Dear Members of B’nai Israel,

Our building may be closed, but our community is open. For months now we have reiterated this vital message about our beloved B’nai Israel Congregation, and we have seen it play out in services, school, lifecycle moments, and a plethora of virtual programming.

We are excited to present the B’nai Israel Program Guide for Spring 2021. The Guide offers an overview of the programs and events that shape our active and dynamic community. Unless otherwise noted, the programs and events listed in this Guide will take place virtually. This Guide covers events that take place from February 2021–June 2021. The Scroll and our digital communications will provide additional details about how to register and participate in these programs.

We know that the pandemic has presented numerous challenges to us as individuals, as families, and as a community. We hope that the programs and events planned for the season ahead will engage you in a meaningful way, sustaining us, empowering us, and enabling us to continue forward on our Jewish journeys. If you have questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please contact the synagogue as you normally would, with the full confidence that all phone messages will be returned expeditiously.

We wish to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to the staff and volunteers whose names appear throughout the pages of this Guide, and to all of you for your steadfast support of B’nai Israel. Please note that all dates and times are subject to change, with updates circulating in the Scroll, Upcoming Events emails, and at www.bnaiisraelcong.org.

May 2021 be a year of health and well-being for each of us.

Michael J. Safra
Senior Rabbi

Mitchell H. Berkowtiz
Associate Rabbi
**Key**

**ADULT EDUCATION**
Lectures, courses, and other programs that promote lifelong Jewish learning through the Sara and Samuel J. Lessans Adult Education Institute.

**BISNS**
*B’nai Israel Schilit Nursery School* programs designed for families enrolled in the nursery school.

**FAMILY**
Programs designed for all B’nai Israel children and their parents, regardless of where they attend school.

**HAZAK**
Lectures for active retirees, typically one per month.

**LIBRARY**
Lectures, films, and programs sponsored by the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library.

**L.I.F.E. LECTURE**
“Learning Is For Everyone” Lecture Series with speakers on a broad range of relevant Jewish topics.

**MEN’S CLUB**
Social programming that builds community, especially for B’nai Israel men.

**SISTERHOOD**
Dynamic programming for women that enriches our families, our synagogue, and the greater community.

**SOCIAL ACTION**
Collections and events to give back to the community and engage in *tikkun olam* (repair of the world).

**TALMUD TORAH**
Events for families with children enrolled in the Talmud Torah.

**YOUTH**
Events for school-aged children, including, but not limited to, our four youth groups (Bonim, Machar, Kadima, USY). Part of the Carl and Doris Lane Youth Department.

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WORSHIP

Join Our Services by Video Livestream or Telephone

Some services are available for limited in-person attendance with advance registration.

More information about all of our services at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/dailyminyan.
WEEKDAYS

Daily Minyan
7:15 AM Monday–Friday
8:00 PM Sunday–Thursday
9:00 AM Sundays and these Federal holidays:

January 1 (New Year’s Day)
January 18 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
February 15 (Presidents’ Day)
May 31 (Memorial Day)
July 4 (Independence Day)

Minyan on other Federal holidays begins at the regular time.
All changes to the regular service times are publicized on our website and in the Scroll.

SHABBAT

Friday Evening Services
6:15 PM
Our Friday evening services are participatory, filled with singing and ruah (spirit). Our rabbis share a teaching related to the parsha (Torah portion). Periodically, our services are enhanced with special themes or followed by dinners and programs.

Saturday Morning Services
9:00 AM
Our Shabbat morning services are celebratory and participatory, with baby namings, b’nai mitzvah, aufrufen (aliyot for couples prior to their weddings), and other lifecycle events. During this time of social distancing, there are opportunities to mark lifecycle moments either by attending in person or via a “virtual shoutout.” Contact the clergy with questions.

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.

For any in-person worship services or events that take place indoors at B’nai Israel Congregation, please visit

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/guidelines

for a detailed listing of our safety protocols.
WINTER/SPRING PROGRAM GUIDE

WEEKLY LEARNING FOR ADULTS

ADULTS

Morning Torah Study
(formerly Shabbat Morning Torah Study)
10:00-11:00 AM
Join us on selected Friday mornings for discussions about the weekly Torah parsha. Interested in leading a session? Contact Wendy Fanaroff (wfanaroff@gmail.com).
February 5 – Yitro
February 19 – T’rumah
March 5 – Ki Tisa
March 19 – Vayikra
April 9 – Sh’mini
April 23 – Ahrei Mot-K’doshim
May 7 – B’har-B’hukotai
May 21 – Naso
June 4 – Sh’lah
June 18 – Hukat

Talmud on Tuesdays Lunch & Learn
(formerly Shabbat Afternoon Talmud Study)
with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz
Tuesdays (weekly)
12:30–1:30 PM
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.

Drop-in Hebrew Reading
with Netta Asner-Minster
Tuesdays (weekly)
2:30–3:30 PM
Drop-in whenever you can to practice and strengthen your Hebrew reading of prayers with our shliach. Recommended background: ability to recognize Hebrew letters and vowels.

The Torah and Beyond: Lunch & Learn
with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer
This monthly class will resume later in the year when we are able to gather in person for courses and classes.

Singing Circle
with Cantor Sarah Bolts
Thursday evenings (selected)
7:15–8:00 PM
Come and build a community of song by singing old and new melodies.
February 4
March 11
April 1
May 6
June 3
**SHABBAT MAGIC**

**YOUTH**

**Tot Shabbat**  
(Ages 5 and under with parent)  
9:30 AM

- February 13  
- February 27  
- March 6  
- March 20  
- April 10  
- April 24  
- May 8  
- May 22  
- June 5

**Junior Congregation**  
(Grades K–6)  
Weekly (when there is no Family Minyan)  
10:30 AM

**Teen Minyan**  
(Grades 7–12)  
10:30 AM

- February 20  
- March 20  
- April 10  
- May 15  
- June 5

**Grade Shabbatot**

- Kindergarten & 1st Grade – February 20  
- 2nd Grade – April 10  
- 3rd Grade – March 20  
- 4th Grade – March 6  
- 5th Grade – April 24

**NEW TIME!**

**Family**

**Family Minyan**  
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).

- February 13  
- February 27  
- March 27  
- April 17  
- April 24  
- May 8  
- May 22  
- June 5

**SPECIAL FAMILY SHABBATOT**

**EPIC Shabbat: Escape from Egypt!**  
Saturday, March 13  
10:15 AM

Join us for the return of EPIC Shabbat! Join with the rest of the Israelites as God and Moses help them escape from Egypt and travel to the Promised Land of Israel! This virtual experience on Shabbat morning includes engaging activities for school-aged children and a meaningful discussion for adults. *Registration is required to receive the special “Travel Bag” to take on your journey.*

**Summer Send-Off Shabbat**  
Saturday, June 5

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer as we send you off on your summer adventures.
FEBRUARY

Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month

Presidents’ Day
Monday, February 15
9:00 AM & 8:00 PM Minyan

Purim
Friday, February 26
Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings
with Rabbi Michael Safra and Netta Asner-Minster
Tuesday, February 2
(and continuing for 7 more Tuesdays)
7:30–9:00 PM
Memory is a central element in defining modern Jewish identity. As we look to Israel's future, we need to engage anew with our past and explore its meanings and consequences. Through the consideration of major historic moments, this Hartman iEngage video lecture series grapples with the different ideas and values that shape the meaning of Modern Israel, Zionism, and Jewish identity today. This innovative course explores the pivotal events of 1947 and 1967, as key moments when Zionism unleashed new thinking about the meaning of Jewishness for generations to come. The course engages Jews in an open and pluralistic discussion about issues of Jewish identity, peoplehood, ethics and theology as they relate to nationhood, land, sovereignty, Jerusalem, occupation, and moral red lines.

Singing Circle
with Cantor Sarah Bolts
Thursday, February 4
7:15–8:00 PM
Come and build a community of song by singing old and new melodies.

Evening Speaker Series
with Joel Goldberg
Thursday, February 4
7:30 PM
April 15th is fast approaching. Joel Goldberg will discuss the new tax laws and what it could mean for you this year. Cosponsored by Sisterhood.

Jewish Disabilities Awareness & Inclusion
Shabbat
Saturday, February 6
9:00 AM
Join us as we celebrate our congregation’s commitment to inclusion of all. We will honor the members of our Inclusion Committee and those who advocate for inclusion in the broader community.

Being Heumann
with Judy Heumann
Sunday, February 7
10:30 AM
Judith (Judy) Heumann is a lifelong advocate for the rights of disabled people. She contracted polio in 1949 in Brooklyn, New York and began to use a wheelchair for her mobility. She was denied the right to attend school because she was considered a “fire hazard” at the age of five. Her parents played a strong role in fighting for her rights as a child, but Judy soon determined that due to continuous discrimination she had to play an advocacy role, working in collaboration with other disabled people. Cosponsored by the L.I.F.E Lecture Series.

For additional details and to register for any of our programs, please visit www.bnaiisraelcong.org/calendar.

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

Saturday, February 6
6:45 PM

Welcome the new week with all your friends and play some fun games.

**World Wide Wrap**

Sunday, February 7
9:00 AM

Everyone is invited as our Men’s Club and Sisterhood join together to participate via Zoom in the annual World Wide Wrap. Instruction for first-timers will be provided. Tefillin may be purchased through out Sisterhood Judaica Shop. See page 10 for details.

**Meals for Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter**

Sunday, February 7
11:30 AM

Help us provide lunch for the residents of the Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter in Rockville. Items can be purchased or prepared in your home. Cosponsored by Men’s Club and Sisterhood.

**Sports Night**

with Johnny Holliday
Tuesday, February 9
7:30 PM

The Men’s Club invites you to join our annual Sports Night. This year we are pleased to feature Johnny Holliday, Washington’s most versatile broadcaster. His face and voice are one of the most familiar in all of Washington and Baltimore Radio and Television with hundreds of commercials and narrations to his credit. He is now in his 40th year as the play-by-play voice of the University of Maryland. Children of all ages are welcome to join us for Sports Night.

**Book Discussion Group**

Wednesday, February 10
11:30 AM–12:30 PM

*Becoming Eve* by Abby Stein

Abby Stein was raised in a Hasidic Jewish community in Brooklyn, as the first son in a dynastic rabbinical family, poised to become a leader of the next generation of Hasidic Jews. But Abby felt certain at a young age that she was a girl. She suppressed her desire for a new body while looking for answers wherever she could find them. Finally, she orchestrated a personal exodus from ultra-Orthodox manhood to mainstream femininity—a radical choice that forced her to leave her home, her family, and her way of life.

**The Hamantashen vs. Latke Debate**

Thursday, February 11
7:00–8:00 PM

The *hamantaschen* or the *latke*? Which is the superior Jewish food? A distinguished panel of renowned experts will each make a convincing argument of which Jewish treat they believe is the best!

**Men’s Club Shabbat**

Saturday, February 13
9:00 AM

Celebrate the Men’s Club and their contributions to our community as they lead and participate in our Shabbat service.
**USY (Grades 9-12)**  
**Ultimate Game Time**  
Sunday, February 14  
1:00–2:00 PM  
Featuring *Among Us* and *Jackbox* games. Battle it out in our ultimate game competition.

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**Sisterhood**  
**Jews in Space: A Virtual Tour of the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore**  
Sunday, February 14  
4:00–5:00 PM  
From ancient astronomers to today’s space scientists and astronauts, Jewish people have been interested in “looking up”. Outer space has also inspired Jewish artists, writers, comedians, and thinkers, both religious and secular, to boldly imagine realms beyond our Earth. Exhibit includes items as rare as 18th and 19th century rabbinic tomes on astronomy in Hebrew, German and Yiddish, and items as idiosyncratic as science fiction memorabilia. The exhibit features mementos from other Jewish space travelers and a detailed timeline of Jewish accomplishments in astronomy and spaceflight.

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**BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Moses’ Yahrzeit: Workshop on the Rituals of Burial & Mourning**  
with Susan Weinmann & Alice Harris, Co-chairs of the Bereavement Committee  
Thursday, February 18  
7:30–9:00 PM  
Tonight, the 7th of Adar, is traditionally known as the *yahrzeit* of Moses. In memory of the foundational leader of our people, we will explore the rites and rituals associated with Jewish burial and mourning practices. We will also explain how these rituals have been modified during the pandemic. This program is presented by the Workshops Task Force of the Adult Education Committee, in partnership with the Bereavement Committee.

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**Ritual**  
**Farbrengen: Tunes and Torah**  
with Cantor Sarah Bolts  
Saturday, February 20  
6:30–7:30 PM  
Share melodies, words of Torah, and some *nosh* as we gather (virtually) to say farewell to Shabbat. Bring your favorite *niggun* (wordless melody), your favorite brief teaching, or just bring yourselves. The gathering will include *havdalah*.

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**L.I.F.E. Lecture**  
**How Judaism Became an American Religion**  
with Steven Weisman  
Sunday, February 21  
7:30 PM  
From their first arrival on American shores in 1654, Jews embarked on a journey that reinvented many of their basic practices, beliefs and doctrines. The result over time was a distinctly American Judaism, driven by practical necessities of assimilating, an embrace of Enlightenment beliefs not compatible with a literal view of the Bible and the Talmud, and finally a desire to establish themselves as full-fledged Americans equal to adherents of other religions. The story of this evolution is one of conflict, continuity, adaptation and disputes—and of a parade of brilliant, brave and charismatic personalities.
Monday Night at the Movies and Discussion
Monday, February 22
7:00–9:00 PM

*Jewtopia*
Two childhood friends from very different families reunite as adults when one asks the other to help him pretend to be Jewish in order to woo a beautiful woman in this outrageous comedy. Starring Jennifer Love Hewitt, Ivan Sergei, Joel David Moore, and Jamie-Lynn Sigler (1hr. 28 min.; English).

Jews and Brews
with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer
Wednesday, February 24
7:30 PM
Join us on Zoom as the featured speaker, our beloved Rabbi Schnitzer, leads a topical discussion on matters of interest to all. Everyone is invited!

Rabbi Matthew Simon’s Winter Multi-Book Review
Sunday, February 28
10:00–11:00 AM

Gustav Schonfeld’s Life: Survival and Triumph
with Josh Schonfeld
Sunday, February 28
7:30 PM
Join us from your living room to hear B’nai Israel member Josh Schonfeld talk about his father and grandparents, survivors of the Holocaust, who raised a family in the Midwest. Cosponsored by Sisterhood.
Youth Megillah Reading (Virtual)
Thursday, February 25
6:15 PM
Haman is out to get us again! Will Esther and Mordecai find a way to foil his evil plot?
Join us for this annual tradition. Interested in reading a few verses of the Megillah?
Contact Rabbi Penina Alexander (penina@bnaiisraelcong.org).

Traditional Megillah Reading (In-person and Virtual)
Thursday, February 25
7:15 PM
Fulfill the mitzvah of hearing Megillat Esther after our Ma’ariv (evening) service.

Purim Spirit Week
Week of February 21
Join Sarah Jarvis, Director of Youth Engagement, and other B’nai Israel staff and clergy for a week of Purim fun with games, and mitzvot.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purim
Pesah
Saturday, March 27 (First Seder Night) – Sunday, April 4
Deli Dinner & Program

Food Truck Event
Thursday, March 4
4:00–5:00 PM
In conjunction with Ted Merwin’s talk on the history of Jewish deli, we will be providing pre-ordered and pre-paid deli sandwiches in the B’nai Israel parking lot. Sponsored by Men’s Club.

The History of Jewish Deli
with Ted Merwin
Thursday, March 4
7:30 PM
In New York, Baltimore, D.C. and other American cities, the delicatessen was the lifeblood and the linchpin of the Jewish community. The “soul food” and atmosphere it dished up became a quintessential part of American culture for Jews and non-Jews alike. But as Jews moved into the suburban middle class, the deli lost its bite, giving way to other ethnic restaurants and cuisines. Can the deli be resurrected? Dr. Merwin will show how the deli, which originated in Germany and Eastern Europe, developed in this country into a neighborhood institution on par with the synagogue. He will also discuss how the deli became an icon of both television shows and films about the Jewish experience. Presented by the Arts Taskforce of the Adult Education Committee. Cosponsored by Men’s Club and Sisterhood.

Third Grade Siddur Program
Talmud Torah
Sunday, March 7
9:30 AM–11:30 PM
Learn about the beauty and significance of the siddur, our sacred prayer book, as we delve into its meaning and importance.

Meals for Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter
Sunday, March 7
6:00 PM
Help us provide dinner for the residents of the Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter in Rockville. Items can be purchased or prepared in your home. Cosponsored by Men’s Club and Sisterhood.

KADIMA (GRADES 6–8)
International Challah Bake
Sunday, March 7
1:00–2:00 PM
Learn to bake delicious challah!

USY (Grades 9–12)
Snackin’ Seder
Sunday, March 7
3:00–4:00 PM
We’ll provide the snacks and you come prepared to snack your way through the seder.

Mikvah: The Original Body of Water
with Naomi Malka
Sunday, March 7
7:30 PM
Join Naomi Malka, director of the Adas Israel Community Mikvah, Rabbi Mitch Berkowitz, and Mikvah Guide Judy Saks for a fascinating conversation about the mikvah and ritual immersion. Most of us didn’t learn about mikvah in Hebrew School so we have some outdated notions of what happens there! You’ll see photos of the mikvah at Adas and hear stories about how people are embracing mikvah at transitional moments in their lives and lifecycles. We’ll discuss both traditional and creative uses of the mikvah and learn how immersing in a mikvah is an important spiritual practice for Jews of all ages, observance levels, and genders. Presented by the Workshops Task Force of the Adult Education Committee.
**Jews and Brews**  
Monday, March 8  
7:30 PM  
Our own Steve Kerbel will lead a discussion on U.S.-Israeli relations under the new Biden administration. Open to everyone (BYOB)!

**Women in Judaism: What’s a Jewish Mother?**  
Monday, March 8  
7:30 PM  
Join our *shlichah*, Netta Asner-Minster, for this two-part session of the “Women in Judaism” series. In honor of International Women’s Day, this session will focus on what it means to be a Jewish mother. Netta hosts Marion Haberman, a writer and content creator for her @MyJewishMommyLife *YouTube* channel and *Instagram* page, to share her thoughts and experiences, and answers your questions about being a Jewish mother and being public about it. The second part of this session will take place on Thursday, March 18. This series is cosponsored by Sisterhood.

**Book Discussion Group**  
Wednesday, March 10  
11:30 AM–12:30 PM  
*The Dutch Wife* by Ellen Keith  
From the Netherlands to Germany to Argentina, *The Dutch Wife* braids together the stories of three individuals who share a dark secret and are entangled in two of the most oppressive reigns of terror in modern history. This is a novel about the blurred lines between love and lust, abuse and resistance, and right and wrong, as well as the capacity for ordinary people to persevere and do the unthinkable in extraordinary circumstances.

**HAZAK**  
**A Look at the Issues and Cases Confronting the Supreme Court**  
with Ian Gershengorn  
Thursday, March 11  
7:00–8:00 PM  
Join Supreme Court advocate and former Acting Solicitor General Ian Gershengorn as he returns to HAZAK to offer a look at the Supreme Court, including the major cases on the Court’s docket, the impact of new Justice Amy Coney Barrett, and the status of the Court as an institution.

**Singing Circle**  
with Cantor Sarah Bolts  
Thursday, March 11  
7:15–8:00 PM  
Come and build a community of song by singing old and new melodies.

**Volunteer Shabbat**  
Saturday, March 13  
9:00 AM  
Celebrate the commitment of our committee chairs and other lay leaders who volunteer their time, effort, and creativity to make our B’nai Israel community the home that it is.

**Fourth Grade Drive-In Havdalah and Movie Night**  
Saturday, March 13  
7:00 PM  
We will begin with *havdalah* followed by a movie about the stars! We provide the candles and spices; you bring your favorite *kiddush* cup, blankets, and something warm to drink. Join us under the stars in your cars!
Fifth Grade B’nai Mitzvah Meeting
Sunday, March 14
9:30–11:30 AM
What makes the b’nai mitzvah experience meaningful and important? What do we need to know as we begin the process? What is B’nai Israel’s bar/bat mitzvah program all about? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we explore the b’nai mitzvah process.

The World of Greek Jewry
with Rachel Velelli Glaser
Wednesday, March 17
7:30 PM
Jewish and Greek? Explore the world of Greek Jewry through a historical overview of the two main cultures of the Sephardim and the lesser known Romaniote, highlighting their unique customs, including those around the "Evil Eye" (ptu, ptu, ptu!).

L.I.F.E. LECTURE
Biblical and Modern Perspectives on the Haggadah
with Marc Brettler
Sunday, March 14
10:30 AM
The Haggadah and the seder are rabbinic innovations, based on a biblical festival that remains most relevant in modern times. How did the Haggadah develop? What biblical elements does it contain, and how are the multiple different biblical views of Passover made to fit together by the rabbis? And what relevance do these ancient texts—the Bible and the Haggadah—have for us today as we approach Passover? Presented in partnership with the Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies.

Women in Judaism: What’s a Jewish Grandmother?
Thursday, March 18
7:30 PM
Join our shliacha, Netta Asner-Minster, as she hosts B’nai Israel member Fonda Lowe for the second session in this two-part series, “Women in Judaism.” This session focuses on what it is to be a Jewish grandmother. Fonda will be sharing her experiences as a Jewish grandmother, and will lead a discussion about the role of Jewish grandmothers. This series is in cooperation with the B’nai Israel Sisterhood and Men’s Club.

Monday Night at the Movies and Discussion
Monday, March 15
7:00–9:00 PM
Welcome to the Kutsher’s: The Last Catskill Resort
Kutsher’s Country Club is the last surviving Jewish resort in the Catskills. Exploring the full Dirty Dancing-era Catskills experience, and how it changed American pop culture in the comedy, sports and vacation industries, his award-winning documentary captures a last glimpse of a lost world as it disappears before our eyes (1 hr. 10 min.; English).

Speaker Event
Sunday, March 21
11:30 AM
Netta Asner-Minster our shliacha will lead a discussion on the history and future of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel. Netta will be hosting Aviva Mangisto, an Israeli Ethiopian Jew, who will share her family story and experiences as well as the unique Ethiopian culture. Cosponsored by Sisterhood.

The congregational shliacha program is made possible by a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.
Revisionist History? A Seder Workshop
with Rabbi Michael Safra
Wednesday, March 10
7:30 PM
The Passover Haggadah tells the story of our history through midrashim, rabbinic tales and interpretations. These texts shape our understanding of the past, and they help us to chart the course of the Jewish future. Join Rabbi Safra and learn how you can enrich your Passover seder.

EPIC Shabbat: Escape from Egypt!
Saturday, March 13
10:15 AM
Join us for the return of EPIC Shabbat! Join with the rest of the Israelites as God and Moses help them escape from Egypt and travel to the Promised Land of Israel! This virtual experience on Shabbat morning includes engaging activities for school-aged children and a meaningful discussion for adults. Registration is required to receive the special “Travel Bag” to take on your journey.

Not Your Zeyde’s Passover Seder
with B’nai Israel Clergy
Tuesday, March 16
7:30–9:00 PM
Whether you are leading a seder for the first time, or the fiftieth, there is always something to learn! Join us for a special workshop in which we explore various methods to more meaningfully engage friends and family members at your upcoming Passover seder. This program will address both those who will gather over Zoom and those who plan for in-person sedarim. Presented by the Workshops Task Force of the Adult Education Committee.

Talmud Torah Pesah Program
Sunday, March 21
9:30–11:30 AM
This school-wide program includes music, rituals, and a creative experience for all students from K–6 grade.

Deliver Passover Packages
Sunday, March 21
9:30 AM–12:00 PM
Help us deliver Passover packages to residents in the Rockville area. This program is sponsored by JSSA and Chesapeake Chapter of B’nai Brith.

More information and the Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide can be found online at www.bnaismontgomery.org/pesah.
Pesah

BONIM & MACHAR (Grades K–5)

Chocolate Seder
Sunday, March 21
12:30–1:30 PM
Grab your yummy chocolate and have a delicious chocolate seder with all your Bonim and Machar friends.

NOAR B’YACHAD (Grades 7–12)

Passover Program
Tuesday, March 23
6:00–7:45 PM
Students will explore the deeper meanings behind Passover as they delve into the Haggadah.

Siyyum Bekhorot
Thursday, March 25
8:00 AM
The “fast of the first born” typically takes place on Erev Passover, and a first born is made exempt from this fast by participating in a celebration of learning, a siyyum. This year, when Erev Passover falls on Shabbat, the Fast of the First Born is moved to Thursday so as to maintain the joyous nature of Shabbat.

Scavenger Hunt: Searching for Hametz
Thursday evening, March 25
Passover requires preparation! Once we clear all of the hametz from our homes we complete a ritual search for any crumbs and pieces left behind. Bedikat hametz, or the search for leavened bread, typically takes place the night before Erev Passover. When Passover falls on Saturday night, we do the search on Thursday evening. Download a special Bedikat Hametz scavenger hunt guide to join us in fulfilling this fun, family-friendly mitzvah.

More information and the Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide can be found online at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/pesah.
APRIL

Yom HaShoah
Thursday, April 8

Yom HaZikaron
Wednesday, April 14

Yom HaAtzmaut
Thursday, April 15

Lag BaOmer
Friday, April 30
**Adult Education**

**Singing Circle**
with Cantor Sarah Bolts
Thursday, April 1
7:15–8:00 PM
Come and build a community of song by singing old and new melodies.

**Jonah, the Reluctant Prophet**
with Steve Kerbel
Wednesdays, April 7–May 12
9:30–11:00 AM
$75 Friends of the Haberman Institute or B’nai Israel Members
$90 General Public
A scan of the *Books of Israelite Prophets* seems to indicate that Jonah, despite his reluctance, was one of the most successful of Hebrew Prophets. It is a shame that most Jews only encounter his narrative on Yom Kippur afternoon, at the end of a day of fasting, when perhaps attentiveness is not at its best. We will take our time to unpack the *Book of Jonah* and give it the attention Jonah didn’t want. Please have a *Tanakh* (Hebrew Bible, English translation is fine) for this course. Presented by the Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies.

**Heretic or Hasid? The Story of Baruch Spinoza**
with Daniel Spiro
April 6, 13, and 20
7:30 PM
In 1656, Spinoza’s synagogue issued against him a *writ of herem*, expulsion from the community, for his “abominable heresies.” Join us for a dramatic reading of *New Jerusalem*, David Ives’ play which depicts this ordeal, and which will lead us to deeper investigation of Spinoza’s thought. Class participants will receive a copy of the play and will take turns playing the characters during each of the sessions. The weekly reading and conversation about Spinoza will be facilitated by Daniel Spiro, local author and founder of the Washington D.C. Spinoza Society.

**Zikaron BaSalon: Yom HaShoah Program**
Thursday April 8
7:30 PM
Zikaron BaSalon, or “a memory in the living room,” has become an annual Yom HaShoah program. Join our *shlichah*, Netta Asner-Minster, as we hear the testimony of Holocaust survivors and their family members in our virtual “living room” on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**Author Presentation**
with Manny Thorne
Sunday, April 11
11:00 AM–12:15 PM
Manny Thorne will present *It Will Yet Be Told*, by his late father, Leon Thorne, with a forward by Isaac Bashevis Singer.

**BONIM (Grades K–2)**
**Ice Cream Party & Crafts**
Sunday, April 11
12:30–1:30 PM
Grab your bowl, spoon, and favorite flavor to enjoy a sweet treat and a fun afternoon of crafts.

**MACHAR (Grades 3–5)**
**Painting Fun**
Sunday, April 11
1:45–2:45 PM
Grab a brush and follow along as we paint a masterpiece.
The Art You Never Knew Was There
with Randy Sager
Sunday, April 11
7:30–9:00 PM
Join Randy Sager, Fine Arts Chair, in a “taste of art” virtual tour of select pieces of art throughout B’nai Israel Congregation. Randy will focus on the artists’ biographies, subject matter, methods and more. The tour includes lithographs, photos, sculpture, and pieces from the museum case collection. Presented by the Arts Task Force of the Adult Education Committee.

NOAR B’YACHAD (Grades 7–12)
Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzmaut Program
Tuesday, April 13
6:30–8:30 PM
Netta Asner Minster, our shliach and Noar B’Yachad teacher, will lead us in a program that explores the transition between a day of mourning to one of joy as we celebrate the creation of the Jewish State.

Zikaron Packets for Yom HaZikaron
In honor of Yom HaZikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day which begins Tuesday evening, April 13, our shliach, Netta Asner-Minster, will distribute “Zikaron packets.” Each packet includes information about a soldier, lyrics to a song written by or about the individual, and a memorial candle. Sign-up and pick-up times of the packets will be announced.

Tekes Ma’avar
Wednesday, April 14
7:15 PM
Join our shliach, Netta Asner-Minster, for a short ceremony bridging Yom Hazikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day with Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. During this ceremony Netta will be sharing how to use the Zikaron packets that were distributed, as well as demonstrate the difficult and unique transition from grief to celebration.

YOM HAATZMAUT
CELEBRATIONS
Thursday, April 15

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
A B’nai Israel Trip
Thursday, April 15
Join our shliach, Netta Asner-Minster, for an Israel trip in honor of Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. Families will pick up their “Israel boxes” with all the materials needed for the Israel trip and the different activities. They will then travel around and experience all the incredible things Israel has to offer.

FOR ADULTS
Defending Israel
Thursday, April 15
7:30 PM
Join our shliach, Netta Asner-Minster, for a special IDF panel in honor of Israel’s Independence Day. The panel will include former soldiers who are currently in the DMV area and have served in different IDF positions. They will share their unique experiences and challenges while defending Israel.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/yomhaatzmaut
Yom HaAtzmaut Program (Grades K–6)
Sunday, April 18
9:30–11:30 AM
Students will celebrate the wonders of Eretz Yisrael, the Land of Israel, through music, art, and creative programs.

Hearing Men's Voices
Sunday, April 18
10:30 AM
Led by Jeff Moss this innovative discussion features a small group conversation that enables men to have a talk on relevant and sometimes personal topics.

Torah Fund Virtual Tea
Sunday, April 18
3:00 PM
"Bring your own tea bag" as we share information about Torah Fund, thank the supporters, and spend time with other Sisterhood friends.

Sammy Spider & the Magic of Children's Book Illustration
with Katherine Kahn
Sunday, April 18
8:00 PM
Experience the magic of the Sammy Spider series from the artist behind this adorable arachnid. The Sammy Spider series, by Sylvia Rouss, presents preschoolers with an engaging introduction to Jewish traditions, by taking the point of view of a spider living in the Shapiro family’s home. Katherine will talk about formative experiences in Israel that led her to become an illustrator of Jewish children’s books. She will also guide us through the pen and paint process of illustrating some of our favorite Jewish children’s book characters. Presented by the Arts Task Force of the Adult Education Committee.

Monday Night at the Movies and Discussion
Monday, April 19
7:00–9:00 PM
Abe
Twelve-year-old Abe has a complicated family: part Israeli, part Palestinian, and constantly fighting. But when he meets Chef Chico and his fusion cuisine, he's inspired to unite his family through food. Abe wants to cook a meal that will bring everyone to the table, but he's about to learn that the kitchen can't heal some divides (1 hr. 25 min.; English).

Evening Speaker Series
Monday, April 19
7:30 PM
We welcome back our member David Sotsky to give an update on the 2021 economy in these challenging times. Cosponsored by Sisterhood.

HAZAK
How Will an Interracial and Intermarried White House Impact Current Dynamic Intersections of African American and Jewish Cultures?
with Carolivia Herron
Thursday, April 22
7:00–8:00 PM
Author Carolivia Herron will discuss current dynamic intersections of African American and Jewish cultures including Black-Jewish relations today and how it will be impacted by Vice President Kamala Harris, who is an interracial woman in an interfaith marriage.
Rising Third Grade Orientation and Family Program for Second Grade
Sunday, April 25
9:30–11:30 AM
Second grade families will learn about the transition from their current program to the next stage of Talmud Torah, which emphasizes Hebrew literacy and a deeper connection to Jewish learning. In addition, families will take part in a program centered around the theme of what Jewish identity means to us.

USY (Grades 9–12) Cooking Competition
Sunday, April 25
1:00–2:00 PM
Gather your ingredients and get ready to whisk, chop, and plate your way to victory.

KADIMA (Grades 6–8) Movie Night
Sunday, April 25
5:00 PM
Grab some popcorn and snacks to prepare for a night of movie watching!

Mindfulness Walk with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz
Sunday, April 25
4:00 PM
Cabin John Park
With the return of warmer weather, we take the opportunity to walk about outdoors and explore the world around us. Rabbi Berkowitz will lead us on a guided meditation and mindfulness walk through Cabin John Park. Presented by the Mindfulness Task Force of the Adult Education Committee.

Meals for Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter
Sunday, April 25
6:00 PM
Help us provide dinner for the residents of the Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter in Rockville. Items can be purchased or prepared in your home. Cosponsored by Men’s Club and Sisterhood.

L.I.F.E. LECTURE
The Jews, and the Secrets, Behind Superman and Batman
with Marc Nobleman
Tuesday, April 27
7:00 PM
Author Marc Tyler Nobleman reveals secrets he uncovered and mysteries he solved while researching his books *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman* and *Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman*, one of which made history...in more ways than one. Marc has been invited from Tanzania to Thailand to the TED stage to tell this real-life detective story. It stars Jewish creative pioneers, aligns with Jewish values (from defending the underdog to honoring legacy), and features twists both uplifting and heartbreaking. Cosponsored by Talmud Torah.
B’naï Israel’s 2020–2021 Hineini Annual Campaign is going strong and still needs your help to meet the goals of our synagogue.

Thanks to our congregation’s generous support of last year’s campaign and commitment to our membership dues, we have been able to grow, engage more members of the community, and implement programs of the highest impact.

Membership dues, education tuition, and all other resources combined do not fully support the budget necessary to provide for our B’naï Israel community’s needs, and this year we are facing an income shortfall in the wake of not collecting High Holiday seat revenue. Thank you for considering a contribution—gifts of any size are meaningful and make a large impact.

This is the time to be a part of our success, invest in our home for Jewish life, and imagine our future. Thank you to the hundreds of B’naï Israel members who have already shown their support for the Hineini Campaign.

As this year has shown us, B’naï is here for you—especially when we need it the most.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/hineini
MAY

Yom Yerushalayim
Monday, May 10

Shavuot
Monday, May 16 – Tuesday, May 18

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31
Sixth Grade Learners’ Shabbat Service  
Saturday, May 1  
10:15-11:45 AM  
Rabbi Safra will lead a learners’ service where he will explore the meaning behind the prayers of the siddur and the Torah service.

Meals for Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter  
Sunday, May 2  
11:30 AM  
Help us provide lunch for the residents of the Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter in Rockville. Items can be purchased or prepared in your home. Cosponsored by Men’s Club and Sisterhood

L.I.F.E. LECTURE  
JTS Evening of Learning  
Racial Justice and Jewish Values  
Sunday, May 2  
6:30 PM  
Topics will include racism and reparations, an exploration of Abraham Joshua Heschel’s teachings on racial justice, and race and reproductive justice. Featuring JTS scholars: Dr. Yonatan Brafman, Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Ethics, JTS; Rabbi Gordon Tucker, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Religious Life and Engagement, JTS; and Dr. Michal Raucher, JTS Fellow and Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Rutgers University. Learn more and register at www.jtsa.edu/evening-of-learning-2021.

Sixth Grade Tefillin Workshops  
Sunday, May 2 (continues on Sundays through May 23)  
9:30-10:15 AM  
Students will take part in the weekday Shaharit (morning service) and learn about the meaning of tefillin while also practicing how to use them. Stay tuned for details about purchasing your own pair of tefillin.

Tensions in the Capital: A Jerusalem Day Event  
Wednesday, May 5  
7:30 PM  
In honor of Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day, join our shlicha, Netta Asner-Minster, for a panel discussing the tensions that exist in Israel’s capital. Focusing primarily on the secular and religious tension that Jerusalem has had since the foundation of the State, the panelists will share their connection to Jerusalem as well as the tensions and challenges they have faced, covering the beauty and complexity of Jerusalem.

Singing Circle  
with Cantor Sarah Bolts  
Thursday, May 6  
7:15–8:00 PM  
Come and build a community of song by singing old and new melodies.

Third Grade Hagigat HaSiddur Celebration  
Friday, May 7  
6:15 PM  
This culminating program invites our third graders to join the congregation in celebrating Shabbat and leading parts of the service from their very first siddur!

For additional details and to register for any of our programs, please visit www.bnaiisraelcong.org/calendar.
B’nai Israel Book Discussion Group  
Wednesday, May 12  
11:30 AM-12:30 pm
*Apeirogon* by Colum McCann
Bassam is Palestinian. Rami is Israeli. They inhabit a world of conflict that colors every aspect of their lives. Rami’s thirteen-year-old daughter, Smadar, becomes the victim of suicide bombers; a decade later, Bassam’s ten-year-old daughter, Abir, is killed by a rubber bullet. Rami and Bassam had been raised to hate one another, and yet, when they learn of each other’s stories, they recognize the loss that connects them. Together they attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace. *New York Times* Bestseller and longlisted for The Booker Prize.

Sisterhood Membership Dinner  
Wednesday, May 12  
7:00 PM
Join Sisterhood for its membership dinner. Box dinners will be available for pick up at the synagogue to be enjoyed at home. The evening will also include a virtual program. A wonderful way to reconnect with all your Sisterhood friends!

HAZAK  
**Understanding the Israel-Gulf Breakthrough and the Biden Administration’s Middle East Policy**  
with David Makovsky  
Thursday, May 13  
7:00–8:00 PM
David Makovsky, the Ziegler Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute and director of the Project on Arab-Israel Relations, will elucidate the conditions that enabled Arab normalization with Israel and explain the benefits of normalization for both Israel and Arab nations. Further, he will explore the Biden administration’s Middle East Policy and discuss likely next steps in the region.

USY (Grades 9–12)  
**PowerPoint Show**  
Sunday, May 16  
2:00–3:00 PM
Bring your funniest and most creative PowerPoints and share with your friends.

Jews and Brews  
Thursday, May 20  
7:30 PM
A clergy-led Zoom discussion on a current topic with a Jewish perspective. Open to everyone (BYOB)!
SHAVUOT

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
Sunday, May 16
8:30 PM
Explore Jewish texts in new and meaningful ways as we engage in this annual late night tradition of studying Torah on Shavuot.

Confirmation
Monday, May 17
9:00 AM
Honor our confirmands as we begin our celebration of Shavuot, the festival that marks the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/shavuot

Day School Outdoor Shabbat Service
Friday, May 21
6:30 PM
Welcome Shabbat in our parking lot with your friends from the Day School community.

BONIM & MACHAR (Grades K-5)

Summer Fun
Sunday, May 23
1:30–2:30 PM
Summer fun with tie-dye, bracelet making, and games.

Monday Night at the Movies and Discussion
Monday, May 24
7:00–9:00 PM
Doing Jewish: A Story from Ghana
A tiny community in rural Ghana recently discovered that the religion they have been practicing for centuries is Judaism. Filmmaker Gabrielle Zilkha explores their story from isolation to global connection and the challenges and rewards they face along the way (1 hr. 24 min.; English).

KADIMA (Grades 6-8)

Tie-Dye & Summer Sports
Sunday, May 30
2:00 PM
Get ready for the summer with outdoor activities and games.
**Singing Circle**  
with Cantor Sarah Bolts  
Thursday, June 3  
7:15–8:00 PM  
Come and build a community of song by singing old and new melodies.

**Summer Send-Off Shabbat**  
Saturday, June 5  
Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer as we send you off on your summer adventures.

**Talmud Torah Maccabiah Day (Grades K–6)**  
Sunday, June 6  
9:30–11:30 AM  
Celebrate your accomplishments on this last day of Talmud Torah for this school year.

**Meals for Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter**  
Sunday, June 6  
11:30 AM  
Help us provide lunch for the residents of the Interfaith Works Women’s Shelter in Rockville. Items can be purchased or prepared in your home. Cosponsored by Men’s Club and Sisterhood.

**B’nai Israel Book Discussion Group**  
Wednesday, June 9  
11:30 AM–12:30 PM  
*My Wild Garden: Notes from a Writer’s Eden* by Meir Shalev  
On the perimeter of Israel’s Jezreel Valley, with the Carmel mountains rising up in the west, Meir Shalev has a beloved garden. He extolls the virtues of the lemon tree, rescues a precious variety of purple snapdragon from the Jerusalem–Tel Aviv highway, and does battle with a saboteur mole rat. He even gives us his superior private recipe for curing olives. Recommended by Rabbi Matthew Simon during his November book review.

**HAZAK**  
End-of-Year Celebration: Laugh and Sing  
with Cantor Josh and Sharon Doner  
Thursday, June 10  
7:00–8:00 PM  
It’s been a rough year so let’s celebrate joyfully together with the wonderful voice of Cantor Josh and the hysterical jokes of own comedian, Sharon Doner. Can’t carry a tune? Don’t worry about it – when you are on Zoom no one can hear you so you can sing your heart out and give big belly laughs! Let’s close out the year with good cheer.

**Hearing Men’s Voices**  
Sunday, June 13  
10:30 AM  
Led by Jeff Moss this innovative discussion features a small group conversation that enables men to have a talk on relevant and sometimes personal topics.
**Jews and Brews**
Thursday, June 17
7:30 PM
We are pleased to welcome our *shlicha*, Netta Asner-Minster, to reflect upon her time spent as B’nai Israel’s *shlicha* and what she will take back to Israel. Open to everyone (BYOB)!

**Monday Night at the Movies and Discussion**
Monday, June 14
7:00–9:00 PM
*Remember Me*
In this coming-of-age-at-30 comedy, a risk-averse public radio war correspondent—who’s never actually been to war—unexpectedly ends up on a road trip with his cousin, an aspiring actor with whom he is feuding, and their seemingly frail grandmother (Academy Award winner Rita Moreno) to deliver her to an assisted care facility (1 hr. 25 min.; English).

**Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington**
Explore the resources of the Jewish Genealogy Library (JGL), located upstairs in the Chod Media Center at B’nai Israel Congregation. The JGL’s extensive collection contains more than 600 books and a substantial collection of periodicals and CDs, available for reference only.

For more information, contact Sean Agronov (240-731-0689, webmaster@jgsgw.org).

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The publication of this *Program Guide* is made possible by the generous support of the Jay, Gail, Emily and Olivia Wasserman Communication Endowment.

Thank you to Jeff Lowe, Estelle Schwalb, and Rachel Weinstein for reviewing and editing the *B’nai Israel Program Guide*.

Special thanks to Bonnie Cole, Freed Photography, Emily Koo, Herb Perone, and Randy Sager for the beautiful photos they have taken for B’nai Israel Congregation, some of which have been used in this edition of the *B’nai Israel Program Guide*. 
L.I.F.E. LECTURES

L.I.F.E. LECTURES are free-of-charge and open to the community.

These lectures are made possible by your donations and the generosity of: the Israel Bimblich Memorial Lecture Fund, the Bess and Irving Kamins Lecture Fund, the Lieblein Memorial Lecture Fund, the Morris and Ida Park Memorial Lecture Fund, and the Louis Wener, M.D., Memorial Lecture Fund.

L.I.F.E. Lectures can be close-captioned if requested. Special thanks to the Meisel Family Endowment for Special Needs and the Dr. Mitchell and Thelma Goldfarb Rubinow Endowment for Special Needs for making this service possible.

Learn more at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/lifelectures.

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 Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/groups/BnailsraelCong/

Follow us on Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/bnaiisraelcong/
INSTRUCTORS
NETTA ASNER-MINSTER is in her second year as our *shlichah* (Israeli Emissary). Netta was born in Silver Spring, Maryland, and moved to Israel in 2004. She completed her BA prior to her *shlichut* from Hebrew University in International Relations and Jewish History and Contemporary Judaism. Netta’s passion is to engage with Israeli and American Jews, strengthening the ties between the communities. She has worked with various organizations such as Onward Israel, the Knesset, and the Jewish Agency to further promote this goal. She and John were married in December 2019.

RABBI MITCHELL BERKOWITZ joined B’nai Israel after he was ordained in May 2017 by the Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS). While in rabbinical school, Rabbi Berkowitz served as the rabbinic intern at Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn, New York. He holds a Master of Arts in Talmud and Rabbinics from the Graduate School at JTS, and Bachelor’s Degrees in History and in International & Global Studies from Brandeis University. In addition to his rabbinic and pastoral roles as the Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Berkowitz also organizes programming and learning opportunities for the community.

CANTOR SARAH BOLTS began serving as Associate Hazzan and Music Director at B’nai Israel Congregation in August 2019. Previously, Cantor Bolts served as the Cantor and Education Director at Beth Sholom B’nai Israel in Manchester, Connecticut. Cantor Bolts was ordained as a cantor in 2016 at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts, where she also earned a Master’s Degree in Jewish Studies. As a graduate of a pluralistic cantorial school, she is trained in musical styles from across the denominational spectrum.

MARC BRETTLER is the Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University and Dora Golding Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Brandeis University. A graduate of Brandeis University, he has published and lectured widely on metaphor and the Bible, the nature of biblical historical texts, and gender issues and the Bible. He is co-editor of the *Jewish Study Bible*. Dr. Brettler has written for *The Forward* and *The Jerusalem Report*. He has spent recent sabbaticals studying, teaching, and lecturing in Israel, China, and Japan.

JILL GENDelman graduated with an BA in anthropology, and a post baccalaureate program in pre-med from Colorado State University, and a Master’s Degree in Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh. She taught and tutored in the sciences, had a diabetes and lipid research fellowship, and spent years working in environmental Epidemiology for the private sector and then for the Environmental Protection Agency, before retiring to raise her children. Followed by years of volunteering in the classroom, and a teaching course offered by the Federation, she taught for the Girls Yeshiva of Greater Washington, and finally ended up at B’nai Israel as the librarian in 2006.

IAN GERSHINGORN is chair of Jenner & Block’s Appellate and Supreme Court Practice and is one of the nation’s premier Supreme Court and appellate advocates, having argued 16 times before the U.S. Supreme Court. Before joining Jenner in 2017, he served in the Office of the Solicitor General at the US Department of Justice, first as Principal Deputy Solicitor General and then as Acting Solicitor General of the United States. Mr. Gershengorn’s practice focuses on advising clients on a range of complex litigation and strategy problems, with particular emphasis on commercial disputes and challenges involving government, regulatory, and other public policy issues.
RACHEL VELELLI GLASER was born in Patras, Greece, and emigrated to the United States in 1956 at the age of eight with her parents and siblings. In America, Rachel became active in Jewish life, earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Education and Psychology from Goucher College and two Master’s Degrees, one in Education and Special Education, and another in Jewish Studies. Rachel was the Education Director at Beth Israel Congregation Religious School in Owings Mills, Maryland for 26 years, and Summer Director of Habonim Dror Camp Moshava for 25 years. Most importantly, she and her husband Rick have four grown children and eight grandchildren, two of whom they proudly share with B’nai Israel’s own Lisa and Alan Isenberg!

CAROLIVIA HERRON, a convert to Judaism in adulthood and a founding member of “Jews of African Descent,” has a paternal-line Jewish descent from her grandmother. Her children’s book, Always an Olivia, recounts the coming of Herron’s Jewish ancestors from Tripoli, Libya, to the Georgia Sea Islands in the Americas. Her provocative famous book, Nappy Hair, caused a ruckus in New York City Public Schools. Dr. Herron currently teaches in the Classics Department of Howard University. Her presentation will focus on current dynamic intersections of African American and Jewish cultures including Black-Jewish relations today and how it will be impacted by Vice President Kamala Harris, who is an interracial woman in an interfaith marriage.

JUDITH HEUMANN is an internationally recognized leader in the disability rights community. Her memoir, authored with Kristen Joiner, is titled Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist, and audio recorded by Ali Stroker, who is the first wheelchair actor to perform on Broadway. Judy is featured in Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution, a 2020 American award winning documentary film, available on Netflix. She currently serves on a number of non-profit boards, including the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Humanity and Inclusion, as well as the Human Rights Watch board. She served in both the Clinton and Obama administrations.

JOHNNY HOLLIDAY has broadcast more than 1,500 Terps football and basketball games, including 16 bowl games, 12 sweet sixteens, two final fours, and Maryland’s National Championship win over Indiana in 2002. Dick Vitale named Johnny one of his Top 15 play-by-play voices in the nation. For 12 seasons Johnny hosted the Washington Nationals pre- and post- game shows on MASN. He previously hosted the Washington Senators pregame radio show with Ted Williams. Johnny still finds time to participate in a variety of charitable activities including Catholic Charities, Special Olympics, Georgetown Visitation, The Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner, and the Catholic Youth Organization. He hosts his own celebrity golf tournament to benefit The Youth Leadership Foundation which has raised over 1.5 million dollars for scholarships for kids to attend high school and college.

KATHERINE KAHN’S first illustrated books were actually for television. Her program for WETA-TV’s Cover to Cover, A Wizard of Earthsea, won the Golden Hugo from the Chicago International Film Festival in 1976. She has since illustrated over 50 (actual) books! Katherine received a BA from the University of Chicago in literature and art history and an MA in painting from the University of Iowa. It was during her time in Israel as a volunteer after the Six Day War (1967–68) while studying at the Bezalel School of Art, that she determined to combine her love of Judaism and art. One of the ways she has done this is in her illustrations for Jewish children’s books. She is the illustrator of the Sammy Spider books, written by Sylvia Rouss, as well as the Ziz books, written by Jacqueline Jules.
STEVE KERBEL is an independent education consultant in the Greater Washington DC area, and has been involved in Jewish education for the last 30 years. Steve is a consultant and project director for the Center for Israel Education at Emory University in Atlanta. Steve serves as National President of the Jewish Educators Assembly. Steve earned a law degree and was in the private practice of law for eight years. Among Steve’s avocations, he facilitates wine tastings featuring Israeli wines and teaches about the geography of Israel through its wines and wine makers.

DAVID MAKOVSKY is the Ziegler distinguished fellow at The Washington Institute and director of the Project on Arab-Israel Relations. He is also an adjunct professor in Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). In 2013–2014, he worked in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of State, serving as a senior advisor to the Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations. He is coauthor, with Dennis Ross, of Be Strong and of Good Courage: How Israel’s Most Important Leaders Shaped Its Destiny (PublicAffairs). A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Makovsky received a bachelor’s degree from Columbia University and a master’s degree in Middle East studies from Harvard University.

NAOMI MALKA is the director of the Adas Israel Community Mikvah. Since 2006, Naomi has been the director of the Adas Israel Community Mikvah, a progressive mikvah inside a Conservative synagogue in Washington, DC. Naomi trained as a Mikvah Guide at Mayyim Hayyim in Newton, Massachusetts. Naomi created a program called “Bodies of Water,” to introduce kids ages 10+ to learn about mikvah as a tool for positive body image and healthy decision making from a Jewish perspective. She earned a Master’s Degree in Jewish Music from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2000 and a BA in Sociology from UCLA in 1991.

TED MERWIN, PH.D. was the Mid-Atlantic Regional Synagogue Initiative Director for AIPAC. Prior to working at AIPAC, he taught religion and Judaic studies at Dickinson College, where he was the founding director of the Milton B. Asbell Center for Jewish Life. He is author of In Their Own Image: New York Jews in Jazz Age Popular Culture, and Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli, which won a 2015 National Jewish Book Award. In addition to serving as arts critic for the New York Jewish Week for two decades, Ted has published articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, Haaretz, and Newsweek.

MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN is the award-winning author of books including Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman, which changed history, inspiring the unprecedented feature documentary Batman & Bill. He speaks around the world and blogs about adventures in publishing from his home in Maryland. Twitter: @MarcT Nobleman. Instagram: @MTNobleman.

CANTOR JOSH C. PERLMAN became the Cantor at B’nai Israel in February 2001. He previously served as the Cantor at Congregation B’nai Israel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for ten years. Prior to that position, Cantor Josh was the Cantorial Soloist at Temple Shalom in Milton, Massachusetts, and Temple Emanu-El in Providence, Rhode Island. He has studied voice with Jeanne Grealish of the Sante Fe Opera and with the eminent Dr. William Riley in New York.
**Randy Sager** is B’nai Israel’s Fine Arts Chair. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Pennsylvania State University in painting and printmaking, and began graduate studies at VCU (painting and museum methods at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and The Valentine Museum). She has been a professional photographer since 1997. Prior to photography, her career has included courtroom drawing for TV, and working at NBC and ABC News as a graphic artist.

**Rabbi Michael Safra** joined B’nai Israel after his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in 2002. He became Senior Rabbi of the Congregation in 2017, articulating his goal to strengthen congregational life by encouraging and guiding individuals as they pursue their personal Jewish journeys. Rabbi Safra received his B.A. in history and Judaic studies from the University of Michigan, and holds a Master’s Degree in Bible from the Graduate School at JTS. He serves on the boards of the Den Collective, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH), and the National Rabbinic Cabinet of Israel Bonds. He is also president of the Baltimore Washington Kashruth Association.

**Rabbi Jonathan A. Schnitzer** served B’nai Israel for twenty-eight years before becoming Rabbi Emeritus in July 2017. Rabbi Schnitzer received a B.A. from Columbia College and then studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he received his Master’s Degree and was ordained in 1974. In 2001, the Seminary awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Divinity. Rabbi Schnitzer has been very active on the local and national Jewish scene. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Social Service Agency. A voracious reader, avid traveler and biking enthusiast, Rabbi Schnitzer also has a special passion for Israel.

**Rabbi Matthew H. Simon** has served B’nai Israel as Senior Rabbi and Rabbinic Campaign Consultant for three decades. During his tenure, the Talmud Torah was expanded and consolidated, havurot were added and women were accorded equality. He was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1958 and awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1984. He served as a Navy Chaplain and retired as a Captain after 28 years of service. He served as President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington for two terms.

**Daniel Spiro** wears many hats. He is a practicing attorney who has devoted virtually his entire career to investigating and litigating against corporate fraud. He coordinates the Washington Spinoza Society. In addition to serving as the President and a co-founder of the Jewish-Islamic Dialogue Society of Washington, he is active in other Jewish-Islamic partnerships in the D.C. area. He is the author of numerous essays and three published books, including *Liberating the Holy Name* and *Moses the Heretic*.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Joshua Burstein</td>
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<td>June 19</td>
<td>Benjamin Amdur</td>
<td>Simon Pugach</td>
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*Past President

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- **Jonathan Salant** Co-President jds15@aol.com

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- **Signe Wetrogan** signe0420@verizon.net

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- **Wendy Stickler** wpstickle@gmail.com
Social Action Collections

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE**
New school supplies are needed for families in the Linkages for Learning Program at Weller Road Elementary School. Weller Road is a Title 1 School and purchasing school supplies is a hardship for many of these families. We will be collecting new supplies in the bin outside the Education Office through early September.

- Backpacks
- Pens/Pencils/Colored pencils/erasers
- Crayons/Colored markers (fine and thick points)
- Pencil boxes
- White glue/Glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Scissors/Rulers
- Folders/Binders
- Composition/Wire notebooks (wide rule)

**CLOTHING DRIVE**
The goal at Interfaith Works Clothing Center is to provide families and individuals in need with quality used clothing and home goods. The donations offer clients a sense of pride and dignity by making good quality items available to them at no cost.

- Gently-used clothing for men, women and children
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Pajamas
- Sports Bras (small to XL)
- Shoes
- Umbrellas
- Ponchos

The Greater DC Diaper Bank empowers families and individuals in need throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia by providing an adequate and reliable source for basic baby needs and personal hygiene products.

- Diapers & Pullups (open packages are accepted, sizes 4–6 are in high demand)
- Wipes
- Diaper Rash Cream (new)
- Tampons/Pads (open boxes of individually wrapped items accepted)
- Formula/Baby Food (new)

**MANNA FOOD DRIVE**
Manna Food Center’s mission is to eliminate hunger in Montgomery County. Through food distribution, education and advocacy, they are making strides on behalf of more than 63,000 county residents who experience hunger and food insecurity.

- Instant Oatmeal Packets (Original Flavor)
- Brown Rice
- Whole Grain Pasta
- Tuna, Salmon or Chicken (in Water)
- Dry or 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

Droff off items for donation during regular business hours (Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM; Friday, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM).
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ROBERT KIEVAL  Hazzan Emeritus

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