

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

ADAR I/ADAR II 5784

PURIM ISSUE

VOLUME 81  
NUMBER 5

# B'NAI ISRAEL SCROLL

STAY CONNECTED



facebook.com/groups/BnaiIsraelCong/

www.bnaiisraelcong.org

UPCOMING

**B'nai Israel Centennial Town Halls – Join us!**

See page 5.

UPCOMING

## Purim Celebrations

Workshops  
Megillah Readings  
Spiel: "The Little Mermaid of Shushan"  
Carnival for Kids of all Ages  
Greetings to the Congregation

See pages 8-9.



### HANDEL ISRAEL IN EGYPT

*featuring*

Cantor Josh C. Perlman  
with a Cameo Role Baritone



**Bach in Baltimore**

T. Herbert Dimmock, Founder & Music Director

With over 100 musicians on stage,  
experience the epic story of the  
Israelites exodus from Egypt.  
*Learn more on page 4.*

## MAKE JUDAISM YOUR SUPERPOWER

**Scholar-in-Residence  
Weekend  
with  
Jordan B. "Gorf" Gorfinkel**



**Friday-Sunday, March 1-3**

See page 9 for details.

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# B'NAI MITZVAH

## בני מצודה

### Rose Aliza Kane

February 24 | 9:00 AM

Rose Kane, daughter of Marjorie Kane and Erik Kane, granddaughter of Howard (z"l) and Esther Teller, and Sandra and Glenn Kane, is a seventh-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For her *mitzvah* project, Rose is making meals for the Stepping Stones Shelter and donating dog food to an animal rescue group.



### Emerson Wolf

March 23 | 9:00 AM

Emerson Wolf, daughter of Lindsay and Sidney (z"l) Wolf, granddaughter of Norman and Nadine Greenbaum, Merle and Alan Freed, and Robert Wolf (z"l), is a seventh-grade student at Ridgeview Middle School. For her *mitzvah* project, Emerson is volunteering at an animal shelter to help dogs find their forever homes.



### Sydney Gwyneth Kane

February 24 | 9:00 AM

Sydney Kane, daughter of Marjorie Kane and Erik Kane, granddaughter of Howard (z"l) and Esther Teller, and Sandra and Glenn Kane, is a seventh-grade student at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For her *mitzvah* project, Sydney is making meals for the Interfaith Women's Shelter, delivering groceries to the Stepping Stones Shelter, and donating dog food to an animal rescue group.



### Adam Chase Stillman

April 6 | 9:00 AM

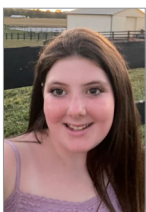
Adam Stillman, son of Debbie and Dan Stillman, grandson of Ben Mirman and Judy Yellon, Charlotte Mirman (z"l), and Anita (z"l) and Jake (z"l) Stillman, is a seventh-grade student at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. For his *mitzvah* project, Adam volunteered at the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night event to raise funds for cancer research in memory of his beloved Bubby, who had multiple myeloma.



### Addison Rose Robbins

March 16 | 9:00 AM

Addison Robbins, daughter of Alexis and Jeremy Robbins, granddaughter of Harris T. Bock, Marice B. Bock, Dr. Lois Robbins, Dr. Mark and Linda Robbins, is a seventh-grade student at Tilden Middle School. For her *mitzvah* project, Addison will support Sharsheret, a Jewish non-profit focused on women and families at risk of breast and ovarian cancer. Addison chose Sharsheret because her grandmother Lois was recently diagnosed with cancer. Addison will be holding a bake sale to raise money and creating care packages for local hospitals.



## Candlelighting & Havdalah

### February

16/17	5:29 PM/6:11 PM
23/24	5:37 PM/6:19 PM

### March

1/2	5:44 PM/6:27 PM
8/9	5:52 PM/6:35 PM
15/16	6:59 PM/7:43 PM
22/23	7:06 PM/7:50 PM
29/30	7:13 PM/7:58 PM

# WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

HINEINI CAMPAIGN 2023-2024

We did it! Due to the generosity of the B'nai Israel community, our critical Hineini Annual Campaign has met its goal. Now, let's celebrate!

To honor this commitment to our community, all supporters of our 2023-2024 Hineini Annual Campaign are invited to a special event:

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
OUR**

**THANK YOU  
RECEPTION  
Monday, May 20  
5:45 PM**

***Preceding the B'nai Israel  
Annual Meeting  
at 7:15 PM***



***Photos from our 2023 Hineini Thank You Event—we can wait to see you for our 2024 celebration!***

There is still time to participate in the Hineini Annual Campaign if you have not yet done so.

Donate today at [www.bnaisraelcong.org/hineini](http://www.bnaisraelcong.org/hineini). There is no minimum to participate and every gift is meaningful.

*Thank you!*

Susan and Rob Loewy  
2023-24 Hineini Campaign Chairs

Jessica Lieberman  
VP Development





## RABBI'S MESSAGE

by RABBI MICHAEL SAFRA

Purim is by far the most celebratory of our Jewish holidays. We dress up, get drunk, and otherwise engage in frivolity that belies a theme of “backwardness.” It is a day of celebration like no other; and it comes this year during a crisis unlike any other in our generation.

In his book *The Jewish Holidays* (p. 196), Rabbi Michael Strassfeld describes how our holiday cycle moves from the heights and joys of fall to the depths of darkness in winter. Hanukkah, with its theme of ever-increasing light, initiates an emergence from these depths, which continues through the planting and rebirth of Tu B'Shevat. Purim marks the end of the annual holiday cycle on the highest of notes. Watching my son enjoy prom and the other festivities of Senior Year, I can appreciate how the holiday cycle ends “with a bash rather than a confrontation with a crucial spiritual theme” (Strassfeld’s words).

I remember many years ago, during the height of the Oslo Peace Process, when a heinous terrorist attack days before Purim prompted many synagogues to cancel their Purim celebrations. The thought came up this year, too, as Israel continues to prosecute its war in response to the attack of October 7. But I don’t want to cancel Purim. On the contrary, I want us to celebrate even more this year.

It is haunting how the trajectory of this war follows the cycle Strassfeld describes. What began on Simchat Torah, the joyful height of the fall holiday season, descended to its nadir around the time of Hanukkah. Since then, we have witnessed important victories and seen the IDF scale back aspects of the operation. At press time, reports suggest

that a negotiated settlement, which includes release of all remaining hostages, may be near. I pray that the rumors prove to be true. And even if they fall short, we might find a certain joy in our Purim celebration that would have seemed familiar in generations past. Through two thousand years of exile, our ancestors found in Purim an opportunity to forget everything else. Purim is National Opposite Day. Whatever challenges a particular community might have faced could be forgotten on this one special day of limitless celebration.

There is an interesting contrast between Purim, the last holiday of the cycle, and Passover, which begins the cycle anew one month later. On Purim, God is all but absent. God’s name is not mentioned in the Megillah. Victory depends on Esther taking matters into her own hands. But Passover is the opposite. God who redeems the people from Egypt—“not by an angel, not by a *seraph*, not by an agent,” says the Haggadah—and Moses, the human agent of redemption, is omitted from the story.

Although we generally experience Jewish life through the “Passover lens” of prayer, study, and *mitzvot* directed towards God, we experience Israel through the Purim lens of humanism. Modern Zionism is a largely secular movement. We pray for peace and security, but we expect the army and politicians—not God—to lead us toward achieving those goals.

As we celebrate the reversal of fortune of Purim this year, we yearn for a reversal of fortune in Israel. We stand with Israel, advocate for Israel, and support the men and women charged with prosecuting a just war and negotiating the settlement that will create a better future for Israel. We pray for the day when God’s face will no longer be hidden, when we will experience the redemption not only of Purim, but of Passover and the messianic era as well.

*Hag Purim Sameah.*

## Welcome to the Newest Members of Our B’nai Israel Family

(October 17–January 22 )

### NEW MEMBERS

CAROLE FOX

ESTELLE & PETER HEIMANN

*Bruchim habaim!*

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

## B’nai Israel STANDS WITH ISRAEL



**We stand with Israel and against antisemitism:**

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

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

## B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION

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

Affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



**RightHear**



B’nai Israel Congregation is an accessible building.

**MICHAEL J. SAFRA**

Senior Rabbi

**MITCHELL H. BERKOWITZ**

Associate Rabbi

**CHERYL STONE**

Assistant Rabbi

**JONATHAN A. SCHNITZER**

Rabbi Emeritus

**JOSH C. PERLMAN**

Hazzan

**SARAH BOLTS**

Associate Hazzan

**HAL OSSMAN**

Executive Director

**DAFNA SPEAR**

Lessons Talmud Torah Principal

**REBECCA RAVSKI**

Interim Early Childhood Director

**ELIZABETH CARPENTER**

Schilit Nursery School Assistant Director

**KAREN GERTON**

Early Childhood Director Emerita

**LILY POLLACK**

Youth Coordinator

**RABBI CHAVA EVANS**

Family Engagement Coordinator

**JILL GENDELMAN**

Librarian

**URIEL LIN**

Congregational Shlichah

**AVERY SUDOW**

Communications and Development Director

**JOSE (PEPE) STRAUSS**

Facilities Director

**PATRICIA SIMITAKOS**

Events Manager

#### OFFICERS

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**DINA COHEN GRUBER**

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**DR. STEVEN HAUSMAN**

**ALAN ISENBERG**

**DR. FRED MESSING**

**DR. STEPHEN B. ROBBINS**

**JOEL SHANKMAN**

**JAY WECHSLER**

Gabbaim



## NOTES

by CANTOR SARAH BOLTS

"The holidays are so early this year!" was a common refrain around B'nai Israel this past fall. But hold onto your hats, because next year, the holidays will be almost the latest they can possibly be. Rosh Hashana 2024/5785 begins on the night of October 2. The latest possible date for Rosh Hashana is October 4.

Why are they so late next year? Because this year, 5784, is a Jewish leap year, which means we add an extra month of Adar this spring. (So if you're waiting for a yearzeit letter for your Adar yearzeit, it might come later than you're expecting!)

But it's not just any leap year. The Jewish calendar works in a cycle of 19 years, with leap years on years 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, and 17, and 19 (which is the same as year 0). This year is year 8, which is the latest leap year of the cycle. That's because we just had a leap year two years ago, whereas most of the other leap years are separated by three years. So the calendar has been pushed farther ahead than usual, giving us a very late holiday season next year.

A fun personal fact is that I was born in a year 8, so this year I will complete my second 19-year cycle around the sun. That means that my Hebrew and English birthdays this year will be on the same day for the first time in 19 years.

If you'd like to hear more fun Jewish calendar facts, come talk to me any time. The Jewish calendar is endlessly fascinating!

# Handel Israel in Egypt

*featuring Cantor Josh C. Perlman with a Cameo Role  
Baritone*



**Elissa Edwards**  
*soprano*



**Claire Galloway**  
*alto*



**Ben Ellerin**  
*tenor*



**Josh Perlman**  
*bass*

**Sunday, April 14 | 4:00 PM**  
**B'nai Israel Congregation**

With over 100 musicians on stage, experience the epic story of the Israelites exodus from Egypt. Maestro T. Herbert Dimmock leads the Bach in Baltimore Choir and Orchestra, joined by four superb soloists and the Richard Montgomery High School Madrigals, in Handel Israel in Egypt.

You won't want to miss this powerful and thrilling choral piece!

**Tickets:** \$36 Online & Door / \$10 Student/Children under 12 are free

**Mini Passes:** Select ANY three concerts of YOUR choice for \$86

**Student Mini Passes:** Select *any* three concerts with student ID for \$25

**Information & Tickets:**  
bachinbaltimore.org  
410-941-9262

*\*The soprano soloist is endowed in memory of Anne Hortense Pruitt Dimmock.*

*\*\*The alto soloist is endowed in memory of Linda D. Sadler, Given by Family & Friends.*

*\*\*\*The bass soloist is endowed in memory of T. Herbert Dimmock, Jr.*





## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

by DR. HAIDEE BERNSTEIN  
VP Religious Affairs

This year will be my 27th Purim as a member of B'nai Israel. Much has changed both in my life and at B'nai! Twenty-Seven years ago, my daughter Ilana was an infant, absorbing the world around her and my husband, Wayne and I were new members exploring the wide variety of activities here at B'nai. Ilana has grown up and is now living and working in New York City.

Some things are constant. On Purim our clergy and Talmud Torah teachers remind us about the four *Mitzvot* of Purim: (1) *Mishloach Manot*, exchanging food and gifts; (2) giving *Tzedakah* to the poor; (3) *se'udat Purim*, having a celebratory meal; and (4) hearing the reading of *Megillat Esther*.

Other things have changed. This is my second time over the years as Vice President of Religious Affairs. The number of committees in my portfolio has grown and reflects our changing world. These include:

- The Ritual Committee meets several times a year and, under clergy guidance, makes recommendations on the rituals that we adhere to. Also, the committee chooses who will receive the honor of the first and last *Aliyah* of the Torah at Simhat Torah.
- The *Tzedakah* Committee is currently just one person! His role is to work with the clergy to decide how the *Tzedakah* collected at Daily Minyan is distributed.
- The High Holiday Committee plays a role in deciding Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur programming.

- The B'nai Mitzvah Committee reviews and helps update the information packets given to the families with upcoming *b'nai mitzvah*.
- The Bereavement Committee assists families with recent losses by sending cards, food, serving as *shomers* (staying in the room with a deceased person and reciting psalms) and *tahara*. Tahara is the ritual cleansing of the body after death (We currently only have women trained to do this. It is Jewish custom that men perform this ritual for men and women perform it for women).
- The Fighting Antisemitism committee is our newest committee. Unfortunately, antisemitism is on the rise both in Montgomery County and around the country. Check our B'nai website to see all the important work this committee is accomplishing.

Community involvement has never been more important. If you would like to join any of these committees, please let me or one of the clergy know. We always welcome new committee members!



## CELEBRATING PASSOVER

April 22-30

This issue of the *Scroll* covers Purim and other March festivities.

Our next issue will feature Passover and will be received in homes by April 1.

You can always check out the latest Passover information at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/passover](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/passover).

**Last Chance!**  
**B'nai Israel**  
**Centennial Town Halls**  
**— We want to hear from you!**



We are just one year away from beginning B'nai Israel's Centennial Celebration in Fall 2025! Under the leadership of Centennial Co-Chairs Marla Schulman and Steve Rothenberg, our congregation has been undergoing a series of Town Halls. These sessions are an opportunity for us to hear from a wide variety of our members about what our synagogue means to you and what hopes, thoughts and ideas you have for our future. This is a once-in-a-lifetime anniversary and we look forward to celebrating it with you!

We hope all B'nai Israel members will join us for at least one Town Hall. Please register at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/centennial](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/centennial) to ensure space availability.

### Upcoming Sessions Open to All:

**Tuesday, March 12 at 7:15 PM**  
**On Zoom**

**Thursday, March 14 at 7:15 PM**  
**In-person at B'nai Israel**

Thank you to everyone who has already participated in one of these meaningful conversations! We look forward to a wonderful Centennial Celebration beginning next year.

## FEDERAL HOLIDAY Office Hours & Minyan

The B'nai Israel administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 19.

*Minyan* will take place at 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

# SARA & SAMUEL J. LESSANS ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE

## SHABBAT LEARNING

### Shabbat Morning Torah Study

9:00-10:00 AM

Join us on selected Saturday mornings for discussions about the weekly *parsha*. Interested in leading a session? Contact Wendy Fanaroff ([wfanaroff@gmail.com](mailto:wfanaroff@gmail.com)).

February 17 - *Terumah*

February 24 - *Tetzaveh*

March 16 - *Pekude*

March 23 - *Vayikra*

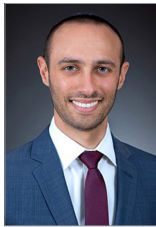
## WEEKDAY LEARNING

### Talmud on Tuesdays

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 PM  
Zoom Event

Join us as we continue our study of *Berakhot*, which includes a comprehensive discussion of the *Shema* and *Amidah*, the essential components of the prayer service. Newcomers are more than welcome to join us. No prior knowledge is necessary. Register at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/talmudtuesdays](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/talmudtuesdays).



### The Torah & Beyond: Lunch and Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer  
Monday, March 4  
12:30 PM

In-Person & Zoom Event

Our Lunch and Learn group explores a compelling Biblical text—not only “unpacking” the more obvious meaning of the words and ideas but also how they interface with our own personal concerns and challenges. During 2023–2024, we will continue our study of excerpts from the Book of Samuel. Our focus will be on three pivotal characters: Saul, first king of ancient Israel; his son, Jonathan, caught in tragic crossfires beyond his control; and David, the boy-shepherd of many talents, who changes the trajectory of Israelite history. As our regulars will attest, our class is participatory and our conversations are lively. Newcomers are always welcome. Register at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/lunchandlearn5784](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/lunchandlearn5784).



### Tradition and Change: Conservative Judaism Then and Now

with Rabbi Michael Safra  
Tuesday, February 13  
(continuing 3 more Tuesdays)  
7:45-9:00 PM  
In-Person & Zoom Event

\$36/members; \$50/nonmembers  
While demographic surveys bemoan the decline of the institutions of the Conservative movement, they suggest that the ideology of Conservative Judaism—a centrist approach that values traditional Jewish norms alongside secularizing influences—is alive and well. This short course will explore the history and ideas that created the Conservative movement. Through case studies, we will explore how the *halakhic* process informs our approach to issues of modernity. Our last session will look to the future and explore the positive and negative ramifications of change.

**February 13** – The History and Ideas of the Conservative Movement

**February 20** – Case Study: Driving to the Synagogue on Shabbat

**February 27** – Case Study: LGBTQ+

**March 19** – The Future of Conservative Judaism: Are We Still a Halakhic Movement?

Register at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/SafraFebruary2024](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/SafraFebruary2024).



### Chanting Torah

with Cantor Sarah Bolts  
Monday, March 4  
(continuing 4 more Mondays)  
7:30-9:00 PM  
In-Person Event

\$36 members/\$50 nonmembers  
Learn the art and logic of chanting Torah! Cantor Bolts, our weekly Torah reader, shares her skills and expertise with others in this practical skills-focused class. You too can learn to read the trope notes and chant from the Torah scroll. Participants in this class will work towards an opportunity to chant Torah on a Shabbat morning. Open to students at all levels. Register at <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/chantingt Torah2024>.



## HAZAK

### What is Jewish Humor?

with Dan Freedman  
Thursday, March 14  
12:00 PM BYO Dairy Lunch

12:30-1:30 PM Program

What happens when a Rabbi, Priest and Minister walk into a bar? And what exactly is the difference between a *shlemiel* and *shlimazel*? Find out the answers and prepare to laugh a lot at Dan's deep dive into the world of Jewish humor. Dan traces the development of Jewish humor back to Biblical times and brings it forward to its historic high-water mark in the Catskills and into the 21st Century. Is Jewish humor based on the concept of “laughing to keep from crying”? What is the state of Jewish humor today, amid a resurgence of anti-Semitism? Come prepared to share your favorite Jewish joke! Register at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/HazakMarch2024](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/HazakMarch2024).



## L.I.F.E. LECTURE

### Alliance Screening

with Susan Kehnemui Donnelly, Director  
Sunday, March 17  
7:00-9:00 PM  
In-Person Only

Fleeing from the persecution of a tyrannical Russian czar to the desolate fields of a new world, forty-three families traveled across the ocean in 1882 and established a farming-based community in the United States. Produced and directed by Susan Kehnemui Donnelly and filmed by Ted Salins, *ALLIANCE* is a remarkable story of courage, perseverance, and family that showcases the impact of this unique social experiment known as the Alliance Colony. Donnelly has a personal connection to the story, as her great-great-grandparents were among the original settlers. For more information and to help support the making of this film, visit [www.alliancefilm.com](http://www.alliancefilm.com). Register at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/LifeLectureMarch2024](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/LifeLectureMarch2024).





# WORSHIP

DAILY  
MINYAN

SUNDAY 9:00 AM | 8:00 PM

MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:15 AM | 8:00 PM

FRIDAY 7:15 AM | 6:15 PM

SATURDAY 9:00 AM | 12:30 PM

*\*Please note: Minyan times vary on holidays.*

## Singing Circle Potluck

Fridays, February 16  
and March 15

7:15-9:00 PM

Celebrate Shabbat with a community of song! Join us for a potluck Shabbat dinner followed by soulful singing led by Cantor Sarah Bolts. All attendees are expected to contribute a vegetarian (parve or dairy) dish for the potluck dinner. Register here for January 19 (<https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/singingcirclepotluckfebruary2024>). Register here for February 16 (<https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/singingcirclepotluckmarch2024>).



## Conscious Connections Contemplative Shabbat

Saturdays, February 17  
and March 16

10:00 AM

Experience a different approach to Shabbat morning prayers. Led by Rabbi Cheryl Stone, we will explore an intentional path to enhance your prayer service with a mixture of song, meditation, and discussion. Mindfulness Meditation helps us to connect to our Jewish values, creating greater perception in our minds for a connection to the Divine. Adults of all ages are welcome.



## EPIC Shabbat with CESJDS



Saturday, March 16

10:00 AM Brunch

10:30 AM Programs begin for  
Tots-6th Grade and a Parallel  
Parent Program

Join us for a morning of fun and engaging learning as we partner with our neighbors at CESJDS to create a Shabbat morning experience for all B'nai Israel community members. Learn more about CESJDS and all that it has to offer our community during the morning and at the congregational *kiddush*.

## Special Shabbatot at B'nai Israel

*Mark your calendars!*

While every Shabbat at B'nai is special, please join us for these dedicated Shabbatot where we celebrate our community:

### FEBRUARY 17

#### Inclusion Shabbat with Guest Speaker David Ervin, CEO of Makom

Celebrate our congregation's commitment to inclusion of all community members.

David Ervin is the CEO of Makom, a community provider organization supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Maryland and Virginia. With more than 35 years in the field, David is extensively published and speaks internationally on health equity and healthcare systems for people with IDD, organization development and transformation, and other areas of expertise. David is a consulting editor for three peer-review/juried journals, serves on a number of policy and practice committees, including the American Assoc. on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/The Arc of the US Joint Committee on Long Term Services and Supports, and serves on the Boards of Directors for The Council on Quality and Leadership and his synagogue, Kol Shalom. He's an occasionally avid cyclist and is addicted to yardwork and (proper) football.



### MARCH 2

#### Scholar-in-Residence with Jordan "Gorf" Gorfinkel and Volunteer Shabbat

Join us as we honor B'nai Israel's most committed volunteers. See page 9 for details on our Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat.

## YOUTH & FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICES

### Gold Kippah Honor Society & Shabbuddies

Weekly, 9:45-10:15 AM

B'nai Israel's Gold Kippah Honor Society recognizes students for their proficiency in various prayers. Older students will be matched with a younger "buddy" to mentor. The goal of Shabbuddies is to build stronger *tefillah* skills while fostering friendships across grades and promote a more integrated community.

*Children will earn "Shabbat Bucks" for attending Gold Kippah and Family Minyan, and will be able to exchange them for fun prizes on Birthday Shabbatot.*

### Family Minyan

Weekly, 10:15-11:30 AM

Family Minyan includes spirited prayer, an engaging Torah reading, and lively conversation about the weekly Torah portion. There is no better way to prepare your child for their *bar mitzvah* or *bat mitzvah*, and build community connections than regular Shabbat attendance. This service is led by clergy and staff, including Rabbi Berkowitz and Rabbi Stone.

### Tot Shabbat

(Ages 5 and under with a parent)

Weekly, 10:45-11:30 AM

Designed for the youngest members of our congregational family, Tot Shabbat meets weekly to sing, learn, and pray together with Tot Shabbat leaders, Morah Juliann Goldman and Lily Pollack, Youth Coordinator.

### Teen Minyan

February 24, March 23

10:30-11:30 AM

These services are for the post-*b'nai mitzvah* teens of B'nai Israel. Our teens help to organize the service and lead it, often including *tefillah* and discussion, with support from staff and clergy.

### Birthday Shabbat

March 2

Celebrate each month's birthdays at the end of Youth and Family services with songs and treats!

# PURIM

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

## WORKSHOPS

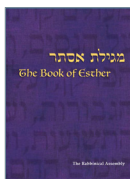
### The Real Megillah—Why Isn't This On Netflix?!

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Tuesday, March 5

7:45-9:00 PM

Even though we read her story each year, the real story of Esther is much more nuanced and meaningful than it might otherwise appear to be. Using the new *Megillat Esther* (edited by Rabbi Martin S. Cohen and published by the Rabbinical Assembly), we will read through Rabbi Cohen's expanded narrative translation of the text and see what we have been missing all these years!



### The Other Three Mitzvot of Purim

with Rabbi Cheryl Stone

Tuesday, March 12

7:45-9:00 PM

Hearing the *Megillah* is not the only *mitzvah* on Purim! We are also taught to send food to friends (*mishloach manot*), gifts to the needy (*matanot l'evyonim*), and celebrate on the day of Purim with a festive meal (Purim *se'udah*). Learn about the significance of these three *mitzvot* today, and how you can easily fulfill all three of them!



## CARNIVAL

Join us for costumes, games and fun! Please purchase your Purim Carnival Tickets in advance to help us plan—door sales will also be available. Food will be available for purchase. We break our Carnival into two age groups so please choose the time and option that works best for your family.

### Sunday, March 24

9:30-10:30 AM Tots Carnival (Ages 5 and under with a parent)

10:30 AM Tots *Megillah* Reading & Parade to the Cohen-Rosen House (Ages 5 and under with a parent)

10:30 AM Family *Megillah* Reading (Grades K-6)

11:30 AM-1:00 PM Carnival (School-age kids)

Adults do NOT need a ticket for entrance to the Purim Carnival, but all meals will require the purchase of a meal ticket. You may order more meal tickets than entrance tickets and more than one meal ticket per person, should you wish.

Carnival and meal tickets are on sale now at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purim](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purim). After March 12, tickets may be purchased at the door (credit card payments are subject to additional fees).

### HAMENTASHEN PICK-UP

If you purchased Hamentashen from Sisterhood, pick-up will be at B'nai Israel, Tuesday-Friday, March 19-22.

## SPIEL

Wednesday, March 20

7:00 PM

Thursday, March 21

7:00 PM

This year's Purim *Spiel* is *The Little Mermaid of Shushan*. With a completely original script and lyrics by Naomi Gerstenblith, Founder of Curtain Up Creative, LLC and B'nai Israel member, this is a B'nai Israel Purim highlight not to be missed. B'nai Israel's Purim *Spiel* features children in grades K-8 performing the story of Purim through singing, dancing, costumes, and storytelling. The Purim *Spiel* will be performed on the stage in Fanaroff Auditorium. Tickets will be available at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purimspiel2024](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purimspiel2024).



## THE WHOLE MEGILLAH & PURIM PARTY

Saturday, March 23

8:00 PM *Megillah* Reading followed by Purim Party

Everyone in the congregation is invited to hear the story of Purim as our members read *Megillat Esther*! Cheer for Esther and Mordecai. Boo for Haman. Celebrate the miracle of Purim.

After the *Megillah* Reading, step back into the roaring twenties at B'nai Israel Congregation's 21+ "Speakeasy" Purim Party. Dress to impress in your finest vintage attire. Indulge in *hors d'oeuvres* and cocktails while enjoying games and *schmoozing* with your friends. For families with young children who would like to attend the *Megillah* Reading and the Purim Party, babysitting will be available for children ages 2 and up from 9:00-11:00 PM. Don't miss out on this new celebration! Admission is free, and babysitting is \$10 per child. Please register online by Tuesday, March 19.

Sunday, March 24

9:00 AM during Morning *Minyan*





# GREETINGS

*The B'nai Israel members below wish our congregation a Hag Purim Sameah! Thank you for supporting B'nai Israel Sisterhood with these greetings:*

Wendi, Dannny, Marli & Josh Abramowitz  
Debra & Stu Anolik  
Jamie, David & Jacob Becker  
Rachel & Eugene Becker  
Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz & Rebecca Ravski  
Haidee Bernstein  
Cantor Sarah Bolts & Michael Chernicoff  
Sara & Levi Brandriss & Family  
Barbara, Stewart, Alexander & Zachary Bushman  
Lisa & Larry Cines  
Schmelzer-Covel Family  
Sharon Doner  
Sheila Dunton Franks  
Sue Edwards  
Sara, Craig, Reese, Levi & Frankie Eidelman  
Joey Franco  
Harriet & Ted Fredman  
Debra & Jeffrey Fredman  
Annette & Bernard Forseter  
Debbie & Danny Glazer  
Tamara & Mark Gorodetzky  
Steve Hausman  
Alan & Alisa Isenberg  
Elyse & Rob Kaplan  
Linda & John Karesh  
Sandra & Andrew Landis  
Judy & Harry Lapping  
Irena, Jeff & Steven Lavine  
Susan & Brett Lazerus  
Jessica & Aaron Lieberman & family  
Dina & Alan Lipschultz  
Susan & Rob Loewy  
Fonda & Jeff Lowe  
Jamie, Jared, Jack & Sophie Maier  
Debbie & Jeff Moss  
Carren Oler  
Peggy K. Pearlstein  
Sherri & Cantor Josh Perlman  
Craig & Marcie Peters  
Dorie, Jacob, Judah & Zoey Ravick  
Jeff & Linda Reisner  
Linda & Barry Rosenberg  
Gail & Gene Robinson  
Rabbi Michael & Sharon Safra & Family  
Judy Saks  
Bonnie Cole & Jonathan Salant  
Rene Schecker  
Rabbi Jonathan & Beverly Schnitzer  
Marla & Bruce Schulman  
Russell, Sarit, Shoshana & Ethan Scott  
The Sheer Family  
Rita & Chet Stein  
Rabbi Cheryl Stone, Shaul Janes & Michaela  
Janestone  
Avery, Noah, Hallie & Brody Sudow  
Bluma & Jeff Sussman  
Rebecca Taffet  
Sue & Richie Taffet  
Carol & Donald Vogel  
Sherry & Larry Wachtel  
Laura, Vincent, Avi & Naomi Wallace  
Denise Leish & Suzanne Wandersman  
Susan Weinmann & Mike, Rachel &  
Hannah Wilcove  
Robin Wind-Faillace & Walter Faillace

## Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Jordan B. “Gorf” Gorfinkel Friday–Sunday, March 1–3

### MAKE JUDAISM YOUR SUPERPOWER

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 1

6:15 PM *Kabbalat Shabbat & Ma'ariv*  
Services  
7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner (Reservations  
due by February 27)  
8:00 PM “*Exodus, the Dark Knight and  
Being A Jewish Superhero*”

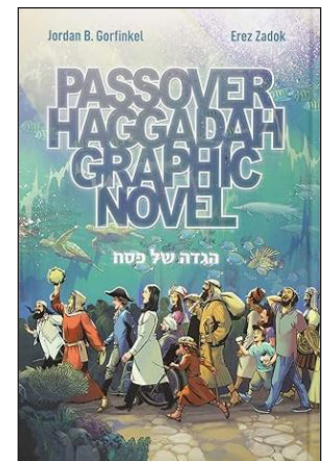
#### SATURDAY, MARCH 2

9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services  
with *D'var Torah* by Gorf  
12:30 PM Lunch and Learn: “*Rabbi  
Batman—How Superheroes Inform  
Torah and Torah Informs Superheroes*”  
6:30 PM *Seudah Shlishit, Havdalah,*  
Multimedia Presentation and Book  
Signing: “*The Four Children: The Hero,  
the Villain, the Mentor & the Sidekick*”

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 3

10:00 AM–12:00 PM Jewish Cartoon  
Workshop  
The Jewish Cartoon Workshop is the fun  
and exciting structured program for all B'nai  
Israel 5th and 6th Grade students and their  
families—creating their own comics about  
Jewish stories and then collects them into a  
comic book to share and enjoy. No drawing  
skill required, only a sense of humor!

**JORDAN B. GORFINKEL** (aka “Gorf”) is a  
cartoonist, musician, producer, director, and  
proud father (not necessarily in that order).



### [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/scholars](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/scholars)

*This program is made possible by the Dolye and I. Wolford Berman Educational Initiative*







## EARLY CHILDHOOD

by REBECCA RAVSKI  
Interim Early Childhood Director

Our BISNS teachers work to ignite the spark that excites our children and makes them enthusiastic about their learning. They take the students' interests and skillfully weave them through and into the curriculum. This is especially apparent in our Fours classrooms as we work to help them feel confident in their skills before they leave our BISNS community for their next big journey: kindergarten.

Over the past three years, our fours children have become masterful artists when using loose parts, items such as buttons, wood pieces, noodles, and more. Whether they are creating self-portraits or envisioning landscapes, whenever a tray of loose parts is set in front of the children, they know how to express themselves through their artwork. To elevate their level of learning, our fours were presented with an idea: to create an alphabet picture book.

The children were invited to construct a letter of the alphabet, using loose parts, inside empty picture frames. Their teachers then asked them to think about a word that begins with that letter. After constructing the letter, the children continued to create a picture of their word. For example, Remy constructed the letter A, and then used loose parts to make an apple. Brody constructed the B and then chose pieces to make a picture of balloons. Once their letter and picture were complete, they also had the opportunity to practice their writing skills by forming the letters of the word, either by sounding it out themselves, or copying a model written by the teachers.

When asked about why this was an important project for the fours to create, the children had many ideas to discuss and share with their peers. Ruby declared, "So we can learn to do our letters. Everybody can learn from our book." "You have to learn your letters in kindergarten," Audrey added. "My brother can learn his letters from our book!" Liora explained. "It can help us remember the alphabet," chimed in Jake. "We can show it to other classes, and they will read it and they can learn about ABCs," tacked on Rani. "If we know it [the alphabet], we can teach others to know it," Brody shared.

The children were not only thinking about learning the alphabet and letter sounds themselves, but also thinking about the importance of teaching others! As we continue to teach our fours and help them prepare for the next steps in their education, asking them thoughtful questions and having them expand upon their ideas will only help strengthen their understanding of who they are, what they believe is important, and how they want to share their ideas and knowledge with others.

Before the *Shema*, the siddur includes the blessing "*Ahavah Rabbah*," in which we give thanks to God and ask, "Put into our hearts the ability to understand, to comprehend, to listen, to study, to teach, to keep, to do, and to uphold all the words of Your Torah with love." It is this *bracha* that we see our children embody as they take on projects and think of others learning. My hope for all of our children at BISNS is that they will learn with us, think of others, and take that knowledge, understanding, and love, with them throughout their learning and into the world that waits for them.



# SCHILIT NURSERY SCHOOL

## 2024-2025



Registration is  
now open!

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





## YOUTH & EDUCATION

by **RABBI CHERYL STONE**  
Assistant Rabbi/  
Chief Education Officer

Our Purim story imparts profound lessons on how we navigate the contemporary challenges confronting our world. The climactic moment in the *Megillat Esther* unfolds when Mordechai, the uncle of Queen Esther, having recently unveiled Haman's nefarious plot to annihilate the Jewish people, approaches the queen. He entreats her to intercede on behalf of her people. Despite her elevated position, Queen Esther hesitates to confront King Achashverosh on behalf of the Jews, aware that approaching the king without a summons carries the penalty of death. Mordechai, with unambiguous candor, states plainly, *מִי יָדָע? אִם-יָדָעַת כָּזָאת הִנָּעַת לְמַלְכוּת - Mi yodea im la'et kazot higa'at la'malchut?* (Who knows if it wasn't for just such a moment that you became queen?) This eloquent plea underscores Esther's role, urging her to recognize the pivotal nature of her position in the broader context of history.

These words resonate in our ears. We often feel that we are living within an oppressive atmosphere that casts a shadow over all that we do. We feel as if there is nothing we can do. The interconnected challenges of global politics, the war we as Jews are fighting on all fronts, economic disparities, and global crises contribute to an overwhelming sense of uncertainty and vulnerability. Israel is currently engaged in a struggle for its existential survival, coinciding with a surge in global antisemitism. Economic inequality deepens, amplifying the struggles of marginalized communities and fostering a sense of disenchantment. Environmental

crises, exacerbated by human activities, add another layer of apprehension as the planet faces unprecedented threats. The digital age, while offering unprecedented connectivity, also introduces new dimensions of isolation and despondency. The list seems interminable, brimming with seemingly insurmountable challenges.

There is a pervasive weariness. You can see it in each other's eyes as we greet one another. The acute pain felt on October 7 and in the immediate days that followed has turned into a chronic condition. It is a pain we have learned to 'live with' on top of the pressures that we were already managing.

Yet, the Jewish people are resilient. We are, by our nature, optimistic. Our traditions teach us how to overcome hopelessness. In addition to the tool of faith, which can feel amorphous and sometimes challenging, we are given concrete instructions on how to battle the oppression we feel as the world burns around us. No place is this clearer than in the instructions that come as we complete the Book of Esther.

At Purim, we are obligated to fulfill four mitzvot, the most well-known being מקרא מגילה – *Mikrah Megillah*, reading of the Megillah. Recounting the story then, as now, helps us to 'never forget', not simply to recount those atrocities that have befallen us, because we are irrepressible. There are, in addition, three other mitzvot: משלוח מנות איש לרעהו – *Mishloah Manot Ish l'Re-ehu*, an act of goodwill involving the sending of treats to friends and neighbors; מתנות לאביונים – *Matanot l'evyonim*, the benevolent act of bestowing gifts upon the less fortunate; and the culminating celebration, משתה ושמחה – *Mishtehe v'Simcha*, the Se'udat Purim, a festive gathering that involves the communal sharing of a Purim feast with cherished individuals in our lives. Each of these forces us out of our protective shell, our barriers of isolation either literal or figurative, and brings us in connection with our community.

Mordechai's words resonate today for each of us as they did for Esther. *מִי יָדָעַת אִם-יָדָעַת כָּזָאת - Mi yodea im la'et kazot?* 'Who knows if it wasn't for this exact moment that you were put on this planet? It is our responsibility to step up and act. Purim reminds us of the necessity of being in a supportive community, a vital network of understanding and shared experiences. Participating in communal life,

sharing a meal, giving to others even as we ourselves feel less than whole, serves as a balm for the soul, offering solace and companionship during challenging times. Amid a world in turmoil, the bonds forged within a community act as a powerful antidote to depression, lifting individuals out of despair through shared connection, empathy, and a collective journey toward healing.



## GOLD KIPPAH HONOR SOCIETY

*Mazal tov* to the following new student who has demonstrated their mastery of the required *t'fillot* (prayers) to reach:

Bronze  
**JULIA CHERNICOFF-BOLTS**

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



## YOUTH EXPERIENCES

by LILY POLLACK  
Youth Coordinator

A large part of my role here at B'nai is being the connector between our youth and the many different opportunities there are to engage with the Jewish community. Most often this comes from our monthly youth group events like the upcoming Bonim Slime Lab, trip to Zava Zone for Machar, and Geshher Mystery Shabbat Dinner. As you can imagine, the opportunities grow for our teens.

One of these opportunities is Seaboard USY Basketball. Last year, many synagogues in the area felt the loss of this recreation league and pulled together a group of people to play in games every week. This year, after seeing how important it is to our communities, USY Basketball returned! This is the first time since I was a sophomore in high school that we have had a full B'nai Israel team, with nine teens participating. They play two games every Sunday at Frost Middle School between 3:30 PM and 8:30 PM. Make sure you go out to support them!

We were able to honor the members of our basketball team with an *aliyah* a few weeks ago for Teen Shabbat. It was an exciting weekend where we honored our teens and recognized the many ways in which they engage with Jewish life through B'nai Israel. We had a teen lead *Shacharit*, three teens read Torah, seven teens went up for an *aliyah*, a teen read *Haftarah*, and nine other teens also had a role in our Saturday morning services. There was a special *kiddush* for all of our teens with ice cream and very spirited

games of *gaga* (they didn't want to leave). Some of the other amazing things these teens have been doing are: volunteering to help with the Social Action Committee's meal deliveries, interning at Stand With Us, going to sessions about Israeli current events through JCRC and the Federation, attending learning sessions with JUFJ on youth justice initiatives, dancing with Israeli dance troupes, and so much more!

I cannot wait to see what else our amazing teens will bring to our community, and I look forward to being a partner in the process!

## Youth Department EVENTS

### TEENS

Saturday, February 3

### MACHAR Zava Zone

Sunday, February 11

### GESHER Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 23

### BONIM Slime Making

Sunday, February 25

Go to [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/youthprograms](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/youthprograms) for more information.

## B'NAI ISRAEL 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, holiday gifts, candy, and more.

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

*Sign ups for Passover packages are due by April 14.*

## SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP

**Your Judaica Shop is here for you.**

If you need a *tallit*, we have a large selection for you to choose from. Need a gift for an engagement or wedding, we have that too. We are known around the county as one of the best Judaica Shops in the area.

Haven't visited for a while? Come in and say hello to our friendly volunteers.



### Shop Hours

*We are closed on Mondays in February.*

#### Tuesday-Friday

10:00 AM-12:30 PM

#### Tuesday afternoon

4:30-6:30 PM

#### Sunday

10:00 AM-12:45 PM

#### Mondays in March

10:00 AM-12:30 PM

For personalized *kippot* or *benchers* for your *simha*, call our specialist Suzy Levy (301-460-9636).

For questions, call the shop (301-770-7577) or send an email ([bnaijudaica@gmail.com](mailto:bnaijudaica@gmail.com)).

**FOR ALL YOUR JUDAICA NEEDS**

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





## ISRAEL CORNER

by Uriel Lin

Congregational *Shlichah*

Purim is here! I'd like to start by sharing a beautiful poem that talks about joy within grief:

תמיהה / טוביה ריבנר

אחרי כל מה שהיה  
אם אתה עוד מסגל לשמע את השחרור  
את העפרוני המצין השכם בבקר והבלבול  
והצופית  
אל תתמה ששמחה היא לראות עננים נשאים ברוח  
לשבת את קפה הבקר, לדעת לבצע את כל צרכי  
הגוף  
ללכת בשבילים בלי מקל  
ולראות את הצבעים לוחטים אחרי השקיעה  
בן אדם מסגל לשאת כמעט הכל  
ואיש אינו יכול לדעת מתי והיכן  
תכניע אותו השמחה

### Bewilderment / Tovia Ribner

After everything that happened  
if you are still able to hear the blackbird  
the lark that chirps in the morning and the  
nightingale and the sunbird  
do not be surprised that joy is to see  
clouds carried by the wind  
to drink the morning coffee, to know how  
to fulfill all the needs of the body  
To walk the paths without a cane  
and to see the fiery colors after sunset.  
One can endure almost anything  
And no one can know when and where  
They will succumb to joy.

As a country often stricken with grief,  
Purim is an island of joy that is sacred to  
us as a nation. Most renowned is *Adloyada*  
—a festive colorful procession that fills  
the streets with art exhibits, spectacular  
costumes, and cheerful chants.

Traditionally, *Adloyada* is celebrated

mainly in Tel Aviv and the neighboring  
city of Holon. This year, however, Davidson  
Theatre is aspiring to organize the first  
*Adloyada* to take place on Shushan Purim,  
celebrated on the 15th of Adar in ancient  
walled cities, including the city of Jerusalem.

The Train Theater is a children's puppet  
theater that fosters creative freedom and  
professional artist excellence. The theater  
is unique in Israel's children's theater scene,  
and it is a leader in its industry.

It began with a train car being transported  
to Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park. The train  
car was transformed into a locomotive,  
which served as a key creative force and  
source of inspiration for Israeli puppet  
theater. The theater is heavily involved in  
the community, allocating a considerable  
percentage of its resources to community  
programs in a variety of areas, including  
special education communities.

Jerusalem's first *Adloyada* will shine a light  
on the little heroes who are in the lives of  
all of us, our children and girls, who face  
these times of war and escalation with  
bravery and resilience. The theatre hopes to  
create cherished childhood memories amid  
all the challenges and grief, in the heart of  
Israel's capital.

Considering the war, preparations for the  
holiday remain quiet. I am curious to see  
whether this upcoming Purim will be a  
celebration of life, and how it may adapt to  
our new reality.

Purim itself is a celebration around the  
idea of redemption—defeating the evil  
that threatened to exterminate the Jews at a  
faraway point in history. Celebrating Purim  
this year reminds us to focus on the idea  
that our nation is eternal, enduring history's  
unsuccessful attempts to exterminate us.  
And we will endure again, and great joy  
will envelop us.

As we like to say in Israel, *Am Hanetzach  
Lo Mefached MiDerech Aruka*, "The  
Eternal Nation is not afraid of the long  
journey." *Purim Sameah!*



The Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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



### B'NAI ISRAEL MISSION TO ISRAEL

March 4-8

Become a Mission Ambassador  
today! We are recruiting  
volunteers ages 30-80 who are  
willing to roll up their sleeves  
and perform physical labor  
for a minimum of 5 days. You  
may be picking crops, sorting  
produce, planting and pruning, or  
packaging food for transport.

### INFORMATION SESSION WITH RABBI RANDY BROWN

Wednesday, February 14  
7:00 PM

In-person at B'nai Israel

For more information or to  
register for the information  
session, go to:  
[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/  
israelfoodrescuemission2024](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/israelfoodrescuemission2024)

### Weekly Updates from Our Congregational Shlichah, Uriel Lin

Uriel is sharing her thoughts and  
feelings with the congregation  
weekly. To view her messages,  
go to [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/  
urielupdates](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/urielupdates).

To sign up for our Israel Affairs  
listserve and receive these  
weekly reflections in your inbox,  
go to: [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/  
westandwithisrael](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/westandwithisrael).

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



## BLUMBERG-ZALIS FAMILY LIBRARY

by JILL GENDELMAN  
Librarian

Purim is coming. Here are a few fun facts about Purim:

- Did you know that Purim is a Persian word meaning “lots.” The holiday aka the feast of Lots got its name because the evil Haman had thrown lots to determine when he would conduct his diabolical scheme to kill the Jews.
- Purim is the jolliest day of the year on the Hebrew Calendar.
- The Book of Esther was handwritten on parchment per Esther’s request. This scroll, called the Megillah, is read every year on Purim.
- There are four Purim mitzvahs—the reading of the Megillah; Giving money to at least two poor people; sending Shalach Manot (“sending of portions”) baskets with two or more types of food and having a Purim feast (a Seudat Purim), where, according to the sages “a person is obligated to drink until he does not know the difference between ‘blessed is Mordechai and cursed is Haman.’”
- It is customary to observe the “fast of Esther” the day before Purim to commemorate Esther’s fasting and praying to God that He save His people.
- Hamantaschen (meaning Haman’s pocket) and meat-filled kreplach, both having three corners, are foods that are eaten at the Seudat Purim.
- Purim is always a month and a day before Passover.
- Joseph Stalin of the U.S.S.R. had bloody plans for dealing with the “Jewish problem” but in 1953, as things were reaching a crisis point, he suddenly fell ill on Purim and died shortly thereafter.

- In 1990, Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded Kuwait and also began firing SCUD missiles into Israel. After the U.S.-led forces attacked Iraq, they were quickly victorious, and the hostilities ended . . . on Purim!

For more facts about Purim check out the online catalog (see box) and come to the library to check out one of our 161 Purim books or just email me and I will leave them for you on a table in the foyer outside of the guard’s desk.

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

#### Monday Night at the Movies

March 4 at 7:00 PM

*The Pickle Recipe*

(1 hr. 39 min.; English)

Joey Miller is the undisputed king of Detroit party MC’s. He’s also a single father and deeply in debt. To make matters worse, during his latest, one-of-a-kind wedding performances, all his sound equipment gets destroyed in a freak accident. To add insult to injury, his daughter Julie’s Bat-Mitzvah is only weeks away and she’s counting on him to MC her party. After exhausting all of his options, he turns to his shady Uncle Morty, who agrees to give him the needed money but only under one condition. Joey must go and steal his grandmother Rose’s most prized possession: her famous top secret dill pickle recipe. And it’s a recipe which she has vowed to take to her grave.



### READING RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Librarian Favorites for Purim

**Adults:** *Every Person’s Guide to Purim* by Ronald H. Isaacs.

**Teen/Tween:** *Problems in Purimville: A Purim Story* by Karen Fisman

**Children:** *The Story of Esther* by Eric A. Kimmel

#### New in the Library

*Osnat and Her Dove; The True Story of the World’s First Woman Rabbi*

*What does Hate Look Like?* by Sameca Jimenez—Real kids from real classrooms share their stories.

*Portraits of Creative Aging* by Joan Kadri Zald—Adds another dimension to the aging process.

*The Negotiator: Freeing Gilad Schalit from Hamas* by Gershon Baskin

*The Story of Purim: A Comic Book Megillah*—Dynamic illustrations by Safed artist, Yoseph Urso

*Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth* by Noa Tisby

*Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews, and America* by Judith Schindler

*The Genius of Israel: The Surprising Resilience of a Divided Nation in a Turbulent World* by Dan Senor and Paul Singer

### LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

Monday 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Tuesday 11:00 AM–6:30 PM

By appointment Wednesday,  
Thursday and Friday

Send an email to:

[bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org)

To access our on-line catalog:

<https://bnaiisrael.library.site/>

The Blumberg-Zalis Family Library was awarded the **Advanced Accreditation Degree** by the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) in June 2014\* and again in June 2019\*.

*\*This award is for a five-year time period.*

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

### STAY CONNECTED

If you are not receiving our electronic connections, please send your email address to Rebecca at [rshein@bnaiisraelcong.org](mailto:rshein@bnaiisraelcong.org).

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



# SOCIAL ACTION

## Meals for Interfaith Works Women's Shelters

Sunday, February 4

5:30 PM (Taft Court, Dinner)

Sunday, March 10

11:30 AM (Crabbs Branch, Lunch)

B'nai Israel will be providing and helping to serve dinner and/or lunch for the residents of the Interfaith Works Women's Shelters. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal. The meal items can be purchased or prepared in your home. There will be various options to drop-off your items. The meal items should serve 6–8 people and be in disposable pans. For more information, contact Signe Wetrogan (signe0420@verizon.net), Randi Poli (randipoli@gmail.com), or Wayne Berman (wayneb4me@aol.com).

## Social Action Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 27

8:00 PM

Zoom Event

Email Rabbi Berkowitz (mhberkowitz@bnaiisraelcong.org) to join the meeting.

## Snowflake Project 2023

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's holiday Snowflake Project. Your generosity helped to make the holiday wishes come true for the over 18 youngsters at the Weller Road Elementary School.

## Mitzvah Day Interfaith Works Cooking Project

Thank you to all who turned out in the Gudelsky kitchen on Sunday, December 17 (Mitzvah Day) to help prepare our vegetarian chill dinner. With your help, the meal preparation went smoothly and was completed for the 30 residents of the Interfaith Works New Leaf Shelter.

## Project Hope: Passover Package Delivery (as part of Good Deeds Week)

Save the date, Sunday April 14, (9:00 AM–12:00 PM) when we will once again participate with Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) in the annual Project Hope Passover Meal Delivery. For more information and/or to volunteer; contact Signe Wetrogan (signe0420@verizon.net) or Randi Poli (randipoli@gmail.com).

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.*

## UPCOMING SCROLL SCHEDULE 2024

### Purim Issue

(mid-February through March)

Received by February 19

### Passover Issue

(April through mid-May)

Received by April 1

### Shavuot Issue

(mid-May through June)

Received by May 15

You can always visit

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

for a full listing of upcoming events.



## 703-J-CARING

*A partnership between The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, JSSA, and our network of human service organizations.*

When you feel overwhelmed or uncertain about your options for support, there is help.

With one call to (703) J-CARING (703-522-7464), you will be connected to the resources and support services you need from our robust network of human service organizations.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT LINE

A resource coordinator provides referrals to community resources to help you access the support you need, when you need it.

## COMMUNITY CARE NAVIGATION

When you need more hands-on support accessing resources, a care navigator will work with you to assess your needs, create a care plan, and help you implement it.

All calls are confidential. Resource and Navigation services are free to those needing support.

Visit [jearing.org](http://jearing.org) for a full list of available resources provided by the 703-J-CARING Support Line Partner Network.

Support is available  
Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM.

# SISTERHOOD



## Mitzvah Day Thank You



After a long hiatus, Sisterhood brought back our no-sew fleece blanket project for Mitzvah Day. Volunteers of all ages tied lots of knots to make over 40 blankets. They will bring colorful and snugly warmth to local hospitals and shelters.

## Hamentashen Orders

Remember to pick up your order Tuesday–Friday, March 19–22!

## Bagels & Banter: A Courageous New York Assemblyman's Stand for Reproductive Rights

Sunday, March 17

10:00 AM

“Don't let your vote be the one that defeats this bill.” On April 9, 1970, the New York State Assembly debated a bill that would create the most expansive abortion law in U.S. history. This event is now featured in a newly released *New Yorker Magazine* documentary, titled *Deciding Vote*. It presents how New York State lawmaker George Michaels cast the historic vote to legalize abortion in the state. That vote ended his political career. Following a viewing of the 19-minute film, Rabbi Jim Michaels, son of George Michaels and B'nai congregant, will discuss the documentary and his father's legacy. If you wish to watch *Deciding Vote* in advance, you can see it on YouTube. Register at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/bagelsandbantermarch2024](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/bagelsandbantermarch2024). All are welcome.

## B'nai Israel Crafting Club

Come together with other like-minded individuals for a morning of crafting and schmoozing. Bring whatever project you are currently working on (knitting, crocheting, needlepointing, drawing, scrapbooking, origami, or other creative technique). There will also be an opportunity to participate

in a knit/crochet blanket project for charity (all materials provided). We will meet in the library, which has comfy chairs and ample table space from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM.

Our upcoming meeting dates are: March 7, April 11, May 9, and June 13. More info and RSVP to Melissa Menschik ([mblochmen@gmail.com](mailto:mblochmen@gmail.com)). There will be online registration for planning purposes. Please check the B'nai Israel website calendar.

## Mah Jongg and Canasta classes

We are collecting names of people who want to learn how to play Mah Jongg and/or Canasta. We are also collecting names of those willing to teach. The plan is, for a nominal fee, to match a group of 4 students with an instructor. Meeting times would be flexible, based on the requirements of the group. If interested, contact Sue Edwards ([suzied25@gmail.com](mailto:suzied25@gmail.com)) or Beverly Markowitz ([beverly.markowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:beverly.markowitz@yahoo.com)).

## Drop-in Mah Jongg

Mondays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (when the building is open). Questions? Sue Edwards ([suzied25@gmail.com](mailto:suzied25@gmail.com)) or Beverly Markowitz ([beverly.markowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:beverly.markowitz@yahoo.com)).

## Washington Jewish Week

Subscribe or renew through Sisterhood. Washington Jewish Week subscriptions are \$55 for one year and \$100 for two years (for seniors 55+, \$42 and \$76). Contact Cheryl Rod for more information ([cherylrod234@gmail.com](mailto:cherylrod234@gmail.com)).

## Meals on Wheels

Sisterhood volunteers deliver kosher Meals on Wheels every Friday morning. To become involved, contact Alice Harris ([alicemetrobug@gmail.com](mailto:alicemetrobug@gmail.com)) or Diane Boehr ([dboehr@comcast.net](mailto:dboehr@comcast.net)).



## Our 2023–2024 Campaign

“Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Ba'Zeh”

*All of the people of Israel are responsible for one another*



When you support Torah Fund, you educate students at the five Conservative/Masorti global institutions of learning. You align with those who value learning, knowledge, and providing the future generation with relevant skills to fortify the Jewish people and Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

Our own clergy—Rabbis Safra, Berkowitz, Stone, Schnitzer, and Simon z”l—and Sharon Safra, who recently was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary, have all benefited from donations to JTS and the Ziegler School in Los Angeles.

At this time, we are all committed to the support of Israel and to do what we can to be responsible for one another. Please plan to support Torah Fund in this year's campaign. To donate online visit: “[inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund](http://inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund)” or send a check made out to “Torah Fund” to Sue Taffet, 14402 Nadine Drive, Rockville MD 20853.

Sisterhood wants to display all the Torah Fund pins from the past to the present. We are missing the pins from 1957-1975 and 1986-87. If you have any of these and are willing to part with them, please contact Sue Taffet. ([Suetaffet@aol.com](mailto:Suetaffet@aol.com); 301-460-5403).



Cards for all occasions can also be purchased at \$5 each. (Contact [Suetaffet@aol.com](mailto:Suetaffet@aol.com))

THANK YOU for your continued support!

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



# MEN'S CLUB

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

By the time you read this, Men's Club Shabbat will be over and we will have awarded our third annual Shamash Award to Dr. Stuart Lessans and Alan Lipschultz.

Dr. Lessans was honored for his support of children's education. His personal involvement and support for children's education carries our values and principles to the world for generations to come. His generosity to the synagogue is also recognized as the B'nai Talmud Torah bears his name.

Mr. Lipschultz is an active member of the Social Action Committee. He routinely provides an item or two for the monthly delivery of meals to a shelter, and volunteers to deliver the meals. He also is quick to volunteer to usher at Shabbat services, sometimes more than once a month, and to help out at other synagogue.

The award was the brainchild of Men's Club member David Sotsky to recognize the congregant or congregants for the work they have done within the synagogue or the surrounding community. They light the way to *tikkun olam*, the way the *shamash* lights the Hanukkah menorah.

Thank you to David and his committee, comprised of Men's Club members Leon Pomerance and David Streeter, and Craig Strent, a member of the Social Action Committee and a previous recipient of the Shamash Award.

Besides its main task of recommending the winners to the full Men's Club membership, the committee also serves the club as a way to try to get more members. The outgoing president of the National Press Club got her start by serving on a committee to award scholarships to journalism students, and it is our hope that the members of the Shamash Award Committee, who change from year to year, will play a more active role in the Men's Club in future years.

February also was the annual World Wide Wrap, where we joined men's clubs across



**Dr. Stuart Lessans & Alan Lipschultz**  
*Recipients of the 2023 Shamash Award*

the country in highlighting the *mitzvah* of putting on *tefillin*.

In January, we held what will be one of our most important programs of the year. The Hamas attack on Israel and the Jewish state's attempt to fight back has led to an explosion of antisemitism. College students and others are vandalizing monuments and disrupting events while chanting the Hamas slogan calling for the eradication of the State of Israel.

Our speaker was Alan Ronkin, regional director of the American Jewish Committee, who talked about the rise in antisemitism. He has spoken here before, but never under these circumstances.

There are certain things that we as a Men's Club are uniquely qualified to do at times like this, and one of them is to highlight the difficulties we face as Jews and raise awareness by using our forum to discuss the problem.

Looking ahead, we are offering two chances to tour the Smithsonian American History Museum, on both Monday, March 4 and Thursday, March 14, with B'nai member Sylvia Rosenthal, a museum docent. She will highlight the museum's Jewish connections.

And our third annual Day at the Ballpark will take place on Sunday, May 5, against the Toronto Blue Jays. Game time is 1:35 PM. The Men's Club will pay half the ticket cost, meaning you pay just \$35 and get a \$25 food and beverage credit. Register on our website.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

In the event of inclement weather, we will make every effort that we can to communicate to our membership and school communities via email.

Please be aware that separate decisions are made for our schools, synagogue offices, synagogue programs, and daily minyan. In all cases, the most up-to-date information will be posted on our website ([www.bnaiisraelcong.org](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org)).

If events are not listed as canceled on our website, it is safe to assume that they are proceeding as scheduled.

Read the complete policy at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/weather](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/weather).



### The new and expanding **B'NAI ISRAEL JUDAICA MUSEUM**

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

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

# IN SYMPATHY

## זכרונם לברכה

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

**MORTON GREENBERG**  
**HERMAN "HY" LEVINE**  
**BERT SILVER**

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

Irwin Altschuler on the loss of his mother, **Betty Altschuler**.

Norma Krupenie on the loss of her sister, **Belle Schwartz Dicker**.

Karen Foxman on the loss of her father, **Henry Foxman**.

Rinat Glinert on the loss of her mother, **Elana Glinert**.

Ellen Greenberg and Steven Greenberg on the loss of their husband and father, **Morton Greenberg**.

Ethel "E.J." Levine on the loss of her husband, **Herman "Hy" Levine**.

Allen Diewald on the loss of his mother, **Dale McManus**.

Michael Selis and Shira Selis-Bradford on the loss of their mother, and grandmother, **Ruth Selis**.

Nancy Silver on the loss of her husband, **Bert Silver**.

Anita Kornbluth and Deborah Berger on the loss of their sister and aunt, **Ruth Silver**.

Avery Sudow on the loss of her grandmother, **Theresa Solomon**.

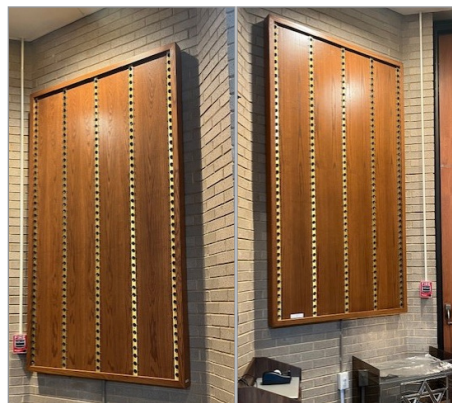


### Additional Memorial Boards Added in Hayman Chapel

by **ALLISON BERG KARASIK**  
 Assistant to the Cantors

Meet the Q and R Boards!

I've shared several articles over the years about Hayman Chapel, and some notable plaques. But have you popped by Hayman Chapel lately? Have you noticed that people are just "dying to get in there," as Cantor Josh often jokes? After filling up Board D, the board in the back next to the glass doors, we needed more space in Hayman Chapel for memorial plaques. Enter our new memorial boards, which I have designated the Q and R boards. (Each memorial board is labeled with a letter, but they are not in alphabetical order. There is a directory available in the chapel to help you find a plaque—current count is 2,199!) Our new boards were custom made and can each hold 172 memorial plaques. I estimate we sell about forty plaques a year, so in eight more years we will have to find more room.



If you are interested in purchasing memorial plaques in Hayman Chapel, they are \$600 each. Please contact me: [allison@bnaiisraelcongregation.org](mailto:allison@bnaiisraelcongregation.org). B'nai Israel is honored to have this opportunity to memorialize a loved one.

*"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@bnaiisraelcongregation.org](mailto:hossman@bnaiisraelcongregation.org)).

### SUNDAY OPEN HOURS B'NAI ISRAEL CEMETERY AT OXON HILL

**March 3**  
**9:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Our cemetery at Oxon Hill is open for visitors on the first Sunday of each month. No appointment is necessary. For inquiries or special requests please contact Rebecca Shein (240-678-2916, [rshein@bnaiisraelcongregation.org](mailto:rshein@bnaiisraelcongregation.org)).

### Opportunities to Memorialize & 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@bnaiisraelcongregation.org](mailto:allison@bnaiisraelcongregation.org)).



# MAZAL TOV מזל טוב

## February Anniversaries

Nathan and Beth Greenbaum – 6  
Michael and Lindsay North – 7  
Arnold and Judy Westerman – 8  
Michael and Lisa Garson – 14  
Joe and Amy Musher – 14  
Seth Rappaport and Leah Tulin – 14  
Marc and Cara Tommer – 14  
Marc and Alexis Anolik – 15  
Dwight Shank and Sarah Adams – 16  
Josh and Emilie Sekine – 16  
Joshua and Mara Kanter – 17  
Steven and Lisa Feyerick – 19  
Jonathan Gold and Debra Nachmann – 19  
Brian and Lisbeth Driskill – 22  
Victor and Helene Krauthamer – 25  
Wayne and Denise Berman – 26  
David and Alexandra Dickman – 27

## March Anniversaries

Howard and Carol Cohen – 1  
Robb and Susan Longman – 2  
Joel and Debi Meisel – 2  
David and Helene Emsellem – 4  
Don and Randy Greenberg – 4  
Jeff and Debbie Moss – 4  
Mike and Sharon Meliker – 6  
Frederic and Holly Gelfond – 7  
Gary and Margy Lawrence – 7  
Joseph and Joyce Band – 9  
Marc and Roni Bergoffen – 9  
Felix and Riva Sokolsky – 12  
Rob and Roz Black – 13  
Robert Zimmerman and  
Mariela Farhi-Zimmerman – 13  
Steve and Joanne Zuckerman – 13  
Burman and Deborah Berger – 14  
Benjamin Peck and Jennifer Cohen – 14  
Jeff and Debbi Kolender – 16  
Russell and Amanda Manes – 17  
Zachary Stern and Rinat Glinert – 18  
Ivan and Linda Kovac – 18  
David and Elisa Bauman – 19  
Michael and Renee Lessans – 19  
Jeffrey and Leslie Chemtob – 20  
David and Jaime Matyas – 20  
Michael and Deborah Oblon – 20  
Jared and Jennifer Okun – 20  
Steven and Shelley Rothenberg – 20  
Martin Ruta and Marjorie Cohn – 20  
Melvin and Esta Cooperman – 21  
Howard and Barbra Goldberg – 22  
David and Lisa Jager – 22  
Ian and Judy Cohen – 23  
Vincent and Laura Wallace – 23

David and Alizah Epstein – 24  
Lewis and Lynn Gertz – 24  
Aaron and Stephanie Udler – 24  
Peter and April Cantor – 27  
Robert and Arielle Kimmer – 27  
Jacob and Mona El-Gamil – 28  
Eric and Wendy Levine – 28  
Mark and Nancy Weinberger – 28  
Ted Cohen and Meda Turetsky – 29  
Robert and Lisa Norwitz – 29  
Jonathan Pomeranz and Elena Bryce – 29  
Noah and Avery Sudow – 30  
Donald and Renee Fishman – 31

## and Mazal Tov to...

**Leah and Allan Zendel** on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Elizabeth Zendel.

**Rinat Glinert and Zach Stern** on the birth of their daughter, Nava Juliet Stern.

**Dr. Melissa and Paul Kutner** on the birth of their son, Lionel George Kutner.

**B'NAI ISRAEL**  
stands against  
antisemitism

### NEW Resource Page on Website: Fighting Antisemitism

Our Fighting Antisemitism Committee announces the launch of a dedicated page on the B'nai Israel website designed to offer resources, support, and pertinent programming information addressing the concerning rise of antisemitism. This page serves as a hub for essential resources. One critical feature is the provision of information and links detailing the process for reporting incidents to the ADL and Montgomery County Police, with oversight by the JCRC. Thank you to the Chairs of this Committee, Robin Lenkin and Lisa Miller, for leading this process!

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



## CLASS OF 2024

*Mazal tov* to all of our B'nai Israel CESJDS seniors on their graduation! We wish you safe and fantastic travels to those of you experiencing Israel for your spring semester.

**DALYA BRICKMAN**

**ZOE EPSTEIN**

**ARIELLE FELLNER**

**SERENA GILL**

**ARI GOLDBERG**

**ANNA LEINWAND**

**ELLIE LEVINE**

**ETHAN SAFRA**

**DANIEL SCHLACTUS**

**SHANI SCHWARTZ**

**HANNAH SHANK**

## Get Social With Us



Make sure to stay connected with us via social media for latest updates, Facebook Live events, and more.

### Join our group on FB

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BnaiIsraelCong/>

### Follow us on Instagram

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

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

# DONATIONS



Due to increased printing and labor costs:

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

Please note:

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

Donations Made November 15–January 4 | DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT [bnaaisraelcong.org/donate](http://bnaaisraelcong.org/donate)

## Endowments

### B'nai Israel Sisterhood Endowment or Jewish Engagement Projects

*In Honor Of:*

Sage Ossman's bat mitzvah by Lisa and Alan Isenberg

### Beverly G. Schnitzer Tikun Olam Endowment

*In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer for leading the funeral service and shiva for our beloved son, Jeffrey Laurence Krauthamer, and for his continuing support for our entire family through this most difficult time by Joan and Harold Krauthamer

*In Honor Of:*

Mark Ellenberg and Nancy Abramowitz's granddaughter's bat mitzvah by Bonnie and Craig Dickman

Sol and Suzy Levy's 50th wedding anniversary by Rita Hoffman

*In Memory Of:*

Jeffrey Krauthamer by Abby and Phil Rogers  
Ellie Kahan by Susan and Mark Jaffe

### Bruce R. Saypol Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

*In Honor Of:*

Steve Kerbel receiving a doctorate from JTS by Suzy and Sol Levy

### Cantor Ilana Wolpert Music Enrichment Fund

*In Appreciation Of:*

Cantor Josh Perlman's participation in the funeral service for our beloved son, Jeffrey Laurence Krauthamer, and for his support during this most difficult time by Harold and Joan Krauthamer

### Comer-Ritwo Elevator Endowment Fund

*In Memory Of:*

Elaine Comer by Ruth and Andrew Ritwo

### David Easton Endowment for Video Education

*In Memory Of:*

Pearl Schultz by the Easton and Michel Families  
Mort Yadin by Glenn and Cindy Easton

### Diane Lipson Schilit Youth Endowment

*In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi Mitch Berkowitz's participation in the shiva for our beloved son, Jeffrey Laurence Krauthamer, and for his support during this most difficult time by Joan and Harold Krauthamer

### Dr. Mitchell and Thelma Goldfarb Rubinow Endowment for Special Needs

*In Appreciation Of:*

Cantor Sarah Bolts's support during shiva for our beloved son, Jeffrey Laurence Krauthamer by Joan and Harold Krauthamer

*In Memory Of:*

Mordechai Yadin by Paula and Mitch Zeller  
Mort Yadin, beloved Father of Naomi Yadin Mendick by Suzy and Sol Levy

Mrs. Bess C. Lewis, my mom who I dearly miss each day by her loving son, Marshall C. Lewis, DTM  
*The following have made donations in memory of Jeffrey Krauthamer, beloved son of Harold and Joan Krauthamer, and beloved brother of Steven Krauthamer and Michael Krauthamer:*

Bruce Patner  
Margie and Owen Ritter  
Eli Dicker  
David Eisenberg  
Debra Engler and Alan Lopatin  
Phyllis and Mort Lessans  
Dr. Mark Jaffe  
Harriet and Greg Friedman  
Henry and Marlene Garson  
Jaye and Bob Greenfest  
Jeff and Robbi Shane  
Marilyn Feldman  
Nancy Geller  
Paula Pascal Levine  
Peggy K Pearlstein  
Rick Tempchin  
Rita Hoffman  
Rochelle and Scott Hodes  
Stanley and Judith Abramson  
Suzanne and Leon Feuerstein  
Terry Watnick

### Edith Black Endowment for Yiddish and Jewish Culture

*In Memory Of:*

Robert Miller by Edith Black  
Sheila Footer's son by Carol and Don Vogel  
Mrs. Bess C. Lewis, my mother who proudly and daily instilled in my spirit and conscience true Yiddishkeit growing up in our home, by her loving son, Marshall C. Lewis, DTM

### Ethan Ross Alperstein Sanctuary Garden Endowment Fund

*A Donation Was Made By:*

Robert and Andrea Sokoloff

*In Memory Of:*

Marvin Kay, beloved father and grandfather by Mort Faller

### Goldie And Henry Stein Endowment for Special Education

*In Honor Of:*

Anita and Alvin Lann's granddaughter, Lilah Rifka Kramer's aliyah by Dr. Chet and Rita Stein

*In Memory Of:*

Jeffrey Krauthamer by Rita and Chet Stein

### Hayman Family Sustaining Endowment

*In Memory Of:*

Julius A. Bernstein by Jay and Carolyn Bernstein

### Hazzan Deborah Togut Memorial Endowment Fund

*In Memory Of:*

Jan Lobatz by Jeff Goodman

### Hazzan Robert Kieval Music Library Fund

*In Appreciation Of:*

Cantor Josh for all he does and his engaging programming by David Karasik  
Cantor Josh for the beautiful service in honor of my grandson Eli Hatwell's bar mitzvah by Rita Hatwell  
Cantor Sarah Bolts for the beautiful in honor of my grandson Eli Hatwell's bar mitzvah by Rita Hatwell

*In Honor Of:*

Cantor Josh Perlman in gratitude for his work preparing Eli for his bar mitzvah by Katherine Hatwell

### Helen And Herman Glazer Youth Endowment

*In Celebration Of:*

Sherry and Larry Wachtel's 50th wedding anniversary by Debbie and Danny Glazer and Family  
The 50th wedding anniversary of Larry and Sherry Wachtel by Lois Alperstein

### Igersheim Family Technology Sustaining Endowment

*In Honor Of:*

Sol and Suzy's 50th anniversary and Suzy's 80th birthday by Adele and Roy Igersheim

*In Memory Of:*

Jeffrey Krauthamer by Adele and Roy Igersheim  
Phillip Ratner by Adele and Roy Igersheim

### Jerry Neil Memorial Sustaining Endowment

*In Honor Of:*

Arlene Neil's 75th birthday by Mincy Neil and crew  
My brother Burton Neil's 80th birthday by Mincy Neil and crew

*In Memory Of:*

Tommy Hutman by Mincy and Milt  
Jeffrey Krauthamer by Mincy Neil and family



**Jonathan A. Schnitzer Rabbinic Chair Endowment**

*A Donation Was Made By:*

Alan and Amy Meltzer  
Joseph and Audrey Speter

**Joseph and Lillian Tudor Endowment for Adult Education**

*In Memory Of:*

Ira Platt by Paula Pascal Levine

**Karen Gerton Nursery School Enhancement Endowment Fund**

*In Honor Of:*

Sharon Safra for her honorary Doctor of Pedagogy degree by Karen and Manny Gerton

*In Memory Of:*

Marvin Kay by Jaye and Bob Greenfest  
Marvin Kay, loving father of Suzanne Schonfeld by Karen and Manny Gerton

**Louis and Helyn Fanaroff Sustaining Endowment**

*In Honor Of:*

Anita and Alvin Lann on celebrating your granddaughter's simcha with an aliyah at B'nai Israel by Debby and Gary Bortnick

The birth of Patti and Michael Goldman's grandchild by Wendy Fanaroff

*In Memory Of:*

Alfred "Al" Brody, brother of Judy Saks by Wendy Fanaroff  
Ron and Nava Dweck, sister-in-law of Diane Dweck by Wendy Fanaroff  
Uriel Lin's beloved grandfather by Wendy Fanaroff

**Mandel and Stein Prayer Book Fund**

*In Memory Of:*

Yaakov Resnitzky by Rita and Chet Stein

**Mary And Israel Shulman Student Community Service Endowment Fund**

*In Memory Of:*

Erwin Miller by Michael Heiserman  
Bernard Lynn by Michael Heiserman  
Phillip Ratner by Michael Heiserman

**Meisel Family Endowment for Special Needs**

*In Celebration Of:*

Jeffrey Krauthamer's life by Ruthann and Howard Friedland

*The following have made donations in memory of Jeffrey Krauthamer, beloved son of Harold and Joan Krauthamer, and beloved brother of Steven Krauthamer and Michael Krauthamer:*

Allan and Leah Zendel  
Leslie and Jerry Solomon  
Marjorie Kitzes  
Robert and Lesley Gasperow

**Mildred and William Kaplan Social Action Endowment**

*A Donation Was Made By:*

The William and Mildred Kaplan Foundation

*In Memory Of:*

Cecelia Oshinsky by Linda Kaplan  
William Kaplan by Linda Kaplan  
Mildred Kaplan by Linda Kaplan  
Herman Oshinsky by Linda Kaplan  
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*In Honor Of:*

The birth of Jack Louis Shapiro, great grandson of Miriam and Sheldon Tommer by Jacob and Ellen Rothmel

**Norman N. Kunitz Endowment for the Study of Racism, Sexism, Prejudice and Anti-Semitism**

*In Memory Of:*

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*In Honor Of:*

Jill Epstein receiving a doctorate degree by JTS by Suzy and Sol Levy

**Rabbi Joshua Rubinow Simon Memorial Endowment for Camp Ramah Tikvah Program**

*In Memory Of:*

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Jeffrey Krauthamer by Gloria Paul and Bob Atlas

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*The following have made donations in memory of Rabbi Matthew H. Simon, beloved husband of Sara Rubinow Simon:*

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Esther Bergman  
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Herschel Cutler  
Leonard and Saradona Lefkowitz  
Lisa Reiner  
Rita Hoffman  
Thelma and Melvin Lenkin

**Rabbi Matthew and Sara Rubinow Simon Endowment for Childrens Programming**

*In Memory Of:*

Rabbi Matthew Simon by Nina Koenick

**Rabbi Michael Safra Adult Programming Endowment**

*In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi Michael Safra providing interesting insight, and timely programming content by Martie and Jack Nebb

*In Honor Of:*

Rabbi Safra and Rabbi Berkowitz by Benson and Erin Goldstein  
The marriage of Justin and Hannah Koenick by Nina Koenick  
Sharon Safra receiving her honorary doctorate from JTS by Suzy and Sol Levy

**Rachmill Schlafstein Memorial Bar and Bat Mitzvah Tzedakah Box Endowment**

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Dr. Neil Shulman by Sheri and Dr. Steven Schlafstein

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*In Memory Of:*

Mordechai Yadin by Wilma and Ron Lenkin

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**Early Childhood Enrichment Fund**

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The birth of Noa Elizabeth Zendel by Allan & Leah Zendel

**Edith and Charles Pascal Library Book Fund**

*In Memory Of:*

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Bernard and Annette Forseter  
Rachela Klein

*A Speedy Recovery For:*

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*In Appreciation Of:*

Cantor Sarah bolts for her tutoring and preparation of Sage for her bat mitzvah by Rachel and Hal Ossman

Pepe Strauss for all his hard work to prepare the building for Sage's bat mitzvah weekend by Rachel and Hal Ossman

*In Celebration Of:*

The marriage of my granddaughter, Anna to Lucas Schornstein by Michael Heiserman

*In Honor Of:*

The bar mitzvah of Mark and Nancy Ellenberg's granddaughter by Rajmiel and Fran Odinec  
My grandchildren by Barrie Weber  
Ariel Simon's bat mitzvah by Ellie and Michael Flyer  
Sage's bat mitzvah and the Ossman Family by Susan Zeelander

*In Memory Of:*

Marvin S. Kay by Andrea "Obbie" Kay  
Ira Platt by Bonnie and Buddy Sislen  
Jeffrey Krauthamer by Herschel Cutler  
Nathan Schechter by Jodi and Mark Shulimson  
Arthur David Postal by Larry and Susan Lesser  
Jerome Norris by Marilyn Feldman  
My husband Irwin (Buddy) Feldman by Marilyn Feldman

Lillian Norris by Marilyn Feldman  
Frank Feldman by Marilyn Feldman  
Edythe Feldman by Marilyn Feldman  
Marvin Kay by Morton and Cynthia Zetlin  
Jeffrey Krauthamer, son of Harold and Joan by Rajmiel and Fran Odinec  
Phil Ratner by Rajmiel and Fran Odinec  
Stuart Meyers by Bobbi and Larry Shulman  
Jeffrey Krauthammer by Ron and Nava Dweck  
Nathan Schechter by Stefanie, Fred, and Samara Langsam

*The following have made donations in memory of Mordechai Yadin:*

Al and Ruth Temin  
Edie and David Blitzstein  
Ellen and Jake Rothmel  
Herschel Cutler  
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*A Donation Was Made By:*

Errol and Lorena Forgosh  
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*In Celebration Of:*

The bris of Jack Louis Shapiro by Brittany and Seth Shapiro

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

#### *In Honor Of:*

Laurie Pfeiffer by Anne Abend

#### *In Memory Of:*

Harvey Goldstock by Anne and Jeffrey Abend  
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Ira Platt, may his memory be forever a blessing by Rhona Longman  
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##### *In Honor Of:*

Our 50th wedding anniversary by Sherry and Larry Wachtel

##### *In Memory Of:*

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

##### *In Appreciation Of:*

Sol Levy's efforts in arranging excellent programs by Carren Oler

##### *In Honor Of:*

Sol and Suzy Levy's brother-in-law by Carol and Don Vogel

Suzanne Levy's 80th birthday by Liz and Phil Weintraub

The bar mitzvah of the grandson of Annette and Bernard Forseter by Nancy and Jerry Reed

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##### *In Honor Of:*

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#### **Rabbi Safra Fund for Programming and Service Leadership Training**

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Rodney Golden

Hanita Hofman

Jay Steven and Eleanor Kahan

##### *In Appreciation Of:*

Rabbi Safra for officiating at the wedding of Svetlana Slavin to David Vernet by Katya and Dr. Konstantin Slavin

Mitch Berkowitz for his kindness and wonderful eulogy of Phillip Ratner by Ellen Ratner

Rabbi Safra for officiating at the wedding of David Vernet and Svetlana Slavin by Frank Vernet

Rabbi Michael Safra's participation in the funeral and leading shiva for beloved son, Jeffrey Laurence Krauthamer, and for his support during this most difficult time by Joan and Harold Krauthamer  
Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz for his support and kindness after Joanne's passing by Roni and Bill Meltzer

Rabbi Michael Safra for the beautiful service on my grandson Eli Hatwell's bar mitzvah by Rita Hatwell

##### *In Celebration Of:*

Rabbi Safra officiating at Jack Louis Shapiro's bris by Lisa and Larry Cines

##### *In Honor Of:*

Sharon Safra receiving her honorary doctorate by Allan and Leah Zendel

Rabbi Safra for Eli Hatwell's bar mitzvah by Katherine and David Hatwell

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Harper Sophie Snyders baby naming and receiving her Hebrew name of Hannah Shira by Jenna and David Snyder

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#### Youth Activities Fund

*In Memory Of:*

Phillip Ratner by Paula Pascal Levine

## B'nai Israel is RightHear



B'nai Israel Congregation is proud to announce a partnership with RightHear, an Israeli-founded technology company, which specializes in accessibility solutions for people who are blind or low vision. With B'nai Israel's installation of the RightHear system, the synagogue became the first in North America to offer this accessibility for individuals with visual impairments.

With the implementation of the RightHear system, B'nai Israel Congregation reaffirms its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, always striving to ensure that all members and visitors can participate in synagogue activities, services, and events with greater ease and independence. It exemplifies the congregation's commitment to innovation and its mission to create a synagogue that is a model of inclusivity for houses of worship worldwide.

Idan Meir, Co-Founder and CEO of RightHear added:

*"It is an extremely proud moment for us, as an Israeli startup, which opened our US headquarters here in Rockville, Maryland, to help deliver accessibility to B'nai Israel Congregation. The last few months have obviously been exceptionally difficult for us as an Israeli start-up, but as a social impact company with a focus on accessibility and inclusivity, we are highly motivated to continue moving forward and making the world a better place for everyone. Our mission is to make the whole world more accessible, one building at a time, and thanks to partners like B'nai Israel, our mission continues to move forward".*

Generously funded by the Dr. Mitchell and Thelma Goldfarb Rubinow Endowment for Special Needs.

For more information, visit [www.bnaisraelcong.org/righthear](http://www.bnaisraelcong.org/righthear).



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