

OCTOBER 2020

Tishri/Heshvan 5781

B'NAI ISRAEL



SCROLL

VOLUME 78
NUMBER 2

STAY CONNECTED



facebook.com/groups/BnaiIsraelCong/

www.bnaiisraelcong.org

UPCOMING

SHABBAT MAGIC YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

See p. 13 for details.

UPCOMING



SUKKOT CELEBRATIONS

- Sukkot Under the Stars Outdoor Service
- Reserve Your Sukkah Nights
- Sukkat Shalom: A Shelter of Peace
- A Time for Everything: Sisterhood Lunch & Learn
- Singing in the Sukkah with Netta Asner-Minster

See page 6 for more information.

SARAH & SAMUEL
J. LESSANS
ADULT LEARNING
INSTITUTE

Courses Begin
This Month

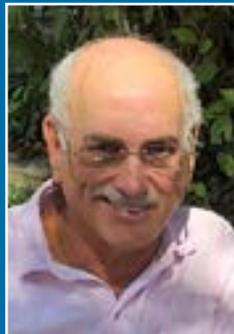
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SIMHAT TORAH

HATAN TORAH
&
KALLAT
BREISHIT



SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS.

B'NAI MITZVAH בני מצוה

Jacob Becker

October 17 | 9:00 AM

Jacob Becker, son of Jamie and David Becker, grandson of Ellen and Alan Fabricant, and Sharon and Stan Becker, is a seventh-grade student at Cabin John Middle School.



For his *mitzvah* project, Jacob is raising money for and collecting equipment for Leveling the Playing Field (LPF). LPF gives underprivileged children the opportunity to enjoy the mental and physical benefits of youth sports participation. This is done through the donation of used and excess sporting equipment to programs and schools serving low-income communities.

Hayley Iki Gottesman

October 24 | 9:00 AM

Hayley Gottesman, daughter of Noah and Alicia Gottesman, granddaughter of Eric and Julie Segel, and Fred and Jane Gottesman, and sister of Danielle



Gottesman is a seventh-grade student at Robert Frost Middle School. For her *mitzvah* project, Hayley scented, bottled and labeled 200 bottles of hand sanitizer as a fundraiser for Best Buddies International. Best Buddies is an organization that supports children with special needs, promotes inclusion and leadership, and builds lasting friendships.

Ethan Gilad Scott

October 17 | 9:00 AM

Ethan Scott, son of Sarit and Russell Scott, grandson of Charlie Fishman and Pearl Horn Carlesi (*z"l*), Russell Scott Sr. and Patricia Ellen Scott (*z"l*) and brother to



Shoshana and Elie (*z"l*) Scott, is a seventh-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For his *mitzvah* project, Ethan is raising funds for the Lone Soldier Project of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF). The Lone Soldier Project supports IDF soldiers from other countries with no family in Israel by providing such things as housing, Shabbat meals, a 24-hour call center, financial support and much more.

Ella Maya Longman

October 24 | 9:00 AM

Ella Longman, daughter of Ilana Cohen Longman, Sue and Robb Longman, granddaughter of Davey Cohen, Amiram Cohen, and Rhona and Eddie Longman, and sister to Eva Longman, is a seventh-



grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For her *mitzvah* project, Ella will be making sandwiches for Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring. Shepherd's Table provides free meals, social services, medical support, clothing, and other assistance to our community. Since the pandemic has impacted food sources for many, Ella was inspired to help this organization.

Hailey Rose Goozman

October 17 | 12:30 PM

Hailey Goozman, daughter of Shawn and David Goozman, granddaughter of Arlene and Walter Beckerman, and Jill and Martin Goozman, and sister of Joshua Goozman, is a seventh-grade student at Julius West Middle School. For her



mitzvah project, Hailey is making and selling stamped leather bracelets, and all proceeds will be donated to savetheelephants.org. Hailey is passionate about elephants and wants to raise funds to protect them and their habitats.

Jordan Isenberg Feig

October 24 | 12:30 PM

Jordan Feig, son of Heidi Isenberg-Feig and Erik M. Feig, grandson of Herbert (*z"l*) and Marilyn (*z"l*) Feig, Henry (*z"l*) and Patricia Isenberg, and brother of



Hannah and Emma Feig, is a seventh-grade student at The Auburn School. For his *mitzvah* project, Jordan will be collecting and assembling items for Comfort Cases. Comfort Cases is a local organization that provides backpacks filled with personal and comfort items that help preserve the dignity of children entering the foster care system.

Evan Samuel Gorodetzky

October 25 | 9:00 AM

Evan Gorodetzky, son of Tamara and Mark Gorodetzky, grandson of Sharyn and Arthur Fuchs, and Barbara and Dr. Charles Gorodetzky,



is an eighth-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For his *mitzvah* project, Evan donated to and has been volunteering at Bikes for the World, an organization that sends used bikes to developing countries. These donated bikes provide better transport to work, education, and health care. Evan learned how to prepare bikes to be shipped, and he disassembled older bikes to donate their parts.

Dara Elia Blecher

October 31 | 9:00 AM

Dara Blecher, daughter of Mia and Dr. Lee Blecher, granddaughter of Sharon and Jacob Benus, Freda (*z"l*) and Marvin Blecher, and sister to Shai Blecher, is a seventh-



grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. Dara has Scoliosis and wears a brace 21 hours a day. For her *mitzvah* project, Dara has volunteered weekly at the National Scoliosis Center, meeting and mentoring new patients. She helps them by answering questions about the condition, and navigating life with a brace. As well, she has been integrated into the staff and helps make and fit braces.

Samantha Rose Shapiro

November 1 | 9:00 AM

Samantha Shapiro, daughter of Stacey and David Shapiro, granddaughter of Ronnie and Arthur Chantker, and Harriet and Dr. Stephen Shapiro, and sister to Lindsey Shapiro, is an eighth-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For her *mitzvah* project, Samantha is collecting tween and teen toys and activities for the Kennedy Krieger Institute Therapeutic Recreation department to help adolescents work towards reaching their therapy goals and adjust to being in the hospital. Samantha also is promoting horse rescue farms by volunteering her time and raising money to support the Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue.



RABBI'S MESSAGE

by RABBI MICHAEL SAFRA

Sukkot, the defining holiday of October, is the quintessential holiday of joy. The Torah calls it simply “*hag*, The Festival” and commands “*v'samahta b'hagekha*, You shall rejoice on your Festival and have nothing but joy.” But especially this year, in the midst of a pandemic with so much of what we expect about the holidays (and everything else) upended, what are we supposed to make of this commandment to be joyful? How can the Torah legislate emotion at any time? What are the operational requirements of the Torah's mandate?

It begins with appreciation and gratitude. There's a reason why the Pilgrims modeled their Thanksgiving feast after Sukkot. Sitting in nature, exposed to the elements, we become more aware of God's bounty and the beauty all around us. At the same time, we can also sense the precariousness of our existence; if it rains, if it is cold, there is little to protect us. This year, we don't have to go outside to understand the lurking dangers; we hear pandemic statistics and see the chaos and violence every day. But we also know that, on the whole, we are relatively protected from the chaos. There is so much for which each of us can be thankful.

Beyond acknowledging our good fortune, the next step is to find ways to share our bounty with others. In a normal year welcoming guests into the *sukkah* is an important ritual. In addition to relatives and friends, we invite our biblical ancestors in a ritual called *Ushpizin*. This year, with the ability to welcome people significantly hindered, we must look for other ways to share.

Supporting our food warehouses, in the same spirit as Project Manna on Yom Kippur, is always a good idea. We can also consider the money we would have spent on more elaborate festival meals and make a donation in that amount to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. The Festival of Joy is also a good time to catch up with friends, relatives, and particularly older members of the community who are experiencing so much of this pandemic in relative isolation.

The traditions and rituals of Sukkot offer a third avenue to experience joy. Although indoor community gatherings are severely limited, we still have the opportunity to purchase *lulav* and *etrog* sets or to build *sukkot* in the home. You can use your personal *lulav* and *etrog* sets at our virtual services throughout the holiday; and on Sunday, October 5, we will be hosting a special outdoor service as an opportunity to shake and parade with the *lulav*.

The Fanaroff Sukkah has been reconfigured for this year as multiple mini-*sukkot* that will be interspersed throughout our campus. If you do not have your own *sukkah*, you are invited to reserve one of these community *sukkot* for a socially-distant meal with your family.

As the pandemic rages on, we recognize that most people who access services will continue to do so through the livestream. Those who wish, however, can register to attend live services outdoors on the first evening of Sukkot, in our socially-distant sanctuary on the first and second days of Sukkot (October 3 and 4); on the intermediate Wednesday morning (October 7), Hoshanah Rabbah (Friday, October 9); and on Shmini Ateret and Simhat Torah mornings (October 10 and 11). On the evening of Simhat Torah, we will host a virtual Simhat Torah Dance Party, including the popular Torah un-roll ritual; and on Simhat Torah afternoon, we will have outdoor dancing and *hakafot*. See pp. 6–7 for the complete schedule.

It has been a theme throughout the holiday season. Everything is different, but our rituals and community values remain the same. Even as this season draws to a close, I pray we may each find some way to experience the joys of Jewish community and tradition.

Welcome to the Newest Members of Our B'nai Israel Family

(August 7–September 4)

New Members ...

JILL GOLDSTEIN & LUKE ATTARDI

AMANDA STONE & YAIR INSPEKTOR

DEBRA NACHMANN & JONATHAN GOLD

EDMOND MASSUDA

NINA RAVICK

STEPHANIE & ZACHARY SIMMS

Returning Member ...

SHARON CASERTANO

Brukhim habaim!

The entire congregation shares our joy in welcoming you into our B'nai Israel family.

B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION

6301 Montrose Road
Rockville, Maryland 20852
301-881-6550
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
Facilities Director
PATRICIA SIMITAKOS
Events Manager

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Assistant Treasurer
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MARLA SCHULMAN
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CHERYL ROD
Sisterhood Co-Presidents
WAYNE BERMAN | LEWIS GERTZ
Men's Club Co-Presidents
STEVEN COHEN
DR. PATRICIA GREENWEL-ROJKIND
DR. STEVEN HAUSMAN
DR. FRED MESSING
DR. STEPHEN B. ROBBINS
JOEL SHANKMAN
JOY WECHSLER
Gabbaim

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.bnaisraelcong.org/hineinicampaign, or by contacting our Development Director, Avery Sudow (301-816-5569, avery@bnaisraelcong.org).



Thank you to Jill and Asher Gendelman for helping to distribute *mahzorim* for the High Holidays, enabling our members to participate meaningfully in our High Holiday services.

For information on returning borrowed *mahzorim*, please check your email and our website for specific dates and times.



**LEADERSHIP
MESSAGE**

by **ROB LOEWY**
Vice President Administration

Our building is (all but) closed, but our community is open. For a building that in normal times is open literally 365 days a year, even if only for 30 minutes for our twice-daily minyan, that is an extraordinary thing to say.

I'm writing this just after Labor Day. High holidays are two weeks away, the presidential campaign is heating up, school is starting, some college students who returned to campus have been sent home, and social justice demonstrations are ongoing. We are still adjusting to social distancing at home and work are are mindful of the devastating economic, health and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is as unsettled a time as many of us can remember.

Yet there is comfort and familiarity to be found within our B'nai Israel community:

- We installed a new Board of Governors which meets regularly (via Zoom, naturally) to conduct the congregation's business.
- Our Dweck sanctuary has reopened for Shabbat services and the Wednesday morning minyan, both in accordance with social distancing guidelines.
- Several b'nai mitzvah were held in August and September and many more are on the schedule through June 2021.

- Rabbi Safra conducts scheduled "office hours" chats via Zoom.
- Beginning in May Rabbi Berkowitz conducted weekly virtual This Week in the Torah learning sessions.
- We've held occasional Friday night services in our parking lot.
- Our adult education and other programs are being conducted via Zoom and the popular L.I.F.E. Lecture series began on-line in mid-September.
- Our annual Program Guide was mailed to members.
- The Men's Club and Sisterhood are planning busy programming seasons for the Fall.
- We've reopened our Schilit Nursery School on a limited basis under new director Rachel Siegel. It is one of the few pre-school programs operating in our area.

- Early in the COVID outbreak we formed a Roadmap to Reopening Taskforce to plan for the safe reopening of our facilities.

COVID is proving to be a challenge but other than the method of delivery—Zoom vs in-person—B'nai is busy as always with both spiritual, social, and educational activities.

As always, I encourage you to get involved in our remarkable community. Attend an on-line event, class, or discussion. Engage in some of our myriad of program offerings and social action projects. Offer your time, energy and experience to a committee. What knowledge and skills can you contribute—financial, legal, organizational improvement and vision, ritual, policy, governance, development/fundraising, facilities management, construction? Reach out to me (rkloewy@gmail.com) and we'll find a place for you.

Finally, our annual Hineini campaign is underway. Funds raised by the campaign support our programs and maintain the outstanding clergy, educators, and staff that are among the hallmarks of our 95-year history. The amount of your gift is

less important than that you participate. If you have already responded to this year's campaign, thank you. You can make your gift via check, through your ShulCloud account, or contact our Executive Director, Hal Ossman, at 301-881-6550.

Susan and I hope you had a meaningful high holiday season whether you participated in person or virtually, and wish you and families a healthy and safe new year.

Our building is (all-but) closed, but our community is open. Join us. <https://www.bnaisraelcong.org>.

**SHABBAT &
YOM TOV
Candlelighting
& Havdalah**

OCTOBER

2	6:31 PM
3	Light after 7:11 PM
4	Yom Tov ends at 7:11 PM
9	6:20 PM
10	Light after 6:59 PM
11	Yom Tov ends at 6:59 PM.
16/17	6:10 PM / 6:50 PM
23/24	6:00 PM / 6:40 PM
30/31	5:51 PM / 6:31 PM

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

STAY CONNECTED

If you are not receiving our electronic *communications*, please send your email address to laurie@bnaisraelcong.org.

SUKKOT

RITUAL

Sukkot Under the Stars (Outdoor Service)

Friday, October 2
7:00 PM

The roofs of our sukkot must provide sufficient shade, while also allowing us to see up to the stars of the night sky. Sukkot reminds us that we are both sheltered and vulnerable. Gather safely outdoors, weather permitting, for this service to welcome Shabbat and Sukkot.

FAMILY

Reserve Your Sukkah Nights

Monday–Thursday,
October 5–8
5:00–8:00 PM

No sukkah? No problem! Reserve a time for you and your family to eat dinner in our physically-distanced separate Fanaroff Family *sukkahs* on the intermediate days of the Sukkot festival.



ADULT EDUCATION

Sukkat Shalom: A Shelter of Peace with Eliana Light, Artist-in-Residence

Monday, October 5
7:30 PM

In the evening service, we ask the Holy One to spread a “sukkah of your peace” over us. What can we learn from this image? Exploring some *midrash* on the *sukkah* itself, consider how this prayer, and the evening service in general, can have resonance in our lives today.



Raised in Memphis, TN on soul music and synagogue life, Eliana’s passion for Jewish life and learning shines through all her work. Eliana’s goal is to help individuals take ownership of their Judaism. She has released two albums of original Jewish music. In 2017, Eliana founded the G!D Project, an educational initiative focused on accessible, meaningful conversations about G!D and spirituality. Eliana graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary with a Masters in Experiential Jewish Education in 2016 and is based in Durham, NC.

YOUTH

Candy Sukkah Building Contests

Wednesday, October 7
4:00–4:45 PM (Bonim: Grades K–2)
4:50–5:30 PM (Machar: Grades 3–6)
See page 14 for details.

SISTERHOOD

A Time for Everything: Sisterhood Virtual Lunch and Learn

with Cantor Bolts
Thursday, October 8
12:00 PM

See page 18 for details.



FAMILY

Singing in the Sukkah

Thursday, October 8
7:00 PM

Join our *shlichah*, Netta Asner-Minster, for a medley of Israeli Sukkot songs and fun facts about celebrating Sukkot in Israel.



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



Men’s Club Sukkot Sales Program

Purchase a Sukkah online from www.sukkot.com and use the code “bnaiisrael2020” at checkout to receive a 10% discount. If you need assistance with your sukkah selection or help to construct a new or an existing Sukkah, the Men’s Club members will gladly help for a small donation to the Talmud Torah. Contact Asher Gendelman (240-432-0020, asher@gendelman.us).

SUKKOT Service Times

Friday, October 2 Sukkot Eve

6:15 PM Virtual Shabbat/Festival Service
7:00 PM Outdoor Festival Service in Parking Lot (Register at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/sukkotservices)

Saturday, October 3 1st Day of Sukkot

9:00 AM Shabbat/Festival Service (In-person attendance registration required to allison@bnaiisraelcong.org & Livestream)
10:15 AM Virtual Family Service
7:15 PM Virtual *Ma’ariv*

Sunday, October 4 2nd Day of Sukkot

9:00 AM Festival Service with *Hoshanot* (In-person attendance registration required to allison@bnaiisraelcong.org & Livestream)
2:30 PM Outdoor Service with *Lulav & Etrog* Parade in Parking Lot *Bring your lulav and etrog for a short service, parade, and celebration* (Register online at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/sukkotservices)
8:00 PM Virtual *Ma’ariv*

Monday, October 5 & Tuesday, October 6 Hol HaMoed Sukkot

7:15 AM Virtual Morning *Minyan*
8:00 PM Virtual Evening *Minyan*

Wednesday, October 7 Hol HaMoed Sukkot

7:15 AM Morning *Minyan* (In-person attendance registration required to allison@bnaiisraelcong.org & Livestream)
8:00 PM Virtual Evening *Minyan*

Thursday, October 8 Hol HaMoed Sukkot

7:15 AM Virtual Morning *Minyan*
8:00 PM Virtual Evening *Minyan*

Friday, October 9 Hoshana Raba

7:15 AM Festival Service (In-person attendance registration required to allison@bnaiisraelcong.org & Livestream)
Shemini Atzeret Eve
6:15 PM Virtual Shabbat/Festival Service

Saturday, October 10 Shemini Atzeret

9:00 AM Shabbat/Festival Service (In-person attendance registration required to allison@bnaiisraelcong.org & Livestream)

SIMHAT TORAH

During Simhat Torah services on Sunday, October 11, it is customary for every member of the congregation to receive an *Aliyah*. The honors of *Hatan Torah*, the last *Aliyah* of the book of *Deuteronomy*; and *Kallat Breishit*, the first *Aliyah* in *Genesis*, are assigned by our Ritual committee to recognize significant contributions to the ritual life of our synagogue. *Mazal tov* to Lewis Gertz and Judy Saks on receiving those honors this year.

LEWIS GERTZ



Everyone knows this Passover song: DAYENU—It would have been (or would be) enough! This is what my *bar mitzvah* rabbi, Harry Kaufman from Beth Sholom in D.C., taught us 60 years ago: no matter what you do to show you are a Jew, as long as you *do something*, DAYENU!

I was born and raised in D.C; my grandfather was a founding trustee of Beth Sholom and my parents were the first to be married at the new *shul* on 8th and Shepherd NW in 1938 (at least that’s what they told me). My Hebrew schooling began at B’nai Israel but ended at Beth Sholom when we moved two blocks from the *shul*. My *dayenu* moments began there when, after my *bar mitzvah*, I attended Sunday morning *Minyanaires* where I learned to *daven*, put on *tefillin* and lead the service. My proudest accomplishment, after my *bar mitzvah*, was my perfect attendance on Sunday mornings for five years!

Even though we belonged to an Orthodox synagogue we were considered “secular” Jews, going to services only on the High Holidays and only putting on *tefillin* on the occasion of my father’s passing in 1976 and then on my mother’s death in 2002, but deep down I knew there had to be more; however, being in the retail and then wholesale liquor industry, Shabbat services were out of the question.

Our family’s affiliation with B’nai began in the early 80s when Lynn and I enrolled our two children in Talmud Torah where they achieved their *b’nai mitzvah*, continuing on

JUDY SAKS



Although I have been a member of B’nai Israel since 1984, during the early years I spent much of my time shuttling my two children to Talmud Torah—and eavesdropping outside the cantor’s door as my son, and then my daughter, chanted their tropes. Eventually, the light dawned: It was time for me—raised in a household with little Jewish education—to get serious about study. As fate would have it, Rabbi Michael Safra (“Call me Mickey.” “Maybe someday, rabbi”) came to our congregation in 2002. His first major task was to prepare me and other congregants for our B’nai Mitzvah scheduled for Sukkot. The rabbi had only a few months to get us ready. Fortunately, he was up to the task, and so were we. That eventful day in 2002 strengthened my Jewish identity and my desire to keep learning.

Soon after, Mickey (I learned to call him that) asked me to join the Adult Education Committee, and that work has in large part defined my commitment to B’nai Israel during the past 18 years. Sometimes, I was the chair, co-chair or simply a member of the committee—the person with an often annoying amount of institutional memory (“We had that teacher twice before.”) and the self-appointed keeper of a complete set of program guides beginning with the 2002-2003 academic year.

I have been pleased to play a part in the growth of Adult Education, which has expanded into a robust program. Over the years, the committee experimented with various initiatives—focus groups, course evaluations, team teaching, distance learning

SIMHAT TORAH Service Times

Saturday, October 10 Erev Simhat Torah

6:45 PM Torah Unroll (Livestream)
7:00 PM Virtual Festival Service & Dance Party (Livestream)

Sunday, October 11 Simhat Torah

9:00 AM Festival Service (In-person attendance registration required to allison@bnaiisraelcong.org & Livestream)
9:15 AM Virtual Family Service
2:30 PM Outdoor *Hakafot* and Dancing in the Parking Lot (Register online at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/simhattorahservices)
8:00 PM Virtual *Ma’ariv*

Sukkot & Simhat Torah Service Access

In-Person Attendance

Limited in-person attendance is available for select services. Please send an email to allison@bnaiisraelcong.org to reserve your space.

Video Livestream Access

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 #

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SARA & SAMUEL J. LESSANS ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Book of the Maccabees

with Steve Kerbel

Wednesday, October 7 (continuing six more Wednesday mornings, concluding November 18)

9:30-11:00 AM

\$80 Friends of the Haberman Institute or B'nai Israel Members

\$95 General Public

Travel back to the sources and study selections from the books of *Maccabees I & II* as we explore the story of the war against the Assyrians and the formation of the last independent Jewish government for 2000 years. As obtaining these texts can be difficult, a reader will be provided for all students. Zoom information will be provided once registration is received. Presented by the Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies.



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

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Resumes on Tuesday, October 13 and continues weekly 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.



Prophet Sharing: A Diverse Group of Rabbis Reflect on the Roles of the Prophets

with Rabbis Nissan Antine, Mitchell Berkowitz, Gary Pokras, Adam Raskin, Michael Safra, & Baht Weiss
Thursday, October 15 (continuing for 11 more sessions, skipping November 26, December 24 & 31, concluding on January 21)

9:30-11:00 AM

\$75 for B'nai Israel members or Friends of Haberman Institute

\$90 for general public

History thinks of the prophets as superheroes—people who can see the future, speak directly with God, and communicate inspiring messages. But how is the prophetic message received in real time? Nobody wants to hear that society will be doomed unless people make changes they are not prepared to make. With all their eccentricities, it is easy to dismiss prophets as crazy. This was as true in ancient times as it was today. Using in-depth text study, our diverse group of rabbis explores the role of the prophet in ancient times in order to understand the implications of the prophetic message for today. Presented by the Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies.



Drop-In Hebrew Prayer Reading

Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM

October 13, 20, and 27

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)

Fridays, 10:00-11:00 AM

October 16 (Bereshit)

October 23 (Noah)

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.

Weekday Services: From Beginning to End

with Cantors

Josh Perlman and Sarah Bolts

Sunday, October 18

(and continuing for 7 more sessions)

11:30 AM-12:15 PM

Learn to lead weekday services and/or to chant Torah. These practical skills-focused classes are set up as units; participants may sign up for one unit or for both.



Unit 1: Intro to Chanting Torah with Cantor Bolts

October 18, 25, and November 8, 15

Unit 2: Intro to Leading Weekday Services with Cantor Josh

November 22, and December 6, 13, 20

SARA & SAMUEL J. LESSANS ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE

Portnoy on "Portnoy": Discussing Philip Roth (z"l)

with Rabbi Mindy Avra Portnoy

Monday, October 19 (continuing for 5 more sessions)

7:30-8:45 PM

"Portnoy" is the Russian word for "tailor," but the late writer Philip Roth changed its meaning forever when he published the best-selling book *Portnoy's Complaint* in 1969. This 6-week class will focus on the life and works of Roth. Our study will highlight the different stages of his life and writings beginning with *Goodbye Columbus* (1959) and continuing until *Nemesis* (2010). Themes will include: Jews in America, families, mortality, sex and love, and politics, as well as his views of women, his love of baseball, and his attachment to Newark. We will also discuss some of the reactions to his award-winning work, especially in the Jewish community. The reading of *Goodbye Columbus* or *Portnoy's Complaint* before the first session is recommended but not required.



Israel's Most Daring Operations

with Netta Asner-Minster

Wednesday,

October 21

7:30-8:30 PM*

Join our *Shlichah* Netta Asner-Minster for the first monthly session in the 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. Sessions continue on November 11, December 3, and January 28. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/237766228>



*Please note: All sessions will begin at 7:30 PM which is a different time than what is stated in the Program Guide.

Writing RBG: How to Fit a Tiny, Huge Jewish American Icon into a Book

with Debbie Levy

Tuesday,

October 6

6:30 PM

Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a modern feminist icon, but Ruth "Kiki" Bader wasn't a firebrand feminist as a child. *Becoming RBG* focuses on the story of her evolution, from quiet child to inquisitive student to brilliant professor to creative courtroom lawyer to first Jewish woman on the Supreme Court of the United States. Through RBG's story, readers see that looking outside oneself can make all the difference between being a bystander and being a change maker. Join Debbie as she shares stories about the delights of writing about RBG. Presented by the Arts Task Force of the Adult Education Committee. Cosponsored by the Talmud Torah and Youth Department.



Sukkat Shalom: A Shelter of Peace

with Eliana Light, Artist-in-Residence

Monday, October 5

7:30 PM

See page 6 for details.



SHMA: THE MINDFULNESS CENTER AT B'NAI ISRAEL

New Year, New You: A Mindfulness Walk

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Sunday, October 18

4:00-6:00 PM

A new year, a new start to reading the Torah, and a new you. Lace up your shoes and join us for a mindfulness walk, infused with moments of reflection based on the sacred texts of our tradition. (The event will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.) Presented by the Mindfulness Taskforce of the Adult Education Committee.

L.I.F.E. LECTURE

Destination: Holy of Holies An Archaeological Walk Through the Jerusalem Temple

with Joan Branham

Sunday, October 25

7:30 PM

King Herod designed and built the Jerusalem Temple in the late first century BCE. Herod wanted a grander complex than the one hastily constructed after the return from the Babylonian exile. His Temple lasted less than a century, as it was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. In its time, it was, and continues to be, a powerful symbol of sacred space. It has been emulated, co-opted, exploited, and reinterpreted by religious traditions, from early churches and synagogues to Orlando's evangelical theme park. This illustrated talk will serve as a guide through the Jerusalem Temple by following in the footsteps of the High Priest and worshippers (including Jesus) and navigating the barriers of sanctity and systems of blood, purity, sacrifice, and gender. Cosponsored by the Biblical Archeology Forum and Biblical Archeology Society of Northern Virginia.



LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE: A Community Discussion

with
Jay Gruber, Marla Schulman, Moderated by Hal Ossman

**Tuesday, October 20
7:30-8:30 PM**

Recent events have us all thinking and talking about the challenges of systemic racism. What does racial equity mean? How does one begin to grapple with a system we may not see and did not cause, and yet may be responsible for perpetuating? Is it possible for a big-tent community to talk openly and frankly about values without becoming mired in the politics of division that polarize seemingly all aspects of society?

Jay Gruber is Chief of Police and Vice-President for Public Safety at Georgetown University, where he is working with officers to better understand race issues, dialogue, and retool community policing principles to ensure safety, security, and comfort for all students.

Marla Schulman is Immediate Past President of B'nai Israel and chair of the Faith Community Outreach Committee. She is leading our congregation's effort to learn more about racial equity and find ways to partner with other faith communities and communities of color in our area.

Hal Ossman is Executive Director of B'nai Israel.

Register online at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/letstalkaboutrace. Zoom information will be included in confirmation email.

SAVE THE DATE

Virtual Shmooze with the Cantors Perlman



Sunday, November 8 at 7:00 PM

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.*

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

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

Phone Instructions

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

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.

Schilit Nursery School





EARLY CHILDHOOD

by RACHEL SIEGEL
Director



We have completed our first few weeks of B'nai Schilit Nursey School for the 2020–2021 school year: We made it!

It has been so wonderful to hear laughing, joy, wonder and excitement fill the halls of BISNS.

I'd like to introduce our BISNS community for this school year:

2's – Gan Prachim (Flowers)



Lisa Amige & Yaa Martinson

3's – Gan Keshet (Rainbow)



Jana Kernser & Robin Lubin

4's – Gan Geshem (Rain)



Ruth Kresloff & Monique Israel

3's and 4's Full Day – Gan Shemesh (Sun)



Glenda Koby & Sherri Finkel

Thank you Lisa, Yaa, Jana, Robin, Ruth, Monique, Glenda, and Sherri for your dedication and strength in providing this safe, warm, welcoming, and loving community for our children. And a thank you for all their work behind the scenes, Nancy Goldberg, Renee Lessans, and Gabby Burriss.



Recently, I've been thinking a lot about what I hope we can accomplish this school year together. I keep going back to when I held our first enrolled parent meeting at the end of August. That evening, I was struck by the what you shared you've learned about your child(ren) over the past months of the pandemic. The list includes that your children are really happy to entertain themselves; they are resilient; they are good sports; they are very active and they need to go to school. In addition, you talked about your children as being master negotiators, performers, singers, readers, and bakers. Finally, you described them as independent, flexible, really liking mud, making mud soup, and playing with worms and friends....

It was not about ABC's or 123's. It was about play. It was about exploring. It was about developing a love of learning. It was about the social and emotional learning and growth. All of these are ever so important to us as human beings, but also integral parts of early childhood education. It is these lessons, values, and attributes that I hope we hold at the forefront of our minds and hearts as I think and plan about what I want for our community this school year.

Thank you to everyone: children, parents, families, teachers, administrators, synagogue leadership for helping to make this all happen. It is because of you and for you that we opened our school! Please remember that if there are questions or concerns during these early days, reach out to your child's teacher or to me as soon as possible. We are here to support you every step of the way!

I'm looking forward to an amazing school year together!



YOUTH & EDUCATION

by MOSHE BEN-LEV
Education Director

With the upcoming celebration of Simhat Torah completing this intense season of fall *haggim* and a new Jewish year, I am reminded of endings and beginnings. As you may recall, at the end of Devarim, we read that Moshe's journey is complete as the leader, and the Israelites will begin their final trek into Eretz Yisrael under the able leadership of Joshua, son of Nun.

Last spring, we began a journey of our own together as a human race. Although only a microcosm of the world, B'nai Israel congregation created its own response to this challenge. While the congregation adapted to a virtual world consisting of services and meetings online, the Talmud Torah program immersed itself in providing small group Hebrew classes, *tefillah* services, music lessons, and Judaics in a zoom classroom setting. Having no "experts" or "experienced" educators to rely upon, we both created new approaches to education and worked with networks of other educators all scrambling together to respond to an unprecedented crisis. I remain amazed at both the creativity and resilience of the educators who have responded to a call for a communal response.

Over the summer we worked in creating our program that began on September 13. Our three main areas of focus are firstly, *kehillah*/community through social emotional techniques that our teachers were trained on over the summer combined with our new Jewish values curriculum developed for our present situation, *La-briut*. Our second area is Hebrew/*tefillah*.

With small group Hebrew of no more than five to six students plus a *madrich/a*, teen helper, we hope to continue building our strong Hebrew program. Combined with our integration of Shabbat Magic services and weekly trope classes with Cantor Bolts, we aim to reach our prayer goals. Lastly, creating an environment that embraces all learners regardless of their challenges. From those diagnosed with learning disabilities to those simply struggling with the learning virtually, our *rahmanut*, compassion, must be at its most sensitive. I constantly remind teachers that we are all struggling in different ways and that we must put aside our own negative thoughts and be able to inspire and motivate by example. Students look to us for connection, positive learning, and moments that allow them to be themselves.

Over the last few months, I created an education leadership team that will spend time observing and supporting teachers as they present their lessons. We want to ensure that lessons are meaningful and well planned. This will allow us to refine our new teaching skills, utilize virtual platforms, and meet our educational goals.

Overall, we feel confident that this fall will be one filled with great moments of learning and community building. For us to succeed during our virtual Talmud Torah, partnership with parents is vital. Only as a *kehillah*, can we ensure that Jewish learning is a priority and that our children understand that Judaism is relevant in their everyday lives.



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, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

On your first visit to 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.

OCTOBER Shabbat Magic Youth Programs

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
October Birthday Shabbat
9:30 AM Tot Shabbat (ages 5 and under with parent)
10:15 AM Family Minyan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
10:30 AM Junior Congregation (grades K-6)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
10:30 AM Junior Congregation (grades K-6)
10:30 AM Teen Minyan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
2nd Grade Shabbat
9:30 AM Tot Shabbat (ages 5 and under with parent)
10:15 AM Family Minyan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
10:30 AM Junior Congregation (grades K-6)

Family Minyan

Saturdays, October 3 & 10
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).



YOUTH EVENTS

by SARAH JARVIS
Director of Youth Engagement

I have learned a lot since this all began in March. Before the pandemic, I spent most of my time interacting with kids, and less time with parents. As the Director of Youth Engagement, I was not really shocked by this, but it made me think of all the amazing interactions I have been able to have these past months with parents and families as a whole. We offered weekly youth programming over the summer, which itself was very different. It was so nice to be a part of interactions with the entire family, instead of only the kids in our youth groups. Typically, parents drop off their kids for programs and come back and get them at the end, which means that my interactions with parents were in the moments before and after a program, and were mostly about logistics and sharing updates. This left little time for me to interact with them during program. Moving into the virtual sphere, I have been given the opportunity to talk with parents when they log onto zoom, throughout the program, and even stay on a few minutes after to chat about life, programming, and the world.

This has been extremely rewarding. It has helped to build and enhance relationships, which in turn allows parents to “lean-in” to youth programming. Encouragement from parents for youth to log onto our programming is so important, from our youngest kids in Bonim to our teens in USY. We need partnership with parents to make sure these programs are successful and that we can continue to provide a safe space for connection for the youth of B’nai Israel. Programming looks different for everyone, but I want to say thank you for all who joined us over the past months and I can’t

wait to see what the rest of the year holds. I hope to continue to foster connections and build relationships with families and youth at B’nai Israel both now in the virtual sphere as well as in-person, hopefully, soon!

I hope to see you at our October events! Bonim and Machar will be doing candy sukkah making, because I know I can’t go a year without a candy sukkah. Kadima will be showing off their cooking skills in an online cookoff. USY will be running around their houses as a part of a scavenger hunt that is different than any other before.

Carl & Doris Lane

YOUTH DEPARTMENT EVENTS

BONIM (K-2)

Candy Sukkah Building Contests

Wednesday, October 7
4:00-4:45 PM

Does it have enough walls? Can you see the stars through its roof? Gather up your candy, your creativity, and build your own candy sukkah!

MACHAR (3-5)

Candy Sukkah Building Contests

Wednesday, October 7
4:50-5:30 PM

Does it have enough walls? Can you see the stars through its roof? Gather up your candy, your creativity, and build your own candy sukkah!

KADIMA (6-8)

Cook-Off

Sunday, October 25
12:30-1:30 PM

Show off your cooking skills in this Iron Chef style competition.

USY (9-12)

Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, October 25
1:45-2:45 PM

Search, run, and find in this crazy competition.

Youth Department KADIMA PROGRAMMING



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



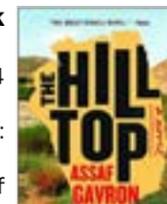
BLUMBERG-ZALIS FAMILY LIBRARY

by JILL GENDELMAN
Librarian

I hope everyone had a lovely and thoughtful new year. See the reading suggestions below related to the Sukkot, Simhat Torah and Shemini Atzeret holidays. Please consider joining us for the following library programs. Zoom links will be provided at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/libraryprograms. To access our online card catalog, go to www.bnaiisraelcong.org/library. Let me know what books you would like by emailing me at bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org and we can arrange a safe contactless pickup. I am also happy to provide suggestions.

B’nai Israel’s Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, October 14
11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Discussion Leader:
Netta Asner Minster
The Hilltop by Assaf Gavron



Mordantly funny and deeply moving, this award-winning novel about life in a West Bank settlement skewers the complex, often absurd reality of life in Israel. Grappling with one of the most charged geo-political issues of our time. On a rocky hilltop stands a fledgling outpost of Jewish settlers in the West Bank. According to government records it does not exist; according to the military it must be defended. When a nosy American journalist stumbles into this settlement it becomes the focus of an international diplomatic scandal.

Monday Night at the Movies Discussion

October 19
7:30-8:30 PM

Felix & Meira

Meira, a Hasidic Jewish wife and mother and Félix, a secular loner mourning the recent death of his estranged father, living vastly different realities mere blocks away from one another attempt to draw each other out and to love each other despite their differences. To watch this movie prior to the discussion rent it through Amazon, \$2.99 or free with Prime. (1hr. 45 min.; English)



Reading Recommendations

Family

Simchat Torah: A Family Celebration by Judith Abrams

Sukkot: A Family Celebration by Judith Abrams

Adults

A Guide to Sukkot by Rabbi Isaac Fabricant
Sukkot Reader by Nechama Liebowitz

Etrog: How a Chinese Fruit Became a Jewish Symbol by David Z. Moster

Every Person’s Guide to Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah by Ronald H. Isaacs

Shemini Atzeres-Simchas Torah: Its Significance, Laws, and Prayers by Moshe Lieber

Ushpizin (DVD) A family facing hardships must rely on their faith for miracles during the holiday season.

Tween/Teen

Tzaki and his Holiday Magic by Avraham Feder—This novel is based on the true stories of an Israeli boy named Yitzhak whom everybody called "Tzaki".

Shaking in the Shake by Dori Weinstein—When their fifth-grade Hebrew school class find something surprising in the synagogue’s sukkah just before the holiday of Sukkot, it leads to an unexpected adventure for Joel (YoYo) and his twin sister Ellie (YaYa), teaching them the importance of shelter and caring for those in need.

The Day the Rabbi Disappeared: Jewish Holiday Tales of Magic by Howard Schwartz—Retellings of twelve traditional tales from Jewish folklore featuring elements of magic and relating to holidays, including Sukkot.
K'tonton's Sukkot Adventure by Sadie Rose Weilerstein

Children

Sukkot and Simchat Torah by Joel Lurie Grishaver

The House on the Roof by David Adlet

The Sukkah and the Big Wind by Lily Edelman

The Mysterious Guest by Eric Kimmel

Maya Prays for Rain by Susan Tarcov

The Sefer Torah Parade by Tzivia Adler

When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge by Elsa Rael

The Littlest Tree by Sylvia Rouss



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](mailto:LynnRayman) (alrayman@verizon.net) or [Jeff Fredman](mailto:JeffFredman) (jnfpntent@msn.com).



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

When I think of the word “date” I go back in time thinking of my first date in 9th grade. Being in an all-girls school, I was pretty impressed with my accomplishment. It was a sweet date, awkward for sure but I was happy. We went to my favorite pizza place (I got to choose where we went). Although it wasn’t sweet enough to make me want to go out again with this person, it is a nice memory, nonetheless.

When I talk to friends about dating currently, it is really tough. You have a choice between meeting virtually or meeting from a distance with a mask covering most of your facial expressions. It is definitely not easy and at the same time, people aren’t going to stop dating. Human connection is so important, especially at this time when we are mostly cooped up at home.

It has been challenging for me to start my second year on *shlichut* at B’nai Israel, but unable to see so many of the people I know. Whether it was seeing people in hallways, kiddushes, Shabbat dinners or classes, those informal conversations are not able to happen anymore and that human connection on a personal level is necessary and missed. This is what motivated me to offer a virtual or social distance “date,” which I have titled “Israel Date.” Unlike my first date, I want you to decide where we go and what we do - all Israeli-themed of course. Whether it is learning about something, talking about current events, learning Hebrew, playing a game, or making a dish, I want these dates to be an opportunity for the personal connections that we all really need every now and then.

Perhaps like my first date this might be a little awkward at first, but I know that we will get the hang of it since this is the temporary reality in which we live.

So, whether you are a family, a couple or by yourself, I would be happy to go on an “Israel Date” with you. All you need to do is fill out the form (<http://bit.ly/israeldate>). I am looking forward to hearing from you!



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

UPCOMING ISRAEL PROGRAMS

Drop-In Hebrew Prayer Reading

Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM
October 13, 20, and 27
See page 8.

Israel’s Most Daring Operations

with Netta Asner-Minster
Wednesday, October 21
7:30-8:30 PM
See page 9.

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>

SOCIAL ACTION

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our Covid-19 Donation Relief Drive on August 20! We collected many school supplies for Linkages to Learning and essential items for The National Diaper Bank. And, we filled the Level the Playing Field’s van to the brim. We are so thankful to the caring community of Bnai Israel!



MEN’S CLUB

**Service to B’nai Israel & Community
Strengthening Jewish Values
Building Friendships**

As we look forward to the festival of Sukkot after the intense and reflective High Holy Days, the Men’s Club is pleased to present our October and November programming.

OCTOBER is the Men’s Club Health Awareness Month, a change from our previously announced Health Awareness Weekend. Due to scheduling conflicts we will be presenting various programs throughout the month which will be announced in the B’nai Israel weekly events announcements. The first one scheduled is for Thursday, October 29 at 7:30 PM with Dr. Dan Shapiro, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician. Dr. Shapiro is the developer of a parent and support program titled “The Parent-Child Journey”, especially topical now in this era of Covid-19 and stay-at-home schooling. His talk is titled “Supporting Children through the Pandemic and Beyond”; we are hoping for a large zoom audience of parents and grandparents of school-aged children. As with all of our Zoom programming, registration with the zoom link will be announced in B’nai’s weekly emails.

Another program in the planning stages is “Ask the Doctors”, a seminar on Sunday, October 25. Details will be announced when finalized.

We are pleased to announce that our always popular Political Forum will take place on Sunday, October 18 at 10:00 AM with breakfast being served at *your house!* Confirmed are Congressmen Jamie Raskin, David Trone and their opponents Gregory Coll and Neil Parrott. Our political reporter and co-president elect Jonathan Salant will moderate and ask questions submitted by our congregants. This program is co-sponsored by the Sisterhood.



NOVEMBER will be an active month, starting with an author presentation: The Lives of Isaac Stern with our member David Schoenbaum on Sunday, November 1 at 11:00 AM. The Men’s Club is pleased to co-sponsor this event with the Sisterhood and the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library.

We will be introducing a new program activity, an in-person Walking Club with our first event on Sunday, November 8 as we take a self-guided tour of Historic African-American downtown Rockville. This is notable on two fronts: it is part of the Men’s Club efforts to provide programming that parallels our synagogue’s racial equity and Black Lives Matter initiatives, and it will be our **first live event** we have planned in eight months! Social distancing *will* be practiced!

In addition, Ms. Miriam Bunlow from the Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation Museum will be presenting a zoom talk on Rockville’s African-American history on Thursday November 12 at 7:00 PM. More programming, including our November Jews and Brews, will be announced so please look for announcements in the on-line B’nai Israel communications.

L’shanah Tovah and Hag Sameah to everyone!

Lewis Gertz and Wayne Berman
Co-Presidents

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mensclub



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)
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).

SISTERHOOD

A Time for Everything: Sisterhood Virtual Lunch and Learn with Cantor Bolts

Thursday, October 8
12:00 PM

Join Cantor Bolts for a discussion of what Sukkot can teach us during this season. Register at juliann.goldman@yahoo.com and a Zoom link will be sent in the confirmation email.



Blanket Making Project

The Montgomery County chapter of the Maryland Association for Family and Community Education (MDAFCE) is again accepting blankets for donation. They are also accepting donations of yarn and fabric. For blanket guidelines or to make arrangements for donation, contact Juliann Goldman (juliann.goldman@yahoo.com).

Torah Fund

You should all have received a message from Sisterhood about Torah Fund, the dedicated philanthropy of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. The monies raised by the Torah Fund Campaign support scholarships and programming at the five degree-granting seminaries worldwide. It supports the needs of rabbis, cantors, educators, and lay leaders in the Conservative/Masorti movement. Please consider a donation. You can donate directly at <http://www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund>. Just click on the box "Give to Torah Fund" and you will be directed to the donation page.

We also have beautiful Torah Fund cards appropriate for all occasions. They are just \$5 each. Email or call Sue Taffet (suetaffet@aol.com or 301-460-5403) and she can send them to you.

Washington Jewish Week

Washington Jewish Week subscriptions are \$55 for one year and \$100 for two years. The cost for seniors, 55 and above, is \$42 for one year and \$76 for two years. Please contact Linda Reisner at 301-519-1776 or lreisner@me.com for additional information.

Meals on Wheels

Sisterhood volunteers deliver kosher Meals on Wheels every Friday morning. To become involved, contact Alice Harris (alicemetrobug@gmail.com) or Lynn Rayman (alrayman@verizon.net).

Sisterhood Flowers are not just for the Holidays

Send a beautiful arrangement for birthdays, anniversaries, life cycle events, or just to say, "I'm thinking about you". Flowers can be customized for your occasion. \$55 for local delivery and \$65 for out-of-area delivery. Contact Linda Heller for details (hellerbehr@gmail.com).

Mah Jongg Cards

If you ordered 2020 mah jongg cards and have not received them, please call Harriet Levi at 301-598-3957. The cards were sent from the Mah Jongg League to Harriet's home; they are not in the Judaica Shop.

Judaica Shop—We are open!

By appointment only. We have sukkah decorations, the necessities for your b'nai mitzvah, and, before you know it, Hanukkah will be here. Contact Debbie Anolik (kilona613@gmail.com).

Sisterhood Masks

Show your support of Sisterhood and B'nai when you "mask up". Soft blue fabric with "Sisterhood has Heart" logo. \$10 includes shipping. Contact Lisa Isenberg (partyonus@gmail.com).



Sisterhood Membership Dues

Complete the membership registration form and mail it together with your check made payable to B'nai Israel Sisterhood to:

B'nai Israel Sisterhood
c/o Lisa Isenberg
18313 Amber Meadows Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

For additional information or questions contact Debbie Moss (debmoss55@comcast.net) or Signe Wetrogan (signe0420@verizon.net).

Sisterhood Membership Registration Form

Member Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

- New congregant (joined after 4/1/2020)
- \$36 General Member
- \$54 Sarah
- \$72 Rebecca
- \$90 Leah
- \$120 Rachel
- Additional contribution \$ _____

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/sisterhood

MAZAL TOV מזל טוב

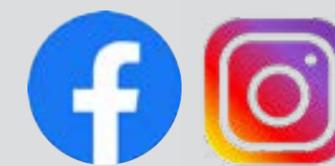
October Anniversaries

- Ricky and Lisa Shofnos – 2
- Brian and Margie Tommer – 2
- Stephen and Sharon Levine – 4
- Darren and Melissa Bernstein – 5
- Jonathan and Oren Shamay Draluck – 5
- Daniel Cohen and Nikki Herson – 7
- Norman and Anne Silberman – 7
- Doug and Julie Braunstein – 8
- Stuart and Marlene Schooler – 8
- Steven and Sheri Schlafstein – 9
- Mark and Jodi Shulimson – 9
- Dan Fisher and Ellen Rice – 10
- Michael and Lisa Miller – 11
- Barry and Audrey Suskind – 11
- Gerald and Leslie Solomon – 12
- Jeffrey and Julie Bethke – 13
- Jared and Cindy Entin – 13
- Bram and Gina Hass – 13
- Michael and Lauren Krauthamer – 13
- Joseph and Karen Krupsaw – 13
- Sol and Suzy Levy – 14
- Oran Tal and Michelle Rojas-Tal – 14
- Stephen Hoffman and Kim Lee Sim – 16
- Jared and Jamie Maier – 16
- Matthew and Andrea Nadelman – 16
- Mark and Beth Redmiles – 16
- Dean and Ellyn Gutridge – 17
- Scott and Barbara Sanford – 17
- Wayne and Terri Kramer – 18
- Robert and Susan Kruger – 20
- Richard and Diane Saltzman – 20
- Ken and Lara Kaufmann – 21
- Ken and Mona Levine – 21
- Phil and Ellen Ratner – 21
- Jonathon Nevelt and Karen Post – 22
- Robert and Anne Rubinovitz – 22
- Charles and Diane Edwards – 23
- Scott and Amy Goff – 23
- Andrew and Phyllis Isaacson – 23
- Gennady and Victoria Vinokur – 23
- Kory and Amy Hankin – 24
- Aaron and Beth Parker – 24
- Doug and Rachel Sunshine – 25
- Bobby and Karen Epstein – 26
- Harvey and Barbara Katzen – 26
- Jeffrey Pollak and Karen Foxman – 28
- Stuart and Karyn Tauber – 29
- Darryl and Debra Feldman – 30
- Joel and Nellie Grover – 30
- Scott and Jill Needleman – 30
- Grant and Ellen Ottenstein – 30
- Michael and Lesley Schrier – 30
- Mitch and Nicole Nydish – 31

and Mazal Tov to...

Diane and Howard Schilit on the birth of their granddaughter, Eden Orly Benarroch. Mazal tov to the parents Amy and Aquiba Benarroch.

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

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Follow us on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/bnaiisraelcong/>



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

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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

Judy Saks, Kallat Breishit, continued from page 7.

interfaith dialogues and partnerships with other synagogues and Jewish institutions—always seeking to increase participation and meet congregants’ needs. Most often, I have been a student, but occasionally, I have had the opportunity to teach, which I very much enjoy. With help from Rabbi Google, I led class discussions on four documentary films about Holocaust history, lectured about the Jews of China, co-taught a class on ethical wills, made several presentations at Tikkun Leyl Shavuot study sessions, was twice selected as a Summer Speaker, and served as a co-lay leader for our Wise Aging course. I continue as a twice-yearly *parasha* discussion leader.

After my husband Michael died of cancer in 2012, entering the synagogue became difficult—as I faced an empty seat on Shabbat and too many memories—even though I had a great deal of support from the clergy, many congregants, and my devoted sister-in-law Nancy Shapiro. As I regained my footing, I recognized that the Adult Education Committee was still my anchor, giving me a sense that I was doing something worthwhile by fostering the concept of lifelong Jewish learning. And it was a pleasure to continue to work with Mickey.

When Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz arrived and took over the adult education portfolio, I had a few anxious moments: What would this new, young guy be like to work with? In a word—great. In addition to being an excellent teacher, Mitch has been very responsive to congregants’ ideas. As one example, in response to requests for summer programming, Mitch introduced the Summer Beit Midrash program, which regularly holds four sessions in July.

Earlier this year, when we talked about ways to make the ritual of counting the Omer a more spiritual experience, Mitch quickly executed a plan that encouraged congregants, staff and clergy to write brief reflections about “unexpected joy” or “resiliency” during the Covid-19 pandemic. These reflections, published on the synagogue’s website each day for 49 days, were well received. Many people said the project led them to count the Omer each day for the first time and also helped them feel a stronger connection to those writers who were willing

to share their compelling personal stories.

Now I am chair once again, but of a larger, more diverse Adult Education Committee with a different structure—one that depends on task force members to identify and plan courses, workshops and programs in five key areas, from the arts to mindfulness. This exciting new approach will enable more congregants to be involved in meaningful ways.

Another education-related project—acquiring art for the synagogue, with the advice and support of Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer and the chairs of the Fine Arts Committee—has also been important. Through the generosity of my late in-laws, Benjamin and Ida Kay Saks, who established the Benjamin Saks Judaica Art Endowment, we acquired prints of five prophets by the renowned artist Yankel Ginzburg. The prints now hang in the Goldberg Youth Chapel. Jonathan asked me to write the text featured below each print, so the art could be used for educational purposes. Distilling a book of prophecy into three or four paragraphs was challenging, but the task helped me better understand and share the prophets’ important ideas.

Through the Endowment, we also purchased prints of striking black-and-white photographs of everyday life in Israel during its formative years from 1936 to 1973. These photos, taken by acclaimed photographer Rudi Weissenstein, include the iconic image of David Ben-Gurion reading Israel’s Declaration of Independence in 1948. They now hang in the synagogue office for all to enjoy and to appreciate how Israel has grown and changed.

I am grateful for and humbled by the honor of being named Kallat Breishit, and I hope that I can inspire other congregants to share my passion for lifelong study. Truly, it is never too late to start learning for its own sake and to use the knowledge gained to enhance every aspect of Jewish life.

In closing, I want to congratulate Lew Gertz on his much-deserved honor. In addition to working very hard for the Men’s Club and the Board of Governors, Lew has been an excellent chair of the Adult Education Committee’s Arts Task Force, and a lifelong learner.

Lewis Gertz, Hatan Torah continued from page 7.

Rabbis Schnitzer and Safra were mentors to our daughter-in-law’s conversion process, enabling her to be married as a Jew. My “re-introduction” to Jewish practice gradually began to take shape then and when I attended the Men’s Club World Wide Wrap, leading me to become a Sunday morning regular again! I retired in 2013 and made the commitment to attend Shabbat services which then led to becoming a regular attendee on most weekday mornings. I became involved in many B’nai committees and was elected to the Board of Governors in 2018, currently serving in my third term on the BOG and second term on the Executive Committee as co-president of the Men’s Club.

I would like to thank, first and foremost, my wife Lynn for being there and encouraging me during my “Dayenu” journey to where I am today; my children Melissa Bernstein, Robbie and their spouses Darren and Sharon for understanding what’s important to me, and to the B’nai clergy for the inspiration and encouragement to continue to achieve. This is a very humble moment for me, realizing that my name will rest with all of the other Simchas Torah honorees past, future and present: Judy Saks, I am honored to be sharing this award with you. You have been a true role model and mentor to me and I thank you!

Continue to achieve—this is the goal I’ve set for myself and I am confident there will be many more DAYENU moments for me at B’nai Israel.

IN SYMPATHY
זכרונם לברכה

B'nai Israel Congregation extends sympathies to our members in mourning:

Brian Barke on the loss of his father, **Al Barke**.

Dr. David Grossberg on the loss of his mother, **Florence Grossberg**.

Gail Chod on the loss of her brother, **Robert Mitchell Minkoff**.

Drs. Robert and Marcia Kerchner and Steven Kerchner on the loss of their brother-in-law and uncle, **Marty Trachtenberg**.

*"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).

Visit 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 consists of individual “lessons” covering various topics relevant to the Jewish community, including specific diseases and medical conditions, genetic technologies, and bioethical issues.

ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA

In a "normal" year we would have dedicated memorial plaques in the Hayman Chapel during Yizkor services on Shemini Atzeret. Since our gathering will be limited this year, we decided to dedicate the new plaques in print.

May their memory be a blessing.



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).

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.

Donations Made in August

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT bnaisraelcong.org/donate

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In Memory Of:

Herbie Heft by Marty and Harriet Feldman

Beverly G. Schnitzer Tikun Olam Endowment

In Honor Of:

The bar mitzvah of Noah Friedman by Robert and Susan Loewy
Our 40th wedding anniversary by Robin and Scott Koenig

Dr. Mitchell and Thelma Goldfarb Rubinow Endowment for Special Needs

In Celebration Of:

The 75th anniversary of Rabbi Simon's bar mitzvah by Jeff and Betsy Cowan

Early Childhood Enrichment Endowment

In Memory Of:

Dr. Gerald W. Beatty by Tonmoy Sabur Nasiri

Elaine Zetlin Pollin Korn Sustaining Endowment Fund

In Memory Of:

Irene Sue Pollin by Cynthia and Morty Zetlin
In observance of the forty-seventh Yahrzeit of our dear brother-in-law, Jack Pollin by Cynthia and Morty Zetlin

Ethan Ross Alperstein Sanctuary Garden Endowment Fund

In Memory Of:

Graciela Sitton, beloved sister of Elvira Blanco by Lois and Leslie Alperstein

Gwendolyn and Oscar Goldstein Talmud Torah Fund

In Memory Of:

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Bobbie Berger's sister, Ellen Phillips by Elaine and David Goodman
Jerry Goodman by Elaine and David Goodman

Hazzan Deborah Togut Memorial Endowment Fund

In Celebration Of:

The birthday of Noam Zarembo, son of Cantor Deborah Togut (z"l) by Norma Krupenic
In Memory Of:
Jerome Goodman by Norma Krupenic

Hazzan Robert Kieval Music Library Fund

In Appreciation Of:

Rabbi Safra for making Benjamin Kish's bar mitzvah a meaningful event for the Kish/Marion family by Dr. and Mrs. Lester Marion
Cantor Bolts for making Benjamin Kish's bar mitzvah a meaningful event for the Kish/Marion family by Dr. and Mrs. Lester Marion

Jerry Neil Memorial Sustaining Endowment

In Celebration Of:

The recent birth of Bram and Gina Hass' grandson, Daniel by Denise and Wayne Berman
In Memory Of:

Faye Bless by Mincy Neil and Family

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In Appreciation Of:

Netta Asner-Minster with thanks for her excellent programming by Carol and Dr. Donald Vogel

Louis and Helyn Fanaroff Sustaining Endowment

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In Memory Of:

Richard Shafritz, beloved nephew of Debby and Gary Bortnick and family by Sharon and Steve Moss

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Gertrude Klastorin Mandel by Rita, Chet, Jonathan, Amanda, Emma Goldie, and Benjamin Sidney Stein

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Martha Idowicz by Norma and Ron Karp

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My recent birthday by Sheila Chodorov
In Memory Of:
David Jesse Nebb by Margaret and Joseph Gitelman
David Nebb by Marjorie and Stephen Goldberg

Hineini Campaign 2020-2021

In Appreciation Of:

Rabbi Safra for his ongoing support by Sheila Franks
Rabbi Berkowitz for his ongoing support by Sheila Franks

In Memory Of:

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Rabbi Schnitzer for all he did for the yahrzeit anniversary of David, Sheri, Andrea and Alyse by the Morton and Goff family

Rabbi Berkowitz for all he did for the yahrzeit anniversary of David, Sheri, Andrea and Alyse by the Morton and Goff family

Cantor Josh for all he did for the yahrzeit anniversary of David, Sheri, Andrea and Alyse by the Morton and Goff family

B'nai Israel Clergy and Staff for going above and beyond in every way to support our family in the preparation and celebration of Avi becoming a bar mitzvah by Laura and Vincent Wallace

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Michael Safra for his guidance with Mikael Redmond's spiritual journey and Jewish learning by Suzanne and Peter Grabiner

In Memory Of:

Steven Stadd with thanks for allowing us to join your virtual services and remember him with Kaddish by Barry Stadd

Bob M. Sandler by Ellen and David Waghelstein

The yahrzeit of Shirley Levine by Eric Levine

David Nebb by Norm and Halley Hetrick

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