisher on the loss of their husband, son-in-law, and brother-in-law, **David Meltzer**.

Jackie Mendelson on the loss of her sister-in-law, **Geraldine Mendelson**.

Melissa Ginsberg on the loss of her grandfather, **Arvin Ringgold**.

Fred Schneider on the loss of his brother, **Theodore "Ted" Schneider**.

Mindy Tevlowitz on the loss of her father, **Benjamin Weinstein**.

Visit

**[MyJewishGeneticHealth.com](http://MyJewishGeneticHealth.com)**  
a free website designed to educate the Jewish community about genetic health conditions for which they may be at higher risk.

**[MyJewishGeneticHealth.com](http://MyJewishGeneticHealth.com)**  
consists of individual "lessons" covering various topics relevant to the Jewish community, including specific diseases and medical conditions, genetic technologies, and bioethical issues.

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose...  
...a time to be born, and a time to die..."*

## B'NAI ISRAEL CEMETERIES

B'nai Israel Congregation maintains three attractive cemetery locations.

**B'nai Israel Historic Cemetery**  
Oxon Hill, Maryland

**Judean Memorial Gardens**  
Olney, Maryland

**Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park**  
Clarksburg, Maryland

For information, please contact our executive director, Hal Ossman at the synagogue office (301-816-5563, [hossman@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:hossman@bnaiisraelcong.org)).

## Opportunities to Memorialize and Honor Your Loved Ones

Our beautiful Synagogue provides many meaningful opportunities to arrange dedications *in memory of or in honor of* loved ones.

Memorial plaques, endowments, scholarships, capital gifts, fine arts, and educational programs are among the possibilities available at B'nai Israel Congregation.

For further information, please contact Allison Karasik (240-221-2507, [allison@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:allison@bnaiisraelcong.org)).

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**You shop. Amazon gives.**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION** every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

On your first visit to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), select **B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Your selection will be remembered, and every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

## We Continue to Gather

With the health and safety of our community as the top priority, our world and our community have changed. Thank you for joining us virtually during this time.



[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/joinvirtually](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/joinvirtually)



**Notes on Hayman Chapel**  
by Allison Karasik  
Assistant to the Cantors



Has anyone ever noticed this plaque for Rose Milwitt (ז"ל) on the wall outside of Hayman Chapel? I know our member Lew Gertz has; he was the one who brought it to my attention. Rose Milwitt, WOW she was old! According to the dates on her plaque she was born at the start of the Civil War and died when JFK was president. But did she really live to the age of 120?

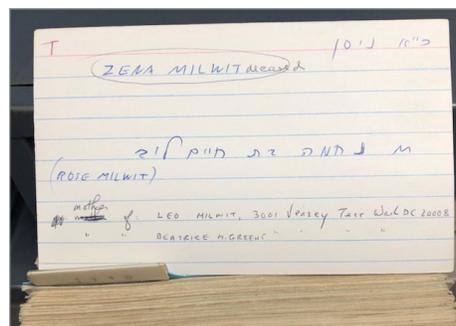
I love a good Google stalking challenge, one that takes me through old census documents, cemetery pictures, and other handwritten historical records. I have done some genealogical research for myself on ancestry.com and know the thrill of finding an ancestral tidbit. Alas, this Google stalking challenge was effortless. There appears to have only been one Rose Milwitt, and I knew it was the right woman because she is interred at B'nai Israel Cemetery in Oxon Hill.

Rose Milwitt (née Stillman, and actually spelled with only one "t" like the plaque of her son above her) was born in Russia but was not born in 1842. According to her marker she died when she was 81 years of age, which would make her year of birth approximately 1881. No *Guinness World Record* ages found in Hayman Chapel.

Perhaps the age of 120 years of life was not an accident? The phrase "May you live to 120" is a popular Jewish blessing, as the age of Moses given at the time of his death is 120. I am going to guess that Rose's year of birth on her plaque was not a mistake. Mystery easily solved!



*Rose Milwitt's marker at B'nai Israel Cemetery in Oxon Hill. Her husband Sam and daughter Zena are buried there with her, and four of her five sons are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Note her father's Hebrew name is shown as Chaim Leib on her plaque and Yakov Shlomo on her marker. Some things we will just never know!*



*A yahrzeit file card found in Rabbi Segal's old files.*



**Be a Part of the B'nai Israel Cookbook**

Do you LOVE to bake and cook? Even if you don't, send your favorite recipes (up to three) for our new B'nai Israel Cookbook. During this difficult time, we can share our favorite recipes with each other and with our families.

Once completed, this cookbook will be sold as a fundraiser and will make a great gift and addition to your kitchen! We'd also appreciate any photos of your food, your family enjoying your food, or your family cooking your food, that you'd be willing to allow to be published in the cookbook.

Send your recipes to either Lynn Rayman (alayman@verizon.net) or Jeff Fredman (jnfpatent@msn.com).

B'nai Israel Congregation deeply appreciates all contributions directed to the various funds of our congregation.

# DONATIONS



Due to increased printing and labor costs:

1. Each contribution will be acknowledged by mail to one designated recipient.
2. Only contributions of \$18 or more will be printed in the *Scroll*.
3. Donor acknowledgements will be sent by email and will also appear on year-end statements.

Please note:  
*Etz Hayim Humash*  
dedication: \$60,  
*Siddur Sim Shalom*  
dedication: \$30

Donations Made in October

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT [bnaiisraelcong.org/donate](http://bnaiisraelcong.org/donate)

## Endowments

### Benjamin Saks Judaica Art Endowment Fund

*In Appreciation Of:*

My son, Dr. Jonathan Saks, joining me for my aliyah at Simchat Torah by Judith Saks

*In Celebration Of:*

Judy Saks being honored as Kallat Breishit by Linda and Jeff Reisner

*In Honor Of:*

Judy Saks being honored as Kallat Breishit by Bernie and Cheryl Rod

Judy Saks becoming a Kallat Breishit by Lisa and Alan Isenberg

Judy Saks being honored as Kallat Breishit by Lynn and Lewis Gertz

### Beverly G. Schnitzer Tikun Olam Endowment

*In Memory Of:*

Geraldine Gittleson by Carol and Howie Nelson  
Pearl Richmond by Rob Loewy  
Geraldine Gittleson, beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother by Robin and Scott Koenig

### Cantor Ilana Wolpert Music Enrichment Fund

*In Honor Of:*

Cantor Josh Perlman for the High Holidays by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

Cantor Sarah Bolts for the High Holidays by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

*In Memory Of:*

Barbara Susan Rosenthal, my beloved friend by Jan Gennet

### Dr. Chester M. and Rita Mandel Stein Environmental Conservation Sustaining Endowment

*In Honor Of:*

Chet Stein reading Torah for my Hatan Torah honor by Lewis and Lynn Gertz

### Diane Lipson Schilit Youth Endowment

*In Honor Of:*

The Bar Mitzvah of Evan Gorodetzky by Alice Harris

*In Memory Of:*

Mitzi Bookoff Waghelstein beloved mother and grandmother by Trudy and Steven Anolik

### Ethan Ross Alperstein Sanctuary Garden Endowment Fund

*In Honor Of:*

The birth of Ella Meyer Cohen by Leah and Allan Zendel

*In Memory Of:*

Ethan Ross Alperstein our beloved son and brother by The Alperstein Family

Sidney Solomon beloved father of Marc Solomon by Lois and Leslie Alperstein and Family  
Geraldine Gittleson, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend by Mort Faller

### Goldie and Henry Stein Endowment For Special Education

*In Celebration Of:*

The Bat Mitzvah of Ella Maya Longman, daughter of Sue and Robb Longman and granddaughter of Rhona and Dr. Eddie Longman by Leslie and Jerry Solomon

*In Appreciation Of:*

B'nai Israel Congregation for making their superb High Holiday services available to the public during this pandemic by Dr. Kira Bricker and Jules R. Bricker

Attending your online Kol Nidre service by anonymous

*In Celebration Of:*

Yom Kippur by Robyn Cosby

*In Memory Of:*

Phyllis Snider Blumson by Carol and Gary Berman  
Anton Buddy Weber, stepfather by Denise Leish  
Geraldine Gittleson by Denise Leish and Suzanne Wandersman

Pearl Richmond by Gayle Kaplan

Robin Bortnick's mom, Geraldine Gittleson, with love by Randy and Don Greenberg

### Hazzan Deborah Togut Memorial Endowment Fund

*In Memory Of:*

Hazzan Deborah Togut by Nanci and Jay Wechsler  
Rick Gans' beloved mother, Vivian Gans by Sherri and Harold Berger

### Hazzan Robert Kieval Music Library Fund

*In Appreciation Of:*

Cantor Josh for preparing Hailey for her Bat Mitzvah by David and Shawn Goozman

Rabbi Safra for preparing Hailey for her Bat Mitzvah by David and Shawn Goozman

Rabbi Berkowitz for preparing Hailey for her Bat Mitzvah by David and Shawn Goozman

*In Honor Of:*

Cantor Josh Perlman by Jonathan Cutler

*In Memory Of:*

Lawrence H. Fink by Lana Pat Fink

### Igersheim Family Technology Sustaining Endowment

*In Memory Of:*

Pearl Richmond, mother of Karen Goozh by Adele M. Igersheim

### Jerry Neil Memorial Sustaining Endowment

*In Memory Of:*

Stewart Werner, beloved husband, father, and grandfather by Mincy Neil  
Geraldine Gittleson by Denise and Wayne Berman

### Jonathan A. Schnitzer Rabbinic Chair Endowment

*In Celebration Of:*

Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer's beautiful chanting of Parasha Bereshit during Simchat Torah by Judith Saks

*In Honor Of:*

Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer for the High Holidays by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

### Karen Gerton Nursery School Enhancement Endowment Fund

*In Memory Of:*

Adele Friedman by Karen and Manny Gerton

### Louis And Helyn Fanaroff Sustaining Endowment

*A Speedy Recovery For:*

Wendy Fanaroff by Carol Vogel

Our friend, Wendy Fanaroff by Sharon Seidel and Steve Moss

*In Memory Of:*

Sidney Solomon, loving father of Marc Solomon by Debby and Gary Bortnick

Phyllis Snyder Blumson, Judy Cohen's mother, by Debby and Gary Bortnick

Geraldine Gittleson by Nathan, Rebecca, Devin and Zachary Bortnick

Mrs. Gittleson by Tracy and Eric Lynn

### Mandel and Stein Prayer Book Fund

*In Honor Of:*

Judy Saks Kallat Bereshit 5781 by Rita and Chet Stein

Lewis Gertz, Hatan Torah 5781 by Chet and Rita Stein

### Marie Lebowitz Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

*A Donation Has Been Made By:*

Alan and Dina Lipschultz

### Mary and Israel Shulman Student Community Service Endowment Fund

*In Memory Of:*

Stephen Altman by Michael Heiserman

### Rabbi Isadore Breslau Israel Scholarship Endowment

*In Memory Of:*

Mason Goldstein's beloved grandfather, Ed Goldstein by Sharon Seidel and Steve Moss

### Rabbi Jeshai and Hilde M. Schnitzer Humash Endowment Fund

*In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer's support, advice, kindness and friendship over many decades by Judith Saks

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

### **Rabbi Joshua Rubinow Simon Memorial Endowment For Camp Ramah Tikvah Program**

#### *In Honor Of:*

Rabbi Matthew Simon for the High Holidays by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

#### *In Memory Of:*

Rabbi Josh Simon, our beloved son by Rabbi Matthew and Mrs. Sara Simon

### **Rabbi Michael Safra Adult Programming Fund**

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi Berkowitz by Charlotte Freeman

Rabbi Safra for the meaningful worship services you provide for Stacy and Joanna, for the moral support you extend them, and for graciously welcoming us when we join them by Debbie and Perry Immerman  
Rabbi Michael Safra's encouraging me to pursue a path of lifelong Jewish learning by Judith Saks  
Rabbi Safra officiating a meaningful unveiling service in memory of mom, Renie Levine by Lisa and Mike Miller

#### *In Celebration Of:*

Diane and Richard Saltzman's 30th wedding anniversary by Richard Saltzman

#### *In Honor Of:*

Rabbi Michael Safra for the High Holidays by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz for the High Holidays by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

Judy Saks as Kallat Breishit by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

Judy Saks' selection as Kallat Breishit by Harriet and Ted Fredman

Rabbi Berkowitz for helping with Aging Wisely by Lin Solomon

Judy Saks' well-deserved honor as Kallat Breishit by Sharon Glickman

#### *In Memory Of:*

Our parents by Bernice and Gilbert August

Jerrie Gittleston, mother and grandmother by Aunt Phyllis, Steven, and Ellen Gittleston

### **Thelma and Melvin Lenkin Family Endowment**

#### *In Honor Of:*

The birth of Jacob Russell Chod by Rob Loewy

### **Toby Herman Memorial Educational Endowment Fund**

#### *A Speedy Recovery For:*

Cynthia Zetlin by Robert and Karen Keats

Fred Stern by Robert and Karen Keats

#### *In Celebration Of:*

Janet and Eddie Aaronson by Robert and Karen Keats

Claire and Alan Sherman by Robert and Karen Keats

## Funds

### **Adult Education**

#### *In Honor Of:*

Judy Saks, Kallat Breishit by Stacy Immerman

Judy Saks, Kallat Breishit by ViVi and Art Rosen

#### *In Memory Of:*

Sandy Gerson by Jackie Mendelson and Family

### **Aliyot and Honors Fund**

#### *In Honor Of:*

Shoshana Peck's aliyah by Eileen Cohen

### **B'nai Israel Men's Club**

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

Asher Gendelman's assistance in setting up our sukkah by Bernie and Cheryl Rod

#### *In Honor Of:*

Lewis Gertz being honored as Hatan Torah by Bernie and Cheryl Rod

Lewis Gertz as Hatan Torah by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

Lewis Gertz as Hatan Torah by Harriet and Ted Fredman

Lewis Gertz being chosen as Hatan Torah by Linda and Jeff Reisner

Jeff Moss's special birthday by Linda and Jeff Reisner

Lewis Gertz by the New Jersey/Philadelphia Pearlman Family

### **B'nai Israel Sisterhood**

#### *In Memory Of:*

Dr. Gerald W. Beatty by Tonmoy Sabur Nasiri

### **Edith and Charles Pascal Library Book Fund**

#### *In Honor Of:*

The B'nai Israel Clergy for meaningful holiday services despite the pandemic by Alice Harris

Our nephew Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz by Stuart and Corina Waldman

#### *In Memory Of:*

Jerrie Gittleston by Leah and Allan Zendel

### **General Fund**

#### *A Speedy Recovery For:*

David Meltzer, my son-in-law by Thelma Fisher

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

Streaming services by Anonymous

High Holiday streaming services by Dennis Goldstein

High Holiday streaming services by Dr. Rodney F. Golden

Making our holidays so wonderful with your beautiful services by Elayne Glickman

High Holiday streaming services by Joseph Bookman

High Holiday streaming services by Julie and Daniel Abramson

High Holiday streaming services by Leonard Krebs

The virtual High Holiday services by Linda and Andrew Dagen

The streaming of High Holiday Services to nonmembers by Steve and Carole Cohen, parents of Lisa Shulman

#### *In Celebration Of:*

Ed Dolinsky on his special birthday by Harriet and Greg Friedman

#### *In Honor Of:*

Hal Ossman for the High Holidays by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

Kim and Steve Cohen and Family by Gail Singer

The nice Simchat Torah Service that Rabbi Safra, Rabbi Berkowitz, and Cantor Bolts

delivered by Harriet and Morris Altschuler

Judy Saks' honor of Kallat Breishit by Nanci and Jay Wechsler

Lew Gertz being honored as Hatan Torah by Nanci and Jay Wechsler

Judy Saks being the Kallat Breishit by Sheila Chodorov

#### *In Memory Of:*

Geraldine Gittleston by Abby Adler Mandel

Rita Glanz by Carol and Donald Tender

Pearl Richmond by Harriet and Greg Friedman

Karen Goozh's mother, Pearl Richmond, by Harriet and Greg Friedman

Barbara Rosenthal by Judith Dresner

Geraldine Gittleston, mother of Joanne (Dr. Frank)

Crantz, Robin (Dr. Bruce) Bortnick, Dr.

Michael (Lynn) Gittleston by Lisa and Ricky Shofnos

Geraldine Gittleston by the Mahjong Ladies, Cindy

Goodman, Leslie Sandler, Kathy Cohen, Heidi Newman, and Myra Freeman

Geraldine Gittleston by Marilyn and Mark Wetterhahn

Geraldine Gittleston by Rita Hoffman

Rita Glanz by Rosalie Machalow and Family

### **Greatest Need**

*Thank you to those who donated the cost of their ticket purchase from the Perlman Cantors Concert (these names are in addition to those listed in the November 2020 Scroll)*

Nancy and Wayne Eig

Irma Goff-Morton and Dale Morton

### **Hineini Campaign 2020–2021**

#### *A Speedy Recovery For:*

Esther Kranton by Jack Kranton

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi Safra, Rabbi Berkowitz, and Cantor Josh for their much-needed support during my dad's, Bernard Morcheles, shiva and shloshim period in February this past year by Amanda and Mark Goldstein

The thoughtful and meaningful sermons given by Rabbi Safra and Rabbi Berkowitz, and for Cantor Josh's beautiful chanting during Shabbat and High Holiday services by Amanda and Mark Goldstein

Annette Perlin and her daughter Joelle for offering my daughter and I the opportunity to Participate via Zoom in a beautiful High Holiday service since our synagogue in Montreal was closed due to COVID by Jennifer Solomon

Streaming high holiday services by Lisa Kahn

Meaningful holiday services with thanks to the clergy for such a beautiful experience during these different times by Sheila Franks

The amazing work our clergy, lay leaders, and administrators have done this year, especially during the High Holidays by The Sussman Family

#### *In Honor Of:*

The Sheer families, Richard and Beth Sheer, Jason, Cheryl, Carly and Devin Sheer during this holiday season by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Forman

#### *In Memory Of:*

Pearl Richmond. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family by Carol and Gary Berman

#### *In Memory Of:*

Garry Garber by Leslie Garber

#### *In Memory Of:*

Garry Garber by Leslie Garber

### **L.I.F.E. Lecture Fund**

#### *Donations Have Been Made By:*

Bernard and Cheryl Rod

Gilbert and Bernice August

Saradona and Leonard Lefkowitz

Stuart Carlow

#### *In Honor Of:*

Lewis Gertz, Hatan Torah, by Mona Chase and Robert Kaplan

### **Morning Minyan Fund**

#### *In Honor Of:*

Lewis Gertz on becoming a Hatan Torah by Lisa and Alan Isenberg

#### *In Memory Of:*

Jerrie Gittleston by Marilyn Levin

John Yazdi by Rosa Yazdi

### **Ritual Honorarium Fund**

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

My Rosh Hashanah honor by Jerry Solomon

### **Tzedakah and Welfare Fund**

#### *A Donation Has Been Made By:*

Steven Book

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi and staff for providing online services by Alan Simon

B'nai Israel's facilities staff and office staff keeping us safe and organized during the pandemic by Alice Harris

Rabbi Safra's presence which continues to be a blessing by Joel Goozh

Rabbi Safra for the funeral of Betty Zeller, grandmother of Zachary Simms, by Peter and Michele Zeller

*In Honor Of:*

Judy Saks upon receiving an honor assigned by our Ritual Committee by Arleen and Lorin Luchs

Lewis Gertz for receiving an honor assigned by our Ritual Committee by Lorin and Arleen Luchs

Support of the daily minyanim led by the Rabbis, Cantors and members of the synagogue by Rabbi Philip and Sharon Pohl

*In Memory Of:*

Pearl Richmond, mother of Karen Goozh by Frances and Barrett Penan

**Yahrzeit and Yizkor Fund**

*Donations Have Been Made By:*

Alan and Margery Levine

Jerome and Barbara Kopelman

*In Memory Of:*

Isadore M. Engel by Aaron Engel

Miriam Hannah Temkin by Aaron Temkin

Jennie Pollin by Alan Pollin

Tessie Hurwitz by Allan and Barbara Hurwitz

Ida Feingold by Alice Harris

Bernard Arrow by Andrea and Melvyn Kopstein

Bernard Bobb by Anita Ratain

Sheila Daniels by Anonymous

Elliot Daniels by Anonymous

Valerie Marshal by Anonymous

Edna Turkenitch by Arleen and Lorin Luchs and Family

Bertram Lappen by Margie and Arthur Lappen

Dad by Barbara and Alan Pickholtz

Elaine Levy by Barbra and Howard Goldberg

Irving Penan by Barrett and Frances Penan

Mary Heyman by Bernard Heyman

Herbert Goldfeder by Bernice Bernstein

Sharon Wieland by Beth Sanders

Morris Dickman by Bonnie and Craig Dickman

Edward Holzman by Bonnie and Craig Dickman

Adeline Schneller by Bonnie and John Harte

Geraldine Gittleson by Josh and Penny, Danny and Shannon, Paul and Alix, Rhona and Tim, and Families

Meyer Bookoff by Brenda L. Sandler

Sonia Pollekoff by Carol Vogel

Muriel Mandon by Carol and Stan Sachar

Jennifer Lynne Seidel by Carole and Jerry Cohen

Irving Streidel by Charlotte B. Streidel

Joan Fisher by Daniel Fisher and Ellen Rice

Joseph Rothenstein by David and Pam Rothenstein

Morris J. Gordon by David, Rebecca, and Emily Gordon

Bertha Kligman by Debbie and Danny Glazer

Sidney Solomon by Debby and Gary Friedman

Sylvia Goodman by Donald Goodman

Mrs. Sadie Katzen by Dr. Jay and Lynn Katzen

Edith Kopelman by Dr. Jerome and Barbara Kopelman

Joseph Kopelman by Dr. Jerome and Barbara Kopelman

Esther Arnold by Dr. Melvin and Eileen Arnold

Evelyn Rubin by Norman and Fern Rubin

Esther Losover by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Ullman

Martin Zitomer by Signe and Leon Wetrogan

Jack Black by Edith Black

Edith Reznick by Elaine and Steven Keller and Family

Esther Sokolsky by Felix Sokolsky

Lillian Ezrin by Fred, Stefanie and Samara Langsam

Edith Simat by Fred, Stefanie and Samara Langsam

Louis Lipsky by Henry Goldman

Katherine Horenstein by Henry and Ruth Modlin

Madeleine Siegel by Herb and Brenda Jacobson

Dora Rappaport by Herschel Cutler

Irving Saginor by Hortensia R. Saginor

Max W. Seiler by Ilene R. Gruenfeld

Dr. Jerome Seiler by Ilene R. Gruenfeld

Henrietta Selss by Ira and Karen Selss

Jerome Malasky by Jackie, Amanda and David Malasky

Eva Rothmel by Jake and Ellen Rothmel

Leopold Oscar Walder by Joel and Melinda Schenk

Florence Yager Schenk by Joel and Melinda Schenk

Dorothy Zingesser by Joel and Pam Zingesser

Betsy Lestow by Joel and Putnimit (P-Lo) Schwarz

Sophie Nathanson by Toby Kullback

Martha Gudelsky by Judah Gudelsky

Michael Saks by Judith Saks

Harry Brody by Judith Saks

Nellie Brody by Judith Saks

Benjamin Stamell by Judy Grosberg

Vera B. Frankel by Judy Novenstein

Elsie Schaefer by Judy and Dick Freeman

Ida Cahan by Jules I. Cahan M.D.

Rachel Mannheimer by June and Stuart Graff

Marsha Kotz by Kay and Sam Kotz

Robin Leslie Butin by Lauren Butin

Elaine Proger by Laurie and Steven Forman

Bertha Kligman by Sherry and Larry Wachtel

Ruth and Julius Sheps by Leah and Allan Zendel

Sara Sussman by Lee Sussman

Ann Morse by Lewis and Erica Morse

Charles Morse by Lewis and Erica Morse

Rubin Gertz by Lewis and Lynn Gertz

Muriel Durbin by Lin Solomon

Albert Margolius by Linda and Stanley Margolius

Carl Janow by Marcia and Bruce Kay

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Sandra Korteling by Mark Moverman

Wayne Bernstein by Mark Moverman

Stanley Selis by Michael and Rennie Selis

Daniel Freedman by Mickey and Linda Freedman

Mary Freedman by Mickey and Linda Freedman

Matthew Herbst by Mike and Debbi Herbst

Geraldine Gittleson by Mildred and Steven Michael

Bernice Ritwo by Mindy and Larry Nadel

Racheline Schreim by Morris and Misako Schreim

Manuel Fredman by Theodore Fredman

Geraldine Gittleson by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence A. Shulman

Fannette Po Kempner by Murray J. Brill

Isidore Brill by Murray J. Brill

Sadie Katzen by Myrtle Katzen

Irving Grossman by Nanci and Jay Wechsler

Miriam Wechsler by Nanci and Jay Wechsler

Samuel William Fishkin by Nancy Fishkin Politzer

Yishai Dweck by Nava and Ron Dweck

Jacob Melman by Neli Melman

Ibolya Lakszner by Nicholas Fleischer

Blanche Goodman by Pamela Oginz

Ira Goodman by Pamela Oginz

Harold Oginz by Pamela Oginz

Jeanette Oginz by Pamela Oginz

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Karen Chod by Paul Chod

Sam Greenbaum by Geri and Paul Stein

Samuel Levine by Paula Pascal Levine

Rita Glanz by Penelope and Michael Bustin

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Grandfather by Philip Aronson

Rachel Marcus by Renee Kuff

Jenny Hatwell by Rita Hatwell

Wendelin I. Lipp by Robert Tebeleff

Gilbert Tebeleff by Robert Tebeleff

Florence Gertner by Robert and Marjorie Gertner

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Bernice Ritwo by Ruth and Andrew Ritwo

Lilyan Goda by Saralee Hillman

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Louis Rubenstein by Stephen and Maureen Goodman

Maxine Hofberg by Steven and Margie Hofberg

Joseph Hofberg by Steven and Margie Hofberg

Roberta Strent Cohen by The Strent Family

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Samuel Fisher by Thelma Fisher and Family

Katie Fisher by Thelma Fisher and Family

Abram Khavtan by Yakov Khavtan

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*We are so glad to have our students back in the building!*



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**RACHEL SIEGEL**  
Early Childhood Director

**NANCY GOLDBERG**  
Schilit Nursery School Assistant Director

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