

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

TEVET/SHEVAT 5784

WINTER ISSUE

VOLUME 81
NUMBER 4

B'NAI ISRAEL SCROLL

STAY CONNECTED



facebook.com/groups/BnaiIsraelCong/

www.bnaiisraelcong.org

UPCOMING

Special Shabbatot at B'nai Israel

See page 8.

UPCOMING

February is JDAIM

**Jewish Disability Awareness,
Acceptance & Inclusion
Month**



In Honor of JDAIM, see

- Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz's message on page 3.
- Inclusion Shabbat with Guest Speaker, David Ervin, CEO of Makom on page 8.
- Installation of Right Hear on page 15.

**FLORIDA
REUNION**

**Sunday, February 4
11:00 AM**

See page 23 for details.

100 **B'NAI ISRAEL**
Centennial
YEARS TOGETHER

**Our B'nai Israel Centennial begins NEXT YEAR!
Our Celebrations kick-off Fall 2025.**

We want to hear from you.
Learn more about our Centennial Town Hall Conversations.

See page 4.

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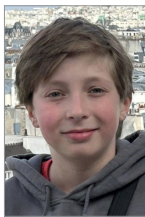
B'NAI MITZVAH

בני מצוה

Henry Sekine

January 6 | 9:00 AM

Henry Benjamin Sekine, son of Josh and Emilie Sekine, grandson of Steve and Debbie Newman, and Ken and Sheryl Sekine, is a seventh-grade student at Sandy Spring Friends School. For his *mitzvah* project, Henry is organizing an equipment drive to benefit the Washington Ice Dogs and the Montgomery Cheetahs, two special needs hockey teams in the DC Metro area.



organizations that provide opportunities for children with disabilities to socialize with peers and have fun experiences. Ruthie volunteers as a peer buddy at monthly birthday parties in the community with the Friendship Circle and in basketball and soccer programs with Open Door Sports.

Chloe Markey

January 20 | 9:00 AM

Chloe Markey, daughter of Robyn Strauss and Daniel Markey, granddaughter of Fred and Shirley Strauss, and Sanford (z"l) and Carol Markey, is a seventh-grade student at Tilden Middle School. For her *mitzvah* project, Chloe is baking and decorating birthday cakes for Birthday Cakes 4 Free Maryland, an organization that bakes, decorates, and delivers free birthday cakes to financially and socially disadvantaged children and seniors.



Mallory Weiner

January 6 | 9:00 AM

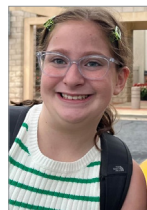
Mallory Sloane Weiner, daughter of Emily and Andy Weiner, granddaughter of Janis and Kenny Lefkowitz, and Harriet and Alan (z"l) Weiner, is a seventh-grade student at Herbert Hoover Middle School. For her *mitzvah* project, Mallory is making cakes for Birthday Cakes 4 Free and running a bake sale for Icing Smiles.



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.



Riley Miller

January 13 | 9:00 AM

Riley Mae Miller, daughter of Lisa and Dan Miller, granddaughter of Marsha and Paul (z"l) Boymel, and Eleanor and Fred Miller, is a seventh-grade student at Herbert Hoover Middle School. For her *mitzvah* project, Riley is honoring the memory of Chaya Fried through the Yad Vashem Twinning Program by researching and learning more about the Holocaust.



Ruth Pollak

January 13 | 9:00 AM

Ruth Dahlia Pollak, daughter of Karen Foxman and Jeffrey Pollak, granddaughter of Yona Suval and Henry Foxman, and Joan and Ronald Pollak, is a seventh-grade student at Tilden Middle School. For her *mitzvah* project, Ruthie is volunteering with two



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.



Get Away with B'nai Three Opportunities!

View all details at
[www.bnaisraelcong.org/
specialevents](http://www.bnaisraelcong.org/specialevents)



Florida Reunion

February 4, 2024

Hunter's Run Country Club
Boynton Beach

Event Chairs: Jaye & Bob
Greenfest

See page 23 for more information.



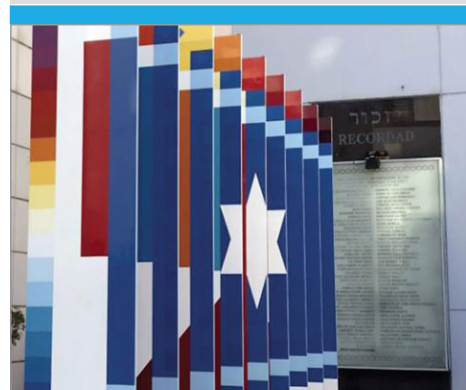
Congregational Civil Rights

Trip to Georgia and Alabama with

Rabbi Michael Safra

February 5-7, 2024

Very limited space remains!

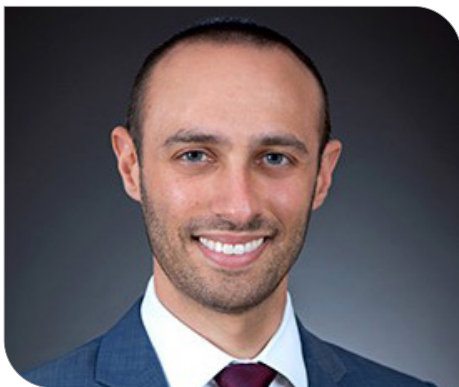


Congregational Tour to Buenos Aires, Argentina

with Rabbi Michael and
Sharon Safra

March 4-12, 2024

Very limited space remains!



RABBI'S MESSAGE

by RABBI MITCHELL BERKOWITZ

One of the first things that people notice at B'nai Israel is the sheer size of our building and its operations: the building seems to go on forever in all directions, and there is so much going on each and every day. What is less often recognized, however, are the incredible efforts made by our volunteers and lay leaders who partner closely with staff and clergy to make B'nai Israel the incredible home for Jewish life that it is today. In the coming weeks, we will honor and recognize the people who make B'nai Israel the synagogue we are all proud to call home.

Beginning with Hazak Shabbat back on December 23, B'nai Israel hosts annually a series of special Shabbatot in which we honor and celebrate the various segments of our congregation and all that they do to sustain our community. We will celebrate Teen Shabbat, Social Action and Social Justice Shabbat, Men's Club Shabbat, Refugee Shabbat, Sisterhood Shabbat, Repro Shabbat, Inclusion Shabbat, and Volunteer Shabbat. (Read page 8 to learn more about each of these special Shabbatot.)

One could look at this list and ask, "How about we just have a Shabbat-themed Shabbat?" After all, each Shabbat is already infused with meaning from the weekly Torah reading, the *haftarah*, the festival calendar, and the many *s'mahot* that we celebrate each week at B'nai Israel. But these specially designated Shabbatot give us an opportunity to celebrate individuals who are not always sufficiently recognized, and to proudly affirm our values as a synagogue community.

For example, Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month

was established in 2009 by the Jewish Special Education International Consortium. For decades already, our congregation has been at the forefront of inclusion efforts not only for people with physical disabilities but also for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This sacred work is part of the fabric of our congregation. We are always trying to enhance our efforts by identifying new areas of need and working to fill any gaps in our approaches. Celebrating Inclusion Shabbat gives us an opportunity to recognize those who are most involved with these efforts, and showcase some of the advancements we have made in inclusion efforts this year.

One of those advancements is the installation of the RightHear system. B'nai Israel is the first synagogue in North America to offer this assistive technology, which transforms spaces into accessible environments for people with low-vision or orientation challenges. Small beacons are placed throughout the building, and they interact with a free application that anyone can download on their phones to better navigate our building. I hope that you will give it a try, and that it will enable those with low-vision or orientation challenges to better navigate around B'nai Israel.

All of our upcoming special Shabbatot provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate gratitude to our volunteers, affirm our values as Conservative Jews, and celebrate the achievements of our congregation. I hope that you will join us for these celebrations, that you will find meaningful ways to connect with the work of these committees and affiliates, and that you will help us to continue building this sacred community for many years to come.

Shalom,
Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

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

(September 27–October 16)

NEW MEMBERS

HILDA KOTKIN

CAROL LEVINSON

JESSE LICHSTEIN
& EVAN TUCH

MORGAN & SAMUEL WEBER

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

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/antisemitism

B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION

6301 Montrose Road
Rockville, Maryland 20852
301-881-6550
www.bnaiisraelcong.org

Affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



**Safety
Respect
Equity**



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

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DINA COHEN GRUBER

Vice President Administration

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SCOTT HODES

Immediate Past President

JULIANN GOLDMAN | ALISA ISENBERG

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

JONATHAN SALANT | ALAN ISENBERG

Men's Club Co-Presidents

DR. STEVEN HAUSMAN

ALAN ISENBERG

DR. FRED MESSING

DR. STEPHEN B. ROBBINS

JOEL SHANKMAN

JAY WECHSLER

Gabbaim



Bach in Baltimore

T. Herbert Dimmock, Founder & Music Director

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.*

Our Centennial Town Hall Sessions are Underway

As we are now in 2024, we are officially one year away from beginning B'nai Israel's Centennial Celebration in 2025! Under the leadership of Centennial Co-Chairs Steve Rothenberg and Marla Schulman, our congregation has embarked on 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.

Additional information will come out before each session, but please mark your calendars. If you have any questions related to these Town Hall sessions or otherwise, please email centennial@bnaiisraelcong.org.

Upcoming Town Hall Centennial Sessions:

Sisterhood

Wednesday, January 10 at 12:00 PM,
In-person

Men's Club

Sunday, January 21 at 11:00 AM, In-person

Nursery School Current Parents

Friday, February 9 at 9:15 AM, In-person

Parents of School-Age Children

Sunday, February 25 at 11:00 AM,

In-person

Open Session for B'nai Israel Members

Tuesday, March 12 at 7:15 PM, Zoom

Open Session for B'nai Israel Members

Thursday, March 14 at 7:15 PM, In-person

Thank you in advance for sharing your dedication and thoughts to the future of B'nai Israel!





LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

by **DINA COHEN GRUBER**
Vice President Administration

The history of the Jewish people is marked by a remarkable resilience that has enabled them to navigate through challenging times with unwavering hope. From ancient civilizations to modern societies, the Jewish community's ability to find hope in adversity is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Throughout history, Jews have faced numerous hardships, including persecution, exile, and discrimination. Despite these challenges, the Jewish people have maintained a steadfast belief in a better future. The concept of hope is deeply rooted in Jewish traditions, with stories of perseverance and triumph found in religious texts and cultural narratives.

The Jewish experience is often characterized by the theme of survival and renewal. Whether it be the Exodus from Egypt, the Babylonian exile, or the more recent challenges of the 21st century, such as the Holocaust, the Jewish people have faced adversity head-on and emerged with a renewed sense of purpose and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Jewish culture has made significant contributions to the arts, sciences, and philosophy, reflecting a commitment to progress and the betterment of humanity. The enduring hope embedded in Jewish identity has fueled a desire to contribute positively to the world, shaping the cultural landscape and inspiring others to embrace optimism in the face of hardship.

Central to the Jewish faith is the belief in a

covenant with God and the promise of a better future. This spiritual foundation has provided a source of hope for generations, allowing individuals to find meaning and purpose even in the most challenging circumstances. The power of faith in fostering hope is evident in the stories of Jewish communities overcoming adversity.

In the modern era, the Jewish people continue to embody hope through various initiatives, such as community building, education, *tzedakah*, and *tikkun olam*. Organizations dedicated to preserving Jewish culture, promoting social justice, and fostering interfaith understanding reflect a commitment to a hopeful and inclusive future.

The intersection of Jewish history, culture, and faith has forged a profound connection between the Jewish people and the concept of hope. Despite facing immense challenges, the Jewish spirit remains resilient, demonstrating that hope is not merely an abstract ideal but a tangible force that has guided and sustained this community throughout the ages. In exploring the relationship between Jews and hope, we find a powerful narrative of endurance, renewal, and an enduring belief in the possibility of a brighter tomorrow.

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

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND 2024-2025 SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, the elected and appointed members of the 2023-2024 Governance Committee are as follows:

Dan Fisher, Chair
Jeff Fredman, Ex-officio
Katie Aber
Kim Cohen
Marion Haberman
Rob Loewy
Emily Odesser
Marla Schulman
Jason Sheer
Andy Shulman

The committee is selecting nominees for the Officer and Board of Governors positions that will lead our congregation in 2024-2025 and seeking suggestions from the membership for consideration.

Please contact Dan Fisher, Governance Committee Chair (fishercutbait@brandeis.edu), with any suggestions or questions.

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).

January 6 – *Shemot*

January 20 – *Bo*

February 17 – *Terumah*

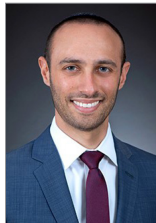
WEEKDAY LEARNING

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.



Please check the website for the latest updates regarding these events.

To REGISTER or for more information on any of our learning opportunities, go to www.bnaiisraelcong.org/adulteducation.

QUESTIONS? Contact Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz (301-816-5575, mhberkowitz@bnaiisraelcong.org).

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch and Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Mondays, January 8
and February 5
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.



Introduction to Judaism: The Nuts and Bolts

Thursday, February 8
(continuing for 14
more weeks)

7:30–9:00 PM

Beth El Congregation

\$150 (Registration includes the textbook and a class Shabbat dinner at Beth El)

A multi-denominational journey into the heart of Judaism taught by Metro DC-area rabbis representing a variety of Jewish affiliations. No matter your background, the Miller Intro to Judaism Program, developed by American Jewish University, is here to guide you on your Jewish journey. Whether you’re soul-searching or seeking your community, the Intro Program will walk you through Judaism’s big ideas and the nuts and bolts of daily Jewish living. Presented by The Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies.



From Temple Judaism to Rabbinic Judaism

with Gideon Amir

Tuesday, January 9
(continuing for three
more weeks)

7:30–9:00 PM

In-Person Only

\$36/members; \$50/nonmembers

Today’s Judaism is far from what we call Biblical Judaism or Temple Judaism and is really the product of the Bible as a basis and rabbinic layers on top of it. In this course we will cover the evolution of Judaism through the generations from Temple Judaism to early Rabbinic Judaism. Register at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/templetorabbinicjudaism.



Navigating Life’s Celebrations and Transitions While Grieving

with Melissa Sellevaag

Monday, February 12
6:30 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Workshop

In the immediate aftermath of the death of someone important it can feel like our world has come to a screeching halt. And yet, the world around us continues. As we learn to exist in this world without our loved one physically present, we are also faced with navigating significant life events without our person. In this workshop, we will learn how to navigate life’s joyful moments and significant life transitions while grieving. We will consider the use of compassion when considering if and how to incorporate our loved ones into these life markers and strategies to hold both the pain and the joy that often accompanies significant life events. Register at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/griefworkshopfebruary2024.



WENDT CENTER
FOR LOSS AND HEALING

This program is generously sponsored by the Dr. Wayne I. Bernstein Minyan and Healing Endowment.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/adulteducation

SARA & SAMUEL J. LESSANS ADULT LEARNING INSTITUTE

Tradition and Change: Conservative Judaism Then and Now

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



\$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.

Israel: Challenges and Breakthroughs The Ongoing Israel Crisis

with Uriel Lin,
Congregational *Shlichah*
Thursday, February 8
7:00 PM



We will discuss pressing issues and aspects of the ongoing war in Israel.



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

HAZAK

Displaced Acadian and West Indian Francophones and the Development of Early Maryland

with Gregory Wood
Thursday, January 11
12:00 PM BYO Dairy
Lunch

12:30-1:30 PM Program

Join us for a presentation on how two distinct groups from the Canadian Maritimes and the Caribbean came together as a result of tragic but different political circumstances to greatly challenge and energize our growing region. Register at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/hazakjanuary2024.



Israelis and the Jewish Community: From Divisiveness to Togetherness

with Adam Odesser
Thursday, February 8
12:00 PM BYO Dairy
Lunch

12:30-1:30 PM Program

Israelis and the Jewish community around the world are still recovering from the deadliest attack on Israelis and on Jews since the Holocaust. Adam Odesser, a native Israeli, will reflect on this moment and on the last year from a personal and a professional perspective, as Israelis and the Jewish community have moved from a fractured society to one that is united. Register at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/HazakFebruary2024.



L.I.F.E. LECTURE

A Footnote to History: German Jewish Fugitives in Canada

with Howard Issac
Sunday, January 21
7:30-9:00 PM



In mid-1940, as the Battle of France was ending and the Battle of Britain was beginning, five ships carrying German Jewish internees left Britain for Canada. These refugees from Nazism were held in prisoner of war camps in Canada for as long as two years. Eventually released into freedom, the former internees contributed to their new country in a variety of ways. Some became business leaders, professors, journalists and rabbis. Two would go on to win Nobel Prizes. This presentation will explore this little-known chapter in the Holocaust and what it was like for these refugees to be held behind barbed wire. Register at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/lifelecturejanuary2024.

For Members of All Ages

Havdalah Have-Deli

Saturday,
January 6
5:45 PM Tot's
Program
6:15 PM Dinner and
Program



Enjoy a delicious deli dinner as we gather together to say farewell to Shabbat and hello to the week ahead. This program is designed for the entire B'nai Israel community, with programs and activities for members of all ages.

Families with nursery school aged children will celebrate with a Pajama Havdalah, where children are invited to wear their pajamas, bring their favorite stuffed animals, and participate in a song-filled Havdalah service. We hope you will join us in saying goodbye to Shabbat and welcoming the new week. Register at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/havdalahanddeli2024.

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, January 19 and
February 16

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 (www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/singingcirclepotluckjanuary2024). Register here for February 16 (www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/singingcirclepotluckfebruary2024).



Conscious Connections Contemplative Shabbat

Saturdays, January 20
and February 17

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.



REFUGEE SHABBAT Refugee Resettlement: A Jewish Imperative with Kerry Brodie

Saturday, February 3

Join us for a conversation about the Jewish approach to "welcoming the stranger" from this week's *parsha*, to Emma Lazarus, to today's refugee crisis.



Kerry Brodie is the founder and executive director of Emma's Torch, a non-profit social enterprise based in New York City and Washington D.C. Their mission is to train refugees, asylees, and survivors of human trafficking in the culinary arts and to empower them to build meaningful careers. Kerry is a recipient of a Gaudium Award from the Breukelein Institute and was a 2020 JWI Woman to Watch. She holds a Master's from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor's from Princeton University. Kerry lives in Maryland with her husband and two children.

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:

JANUARY 27

Teen Shabbat & Social Action Shabbat (rescheduled from 1/13)

Join us as we honor our teens and celebrate the ways in which they contribute to the vitality of our congregation.

FEBRUARY 3

Men's Club Shabbat & Refugee Shabbat with Special Guest Speaker Kerry Brodie

Celebrate the Men's Club and their contributions to our community as they lead and participate in our Shabbat service.

FEBRUARY 10

Sisterhood Shabbat & Repro Shabbat

Celebrate Sisterhood and its contributions to B'nai Israel and the greater community. Sisterhood women will be honored during this service. Repro Shabbat is an annual Shabbat celebration that honors the Jewish value of reproductive freedom.

FEBRUARY 17

Inclusion Shabbat with Guest Speaker David Ervin, CEO of Makom

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

MARCH 2

Scholar-in-Residence with Jordan "Gorf" Gorfinkel & Volunteer Shabbat

Join us as we honor B'nai Israel's most committed volunteers.

INCLUSION SHABBAT with David Ervin

Saturday, February 17

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.



FEDERAL HOLIDAY Office Hours & Minyan

The B'nai Israel administrative offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, Monday, January 15, and Monday, February 19.

Minyan on these days will take place at 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

**Candlelighting times can be
found on page 14.**

PURIM PREPARATIONS

B'nai Israel Purim Spiel 2024

Register before January 7 to audition!



The B'nai Israel Purim Spiel will continue to be a unique and complete musical theater experience for B'nai Israel's youth, with participants having the opportunity to act, sing, dance, work as a team, and appreciate the Purim story in a new way. Participants develop close friendships and make positive life-long memories at the synagogue through theater. As always, the custom and original script with songs and scenes written and directed by Naomi Gerstenblith with Curtain Up Creative, LLC, will be a Purim joy.

The Spiel will be performed twice this year, in the evenings of Wednesday, March 20, and Thursday, March 21. The Purim Carnival and Youth Megillah Reading and Services will be held on Purim, March 24.

The Purim Spiel remains an annual highlight of our congregation, and it will continue to be a unique and complete musical theater experience for B'nai Israel's youth. Eligibility to participate in this year's Spiel is for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade. B'nai Israel membership or enrollment in our Lessans Talmud Torah is required to participate.

Auditions will be held the week of January 7. Spiel participants will learn acting, singing, dancing, teamwork and also appreciate the Purim story in a new way. They will develop close friendships and make positive life-long memories at the synagogue through theater.

Participation in the Purim Spiel will be \$50 per child.

To inquire about space availability in the Spiel and the rehearsal schedule, go to: www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purimspiel2024.

We cannot wait to share "The Little Mermaid of Shushan" with you in March!



Purchase Purim Greetings & Hamantaschen from Sisterhood

That's right! We are already planning for Purim and have our mind on hamantaschen. After last year's successful hamantaschen fundraiser for Sisterhood, we will be offering it again this year!

B'nai Israel Sisterhood is taking orders for their delicious *hamantaschen* for us all to enjoy! Purchase for yourself or share them with loved ones in your own *mishloach manot*. 100 percent of all the proceeds from *hamantaschen* sales goes directly to support Sisterhood and B'nai Israel.

Congregational Purim Greetings

Please help us wish our congregation a *hag Purim sameah*! Join us in sending a Purim Greeting to the congregation (each Purim Greeting includes a dozen *hamantaschen*!). All Purim Greetings will be published in the April issue of the *Scroll* and via email on Purim. You can purchase a Purim Greeting for \$50, which includes a dozen *hamantaschen*. Or simply purchase *hamantaschen* by the dozen!

Additional Details

- All *hamantaschen* are dairy and will be an assortment of chocolate and fruit flavors. They contain milk, eggs, wheat, and soy. They are produced in the B'nai Israel kitchen.
- **The order deadline for Purim Greetings and *hamantaschen* is Monday, January 29.**
- *Hamantaschen* pick-up will be at B'nai Israel, Tuesday–Friday, March 19–22. More details forthcoming as we approach Purim.

Purchase Now

- \$50 – Purim greeting to B'nai Israel Congregation (includes 1 dozen *hamantaschen* and Purim greeting printed in *Scroll* and email)
- \$18 – 1 dozen *hamantaschen* (assorted chocolate and fruit flavors)

If you wish to participate and are unable to place an order online, or have questions, please contact Lisa Isenberg (partyonus@gmail.com) for assistance.

**Ordering is now open at
www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purim.**



EARLY CHILDHOOD

by ELIZABETH CARPENTER
Nursery School Assistant
Director/Curriculum Specialist

“Make a bubble with your breath. Breathe in, and breathe out, rounding out your arms like this.”

And another yoga class at BISNS begins. Lilach Cohen-Holden, owner of “ShalOMaste,” is our nursery school’s yoga teacher. Lilach is originally from Israel and moved to Maryland in 2011 with her family.



Lilach infuses Jewish values into each of her sessions. “I invite the children to use their imagination to tell a story with their body and expand their Hebrew vocabulary and learn universal values such as friendship, listening, respect, kindness. By practicing yoga, children improve their social-emotional development, flexibility, strength, coordination, balance, self-esteem, concentration, release tension, learn to follow directions and collaborate while using their imagination. Yoga storytelling also strengthens preliteracy skills.”

Lilach focuses on a different intention each week. Recently, the focus was on what it means to be brave. She read the book, “The Lion in Me,” which was a story about a mouse who discovers that even the smallest creatures can have the heart of a lion.

Lilach’s yoga sessions are differentiated by age level, with the two’s exploring sounds and practicing yoga poses that make us feel strong and brave, such as Warrior, Tree,

and Airplane, while adding breath to our movement.



The three’s and four’s classes shared what we do when we feel scared and what we do to calm down, such as taking deep breaths, counting to five, giving ourselves space from others, and getting a grownup to help. We also practiced yoga poses that made us feel brave and played a yoga game with movement and songs. All the sessions end with Savasana and sharing the message, “Peace begins with me.”



These past two weeks, Lilach has been teaching the children about Hanukkah in a creative and engaging way, and about the value of courage and being thoughtful to others. She began the lesson by ringing a chime and passing around a “breathing ball,” then practiced “latke breath.” She asked the children, “What do you know about Hanukkah?” The children shared what they love most about Hanukkah, then practiced Hanukkah poses of *Sufganiot* (jelly donuts), *Levivot* (latkes), Candles and Dreidels. They read, “Simon and the Bear,” acting out scenes with yoga poses and discussing ways we can be brave and thoughtful of others. They learned to dance to Hanukkah songs with scarves.

Our yoga program enriches our children’s curriculum experience here at BISNS, and Lilach has deepened the practice through her knowledge of Judaism and Hebrew. We

look forward to the meaningful lessons that Lilach has planned for us in the weeks and months ahead.





YOUTH & EDUCATION

by DAFNA SPEAR
Lessans Talmud Torah Principal

As our days grew shorter and winter set in, the importance and symbolism of light during a time of increased darkness became evident. In December, the tiny lights on our Hanukkah menorahs took on a profound significance, and its impact felt outsized this year. Our journey through these past few months was marked by the exceptional ability of our Talmud Torah teachers, students, staff, and parents to be beacons of light for our school community and beyond. Students of all ages proved their power to bring sparks of joy, learning, and caring to others.

Joy permeated our classrooms as students participated in learning activities and games. Laughter rang out in classrooms as the students jumped into activities and showcased their knowledge of Hebrew language, Judaic studies, and Israel. Students grappled with increasingly complex texts and concepts, and they shared their ideas in lively discussions with their classmates.

Our community grew closer over the past few months as we fostered connections within our school and with others here and in Israel. Talmud Torah students learned with Uriel Lin, our *shlich*a (emissary) from Israel, exploring different facets of Israel's geography, people, art, and pop culture. With guidance from their teachers, Uriel, and our art specialist, Nechama Fellner, students demonstrated their commitment to supporting Israel through age-appropriate activities, discussions, and collaborative projects.

As an integral part of our *Mitzvot & Values* curriculum, students focused on *mitzvot* (good deeds) and shared values. Beginning in kindergarten, students learned to be a *mensh* (good person) and care for those closest to them. As the grades progressed, their focus expanded to helping others in our community and beyond.

On Mitzvah Day, students participated in projects that demonstrated care for others. From creating snack bags for immigrant children to crafting "no-sew" blankets for medical centers and Healing Arts Kits for Israeli trauma survivors, our students embodied the spirit of caring. A special thank you goes out to the Talmud Torah Education Committee, Diana Mayer, Lexi Robbins, and Morgan Muchnick for their guidance and assistance.

Talmud Torah has been illuminated by the collective efforts of our community to be sources of joy, learning, and caring. As we navigate our way through darkness, the light we've kindled within our hearts and shared with others serves as a beacon of hope and compassion that reflects the true essence of Lessans Talmud Torah and B'nai Israel Congregation. In these winter months, our community shines brightly, dispelling the darkness and embodying timeless values.



GOLD KIPPAH HONOR SOCIETY

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

Blue
SAGE OSSMAN

Bronze
NAVEH COHN
SAGE OSSMAN

Silver
SAGE OSSMAN
LIOR SCHMELZER

Gold
ZACHARY BUSHMAN

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/talmudtorah



YOUTH EXPERIENCES

by LILY POLLACK
Youth Coordinator

As we come to the end of the 2023, I can't help but think back on the rollercoaster ride it has been for me.

I started 2023 coming to B'nai Israel seven days a week: teaching daily in our B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School, teaching on Sundays and Tuesdays in the Lessans Talmud Torah, and leading Tot Shabbat with Morah Juliann. A few months later, just as I was preparing for another amazing summer at Camp Ramah DC, I was offered an incredible opportunity for a new role at B'nai Israel—Youth Coordinator! In this capacity, I still help out in the Schilit Nursery School, you can still find me teaching Talmud Torah on Sunday mornings, and I still occasionally lead Tot Shabbat when I am not coordinating Teen Minyan.

I am so incredibly grateful to everyone for all the support and wisdom that has been passed to me these first few months. It has been a pleasure to work with our youth advisors and partner with the many parent volunteers. We are off to a great start in the Youth Department this fall, with exciting monthly events for B'nai Israel youth of all ages. We are also actively working to award more than 25 scholarships to campers who have chosen to attend Camp Ramah, and we are now actively accepting scholarship applications for students who intend to study and volunteer in Israel. We also award scholarships for Jewish teen leadership initiatives, so please be in touch if you have

any questions. I would love to help connect with you the right experience for you.

I look forward to bringing all kinds of engagement and fun to our amazing community in the year ahead!

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



Camp Ramah Scholarships

With thanks to many generous supporters, significant funds are available for B'nai Israel families to send their children to Camp Ramah, the official camping arm of the Conservative movement. Camp Ramah offers a local day camp, a sleep-away experience at Camp Ramah New England, and an Israel Seminar for high schoolers.

Scholarships are available for 25 percent off first-time day camp tuition and 50 percent off first-time sleepaway tuition. B'nai Israel families have received an application link via email so please be sure to learn more about these wonderful opportunities. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lily Pollack, Youth Coordinator, at lilyp@bnaiisraelcong.org.

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.

NEW
Time

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 Mitchell Berkowitz and Rabbi Cheryl 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.

NEW
Time

Teen Minyan

January 6, 20 and February 10
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

January 6, February 3

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

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/youthprograms



ISRAEL CORNER

by Uriel Lin
Congregational *Shlichah*

In the wake of recent events, our community stands at the crossroads of challenge and hope, grappling with the aftermath of a war that erupted on October 7th between Israel and Hamas. This conflict was spurred by the brutal acts of violence committed by the terror organization, including the heart-wrenching massacre and kidnapping of innocent civilians.

Navigating through the fog of fake news and encountering disputed global support, Israel exemplifies bravery in the face of adversity, determined to defy the tactics of Hamas and pursue a path of resilience. Amidst this global backdrop, a personal story has unfolded, revealing the profound strength inherent in the embrace of hope.

My former high school director, Gili, faced an unthinkable trial when his little sister was kidnapped and taken to Gaza. For 53 agonizing days, he refused to succumb to despair. Gili embarked on a courageous global journey, advocating for his sister's safe return while living with the uncertainty of her well-being. Gili's unwavering tenacity in the pursuit of hope became a powerful inspiration that transcended borders and touched me personally.

Gili's story is a testament to the transformative power of hope. Across continents, he tirelessly spread awareness, turning hope into a force that defies boundaries. After 53 days in captivity, Gili's sister was released, and the moment

the news broke, tears of relief and joy streamed down my cheeks—a testament to the profound impact hope can have in the darkest of times.



As a community, let us draw strength from Gili's journey and the stories of resilience echoing globally. In our shared pursuit of hope, we find the collective power to overcome adversity, bridge divides, and build a world where compassion, understanding, and unity prevail.



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

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL SHLICHAH, URIEL LIN

Uriel is sharing her thoughts and feelings with the congregation weekly. Please go to www.bnaiisraelcong.org/urielupdates to view her messages.

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



Israel Challenges and Breakthroughs

Participants will go on a journey covering modern day challenges faced by the State of Israel.

The Ongoing Israel Crisis

Thursday, February 8
7:00 PM

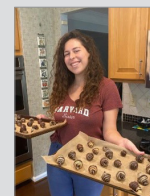
We will discuss pressing issues and aspects of the ongoing war in Israel.

Coffee with Uri

Let's grab a coffee and get to know each other! Whether you want to talk about Israel, baking and hiking, or are simply eager to connect, I would love to meet you!

Cooking or Baking with Uri

Want to throw a special event with your friends? Have a special meal with your family? Or always dreamt of the perfect *shakshuka*? Schedule a cooking or baking workshop with me and we will make your dreams come true! In the comfort of your kitchen, we will learn something new about Israeli cuisine. Looking forward to meeting you!



To schedule a coffee meeting or a cooking session, please visit <https://calendly.com/urielshlichah/45min> or email me (uriel@bnaiisraelcong.org).

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/israelaffairs



BLUMBERG-ZALIS FAMILY LIBRARY

by JILL GENDELMAN
Librarian

January celebrates Martin Luther King day (15th) and National Pie Lovers' Day (23rd), and February celebrates Library Lovers Month. Your B'nai Library has over 13,000 items to choose from, so come on in or use the on-line catalog: <https://bnaiisrael.library.site/> to search for materials that interest you. I suggest using the ALL search. You must spell correctly, or the search engine will not find anything. Need help, email me at bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org. Join us for some wonderful programs, all free and everyone is welcome.

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Jews and Blacks: A Dialogue on Race, Religion, and Culture in America by Michael Lerner

Blacks and Jews: Alliances and Arguments edited by Paul Berman

The Quiet Voices: Southern Rabbis and Black Civil Rights, 1880s to 1990s edited by Mark K. Bauman

Julius Rosenwald: the Man who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South by Peter M. Ascoli.

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport (teens)

Across the Alley by Richard Michelson (children)

Interesting Article:

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-10-24/ty-article/.premium/dear-blm-activists-we-israelis-also-cant-breathe/0000018b-5d91-d8e2-a1eb-f97f7c00000>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Monday Night at the Movies

Monday, January 8
7:00-9:00 PM

To Life: How Israeli Volunteers are Changing the World (1hr., 29 min.; English)

Features five Israeli organizations dedicated to helping people across the globe. In keeping with the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam ("repairing the world"), Israel has been at the forefront of humanitarian and disaster relief work since the 1950s, less than a decade after becoming a nation.

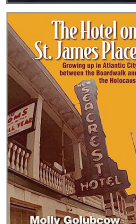


Bagels & Books

Sunday January 21
10:30 AM Bagels, coffee and pastries

11:00 AM Book talk & signing

Join visiting author, Molly Golubcow (who grew up at B'nai Israel), as she presents about her book: *The Hotel on St. James Place: Growing up in Atlantic City Between the Boardwalk and the Holocaust*. In its heyday, Atlantic City was a destination for bargain vacationers. It was vastly different than the shtetl where Harry and Sonia Golubcow once lived. As the proprietors of the Seacrest Hotel they became friends, substitute parents, teachers, and in some cases, saviors to their quirky guests. Observing all of this was their teenage daughter, Molly, who saw the comings and goings of these unforgettable characters unfold before her like a bizarre soap opera. Books are available to pre-purchase before the event and the day of the event. *Cosponsored by the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library and Sisterhood.*



Book Discussion

Tuesday, February 6
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Concealed by Esther Amini
A heart-wrenching...memoir, Esther Amini grew up in Queens, New York, during the freewheeling 1960s. She also grew up in a Persian-Jewish household, caught between these two worlds: the dutiful daughter of tradition-bound parents' house where books and education are for boys and prearranged marriage is supposed to be her destiny, she who hungers for more self-determination than tradition allows.



Monday Night at the Movies

February 13
7:00-8:45 PM
Breaking Bread (1 hr., 29 Min.)

Breaking bread follows Arab and Jewish chefs in Haifa, Israel as they collaborate in the kitchen. Connected through a shared love of food, the chefs unite to celebrate their cultures and the food of their region free from political and religious boundaries.



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

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.*



Candlelighting & Havdalah

January

5/6	4:43 PM/5:22 PM
12/13	4:50 PM/5:29 PM
19/20	4:57 PM/5:37 PM
26/27	5:05 PM/5:45 PM

February

2/3	5:13 PM/5:54 PM
9/10	5:21 PM/6:02 PM
16/17	5:29 PM/6:11 PM

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/library

SOCIAL ACTION

Meals for Interfaith Works Women's Shelters

Thank you to all who have contributed to our monthly meal deliveries to the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter throughout 2023. We plan to continue our monthly deliveries throughout 2024. Our January delivery will be lunch for the Crabbs Branch Women's Shelter on Sunday, January 14. Contact Signe Wetrogan (signe0420@verizon.net) or Randi Poli (randipoli@gmail.com) for more information.



Thank you to everyone who helped complete our Thanksgiving meal delivery to the Taft Court Women's Shelter. A special thank you to Wayne and Denise Berman and Aylin and Eytan Edelman who helped serve the Thanksgiving meal at the Shelter.

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.

RightHear

B'nai Israel is RightHear!

To increase the accessibility of our building, we invite individuals who are visually impaired to download the RightHear App on their smartphone to utilize audio descriptions that will assist in exploring, navigating, experiencing our building safely and independently.

B'nai Israel is proud to be the first synagogue in North America to provide this technology, which was developed in Israel.



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 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



2024 Mah Jongg Cards

Once again, Sisterhood will order the new Mah Jongg cards from the National Mah Jongg League. This is a huge Sisterhood fundraiser! The standard card is \$14, and the large card is \$15. We will take orders until Wednesday, January 31. The cards will be mailed from the National Mah Jongg League directly to you late March/early April. Download an order form at bnaiisraelcong.org/sisterhood. Questions? Harriet Levi (301-598-3957).

Sisterhood Centennial Town Hall Conversation

Wednesday, January 10
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

As B'nai Israel approaches our Centennial Celebration in 2025, what has our synagogue meant to you and what do you think our next century should look like? B'nai Israel is offering Town Hall conversations to congregational members—this opportunity is for Sisterhood. We hope you will join us for this engaging discussion—we look forward to hearing from you.

Bagels & Books

Sunday, January 21
10:30 AM Bagels, Coffee, and Pastries
11:00 AM Book Talk and Signing

Molly Golubcow presents her book, *The Hotel on St. James Place: Growing up in Atlantic City Between the Boardwalk and the Holocaust*. In its heyday, Atlantic City was a destination for bargain vacationers. It was vastly different than the shtetl where Harry and Sonia Golubcow once lived. As the proprietors of the Seacrest Hotel, they became friends, substitute parents, teachers, and in some cases, saviors to their quirky guests. Observing all of this was their teenage daughter, Molly, who saw the comings and goings of these unforgettable characters unfold before her like a bizarre soap opera. Cosponsored by the Blumberg-Zalis Family Library and Sisterhood.



Saturday, February 10

Celebrating Sisterhood! To participate in the service or help plan, contact Anne Jarrett (annejarrett.828@gmail.com).

Sisterhood Has Heart!

Wednesday, February 14
10:30 AM

Jacqueline R. Shapo, Ph.D., synagogue and Sisterhood member, gives us light-hearted advice about connecting to the joy and growth in marriage. RSVP to juliann.goldman@yahoo.com.

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. (Those learning Mah Jongg will need to purchase a 2024 card.) If interested, contact Sue Edwards (suzied25@gmail.com) or Beverly Markowitz (beverly.markowitz@yahoo.com).

Drop-in Mah Jongg

Mondays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(when the building is open)

Questions? Sue Edwards (suzied25@gmail.com) or Beverly Markowitz (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).

Meals on Wheels

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

TORAH FUND
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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" or send a check made out to "Torah Fund" to Sue Taffet, 14402 Nadine Drive, Rockville MD 20853.



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

THANK YOU for your continued support!

Sisterhood Shabbat

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/sisterhood

MEN'S CLUB

Service to B'nai Israel & Community Strengthening Jewish Values

With incidents of antisemitism rising since the Hamas attack against Israel, we are very pleased to present a special program with Alan Ronkin, regional director of the American Jewish Committee, on Sunday, January 28. The program begins at 7:30 PM, and dessert will be served. His topic will be Antisemitism in All of Its Manifestations.

Ronkin last spoke at B'nai Israel in November 2022 on the state of antisemitism in America, and the problem has gotten worse since then.

From October 7 to November 7, the first month after Hamas' attack on Israel, antisemitic incidents in the U.S. rose by 316%, from 200 in during the same period in 2022 to 832 this year, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Earlier in January, Jay Silberg, a lawyer and expert in the nuclear industry field will appear at a breakfast event beginning after minyan at 10:00 AM Sunday, January 7. Silberg will discuss the prospects of a deal between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia that will give the kingdom access to nuclear power while putting an end to hostilities with Israel. Some experts say the reason Hamas attacked Israel at this time was to try to kill the prospect of such an agreement.

Rabbi Mitch Berkowitz will lead our next Jews and Brews, scheduled for 7:30 PM Thursday, January 18, at the Lakewood Country Club. He can expect some questions about Israel, just as Rabbi Safra did when he spoke at the last Jews and Brews in November. Unlike most of our programs, Jews and Brews are reserved for men only.

On Saturday, February 3, we will mark Men's Club Shabbat. Members of the club will help lead services. We'll also hand out our third annual Shamash Award, given to the congregant or congregants who go beyond the call of duty to help the synagogue or community.



Jonathan Salant & Alan Isenberg
Men's Club Co-Presidents

Then on Sunday, February 11, the national secular holiday known as Super Bowl Sunday, we'll join Men's Clubs across the country for the annual World Wide Wrap, emphasizing the *mitzvah* of putting on *tefillin*. Sunday services begin at 9:00 AM.

We finished 2023 with our annual Hanukkah Chinese dinner, co-sponsored by the Sisterhood. It followed an "It's Academic"-style competition featuring teams from the Men's Club, Sisterhood and a group of young adults from the synagogue. The Sisterhood won with 450 points to 300 for the Men's Club and 210 for the Young B'nai team.

Thanks to Men's Club member Mark Berlin, who put together the event and served as moderator. Representing the Men's Club were Burman Berger, Lew Gertz, Benson Goldstein and Ken Winer. Sisterhood's team included Juliann Goldman, Erin Goldstein, Stacy Immerman, Natalie Shelton and Susan Weinmann. The Young B'nai team was comprised of Judah Fredman, Gerry Gruber, Ben Goldweber and Caleb Hart.

We also heard from Steve Cohen, a B'nai member and former gabbai, who talked about his memoir, *I'm Too Dumb to Be Friends With*.

Since the *Scroll* will reach your homes after January 1, a hope that 2024 turns out to be a great year for all of you.

WORLD WIDE WRAP



Sunday, February 11
9:00 AM

Learn how to wrap tefillin as part of this special morning minyan, followed by a learning session about *tefillin*, led by Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz, "When We Wear Them, When We Don't," exploring the parallels between *tefillin*, Shabbat, and *Yom Tov*.

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@bnaiisraelcong.org).

IN SYMPATHY

זכרונם לברכה

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

NEAL CHAIKIN
LEWIS "BUZZY" COHN
MARVIN KAY
IRA PLATT
PHILLIP RATNER
MORDECHAI YADIN

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

Ilene Lish on the loss of her mother, **Harriet Belkin**.

Cheri Holmes and Todd Chaikin on the loss of their father, **Neal Chaikin**.

Debbie Cohn on the loss of her husband, **Lewis "Buzzy" Cohn**.

Dr. Hannah Levy on the loss of her mother, **Ruth Eltinge**.

Rand Fishbein on the loss of his mother, **Estelle Ackerman Fishbein**.

Suzanne Schonfeld and Andrea "Obbie" Kay on the loss of their father, **Marvin Kay**.

Harold and Joan Krauthamer, Steven Krauthamer, and Michael Krauthamer on the loss of their son and brother, **Jeffrey Krauthamer**.

Sheila Footer on the loss of her son, **Stuart Meyers**.

Harriet Platt on the loss of her husband, **Ira Platt**.

Charles Postal on the loss of his brother, **Arthur David Postal**.

Ellen Ratner on the loss of her husband, **Phillip Ratner**.

Uriel Lin on the loss of her grandfather, **Yaakov "Mote" Resnitzky**.

Benjamin Shapo on the loss of his father, **Marshall Shapo**.

Naomi Gerstenblith on the loss of her grandmother, **Evelyn Silberg**.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose..."

...a time to be born, and a time to die..."

B'NAI ISRAEL CEMETERIES

B'nai Israel Congregation maintains three attractive cemetery locations.

B'nai Israel Historic Cemetery
Oxon Hill, Maryland

Judean Memorial Gardens
Olney, Maryland

Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park
Clarksburg, Maryland

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



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).

SUNDAY OPEN HOURS B'NAI ISRAEL CEMETERY AT OXON HILL

January 7 | February 4 | 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@bnaiisraelcong.org).

January Anniversaries

Eddie and Janet Aaronson – 1
 Albert and Sharlene Klotz – 1
 Howard and Diane Schilit – 1
 Mark and Amanda Goldstein – 4
 Robert and Karen Keats – 4
 Paul and Gail Chod – 6
 Barrett and Fran Penan – 6
 Forrest and Judith Tucker – 7
 Scott and Debbi Mayster – 9
 Paul Berger and Stephanie Mensh – 10
 James and Anne Ackerman – 11
 Justin and Tamar Epner – 15
 Robert and Jaye Greenfest – 15
 Cantor Josh Perlman and
 Sherri Gollins – 15
 Jonathan Salant and Bonnie Cole – 15
 Benjamin and Melissa Green – 16
 Charles and Linda Heller – 18
 Jonathan Spector and Julie Friedman – 20
 Arthur and Sharyn Fuchs – 22
 Allan and Barbara Hurwitz – 23
 Mike Wilcove and Susan Weinmann – 23
 Jeffrey and Phyllis Brenner – 26
 Josh and Adi Kaner – 26
 Fred and Stephanie Goodman – 27
 Louis and Mindy Berger – 30
 Richard and Lorraine Rose – 31

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

and Mazal Tov to...

Dr. Tania Condarco and Elliot Stern on the birth of their daughter, Ariella Ruth Stern.

Brittany and Seth Shapiro, Lisa and Larry Cines, and Mim and Sheldon Tommer on the birth of their son, grandson, and great grandson, Jack Louis Shapiro.

Cindy and Glenn Easton on the birth of their granddaughter, Jaycee Harper. And *mazal tov* to the proud parents, Lisa Easton and Kenny Davis.

Amanda and Charles Lehman on the birth of their son, Jacob Winfield Lehman.

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).

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.



We are all touched by
B'nai Israel.

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

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

–Talmud Ta'anit 23a

CREATE YOUR JEWISH
LEGACY

www.jewishlegacygw.org

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

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

Avery Sudow
 Development Director
 301-816-5569
avery@bnaiisraelcong.org

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 October 7–November 14 | DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT bnaaisraelcong.org/donate

Endowments

Abrutyn Family Leadership Training Endowment

In Memory Of:

My beloved mother, Vivian Scolnick by Vickie Abrutyn

My beloved mother-in-law Eva Abrutyn by Vickie Abrutyn

Nathan Schechter, father of Andy Schechter by Vickie Abrutyn

Dana Lessans by Vickie Abrutyn

Barbara and Allan Hurwitz Sustaining Endowment

A Donation Was Made By:

Allan and Barbara Hurwitz

Benjamin Saks Judaica Art Endowment Fund

In Appreciation Of:

Judy Saks by Carren Oler

In Memory Of:

Phillip Ratner by Beverly and Norman Polmar

The following have made donations in memory of Alfred "Al" Brody, beloved brother of Judy Saks:

Anne and Jeffrey Abend

Ellen Morgenstern

Harvey and Harriet Stein

Linda and Jeffrey Reisner

Marsha and Rob Epstein

Rita and Chet Stein

Suzy and Sol Levy

Don and Carol Vogel

Beverly G. Schnitzer Tikun Olam Endowment

In Appreciation Of:

Rabbi Schnitzer and Beverly's continued support and friendship by Shelly Finkel

In Celebration Of:

Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer's continued good health and recovery by Amy Gudelsky

In Honor Of:

Suzy and Sol Levy's 50th wedding anniversary by Abby and Phil Rogers

Madeline Pellish's birthday by Shelly Finkel

Beverly Schnitzer's birthday by Suzy and Sol Levy

In Memory Of:

Larry Shulman's brother, Neil by Barry and Audrey Suskind

Diane Lipson Schilit Youth Endowment

In Memory Of:

Dr. Neil Shulman by Cindy and Glenn Easton

Dr. Mitchell and Thelma Goldfarb Rubinow Endowment for Special Needs

In Honor Of:

Hazzan Josh Perlman for his meaningful participation in the gravesite service in New York of our beloved husband and father, Rabbi Matthew Simon, by Sara, Ethan and Betsy

In Memory Of:

Jeffrey Krauthamer by Ellen and Lee Burstyn
Thelma Goldfarb Rubinow by Sara Rubinow Simon

Dr. Wayne I. Bernstein Minyan and Healing Endowment

A Donation Was Made By:

Stacy Immerman

Ethan Ross Alperstein Sanctuary Garden Endowment Fund

In Memory Of:

Phillip Ratner by Arthur and Sharyn Fuchs

Al Brody, beloved brother of Judy Saks by Lois Alperstein

Nathan Schechter, beloved father of Andrew and grandfather by Lois Alperstein

Ethan Alperstein, beloved son and brother by Lois Alperstein

Dr. Neil Shulman by Morton Faller

Goldie And Henry Stein Endowment for Special Education

In Honor Of:

Suzy and Sol Levy's 50th Wedding Anniversary by Rita and Chet Stein

In Memory Of:

Diane Dweck by Rita and Chet Stein

Wladi Pienek by Rita and Chet Stein

Goldie and Isaac Gendelman Memorial Fund for Holiday Enhancement

A Donation Has Been Made By:

Bernard and Cheryl Rod

Hazzan Deborah Togut Memorial Endowment Fund

In Memory Of:

Hazzan Deborah Togut by Jay and Nanci Wechsler

Hazzan Robert Kieval Music Library Fund

In Appreciation Of:

Cantor Josh Perlman by Emily Holczer

In Honor Of:

Cantor Josh Perlman by Alan Pivot

Cantor Josh and his April performance by Sandra and Lewis Schneider

Jonathan A. Schnitzer Rabbinic Chair Endowment

In Appreciation Of:

Jonathan and Beverly Schnitzer for your leadership and friendship over these many years by Ken and Mona Levine

Jonathan, Suzanne and Amy Schilit Nursery School Endowment

In Memory Of:

Nancy Buckles, sister of Carol Tender by Rina and Sylvan Mintz

Lilyan and Bernard Margolius Educational Endowment

In Celebration Of:

The 25th anniversary of our daughter Dana Kathrins Goldberg's bat mitzvah by Bess and Richard Kathrins

Mandel and Stein Prayer Book Fund

In Memory Of:

Dana Lessans by Rita and Chet Stein

Celia Spilka by Rita, Chet, Jonathan, Amanda, Emma Goldie, and Benjamin Sidney Stein

Mary and Israel Shulman Student Community Service Endowment Fund

In Memory Of:

Dr. Neil Shulman by Allan and Leah Zendel

Neil Shulman by Rita and Chet Stein

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

In Memory Of:

Alice Harris's sister-in-law by Don and Carol Vogel
Stuart Lessons' sister by Don and Carol Vogel

Marilyn Chaikin by Carol Vogel

Rabbi Jeshia and Hilde M. Schnitzer Israel and Camp Ramah Scholarship Endowment Fund

In Memory Of:

Charlotte Mirman, Debbie Stillman's mother by Suzy and Sol Levy

Rabbi Joshua Rubinow Simon Memorial Endowment for Camp Ramah Tikvah Program

In Honor Of:

Aliyah for Stan and Marcia Selenger by Norma Krupenie

In Memory Of:

Rabbi Matthew Simon by Rabbi Jonathan and Beverly Schnitzer

**Rabbi Matthew and Dr. Sara Rubinow Simon
Legacy Endowment for Jewish Engagement**

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

Candace Sawyer
Debbie and Jeff Moss
Harriet and Morris Altschuler
Joel Meisel
Linda and Jeffrey Reisner
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zitelman
Rina and Sylvan Mintz
Robin, Craig, Noah, Ethan and Claire Lenkin
Robyn and Steve Lustig
Sandra Miller
Shelly Finkel

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

In Memory Of:
Rabbi Matthew Simon by Amy Gudelsky

**Rabbi Michael Safra Adult Programming
Endowment**

A Donation Was Made By:
Alan Privot
Marcia Kerchner
In Appreciation Of:
Rabbi Avi Strausberg by Marcia and Jules Levine
In Memory Of:
Al Brody, brother of Judy Saks by Deedee and Jeremy Jacobsohn
Alfred Brody, Judy Saks' brother by Diane Boehr
Rabbi Matthew Simon by Gilbert and Bernice August

**Rose and Frank David Epstein Educational
Endowment**

In Memory Of:
Nathan Schechter by Barbara and Richard Daumit
Dr. Neil Shulman by Barbara and Richard Daumit

**Sara & Samuel J. Lessans Adult Education
Institute Endowment**

In Memory Of:
Dana Lessans, sister of Stu Lessans by Deedee and
Jeremy Jacobsohn

Sarah Levy Diener Memorial Endowment

In Memory Of:
Charles Fink by Marilyn Levin

Sustaining Endowment

In Memory Of:
Dana Lessans by Jeff and Debra Fredman
Charlotte Mirman by Michael Wolly

**Taffet Family Endowment for Refugee and
Immigrant Aid**

In Celebration Of:
Richie Taffet's Birthday by Sue, Rebecca, Naomi and
Evan
In Honor Of:
Suzy and Sol Levy's 50th wedding anniversary by
Richard and Sue Taffet
In Memory Of:
Ira Sigel, brother of Sue Taffet by Marcia and Robert
Kerchner
Wladi Pieniek by the Taffet Family

**Wilma and Ron Lenkin Holocaust Education
Endowment**

In Appreciation Of:
Barbara and Richard Daumit, and Gail Daumit and
Ron Minsk for their generosity and friendship during
the High Holidays by Michael Reichbach

Funds

Adult Education Fund

In Honor Of:
Rabbi Jim Michaels by Joey Franco

Aliyot and Honors Fund

A Donation Was Made By:
Brian and Rachel Singer
In Honor Of:
Our High Holiday aliyot by Bonnie and Craig
Dickman
High Holiday honor by Gerald and Leslie Solomon
Our Yom Kippur aliyah by Morton and Cynthia Zetlin

Early Childhood Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of:
Rebecca Ravski for her kindness, compassion and
leadership by Glenda Kobay

Edith and Charles Pascal Library Book Fund

In Appreciation Of:
The book talks by Rabbi Matthew Simon, z"l, by
Gilbert and Bernice August
In Memory Of:
Al Brody by Allan and Leah Zendel

General Fund

A Donation Has Been Made By:
James and Karen Michaels
Pamela R. Oginsz
Paul and Leslie Gnat
A Speedy Recovery For:
My cousin Gana who has been diagnosed with cancer
by Boris Kofman
Myra Cohen by Linda and Jeffrey Reisner
In Honor Of:
Ted Fredman's second bar mitzvah by Alan and Dina
Lipschultz
Deedee Jacobsohn's honor of Kallah Breishit by
Carol and Don Vogel
Rabbi Berkowitz for the way he uplifts and supports
the community by Glenda Kobay
Jay leading Shacharit on Yom Kippur by Jay and
Nanci Wechsler
Jay chanting Haftarah on the first day of Rosh
Hashanah by Jay and Nanci Wechsler
Rachel Fredman and Evan Eisenberg's marriage by
Linda and Jeffrey Reisner
The special birthday of Dr. Gary London by Thelma
Fisher
In Memory Of:
Stuart Meyers by Allan and Leah Zendel
Nathan Schechter, father of Andy Schechter father by
Linda and Larry Trope
Charlotte Mirman by Joel Michaels and Jennifer
Russel
Cheri Holmes' mother by Linda Solomon
Jill Soes' brother by Linda Solomon
Diane Dweck by Mike and Debbi Herbst
Nathan Schechter, father of Andrew by Robert E.
Kaplan
Ellie Kahan by Robert and Lesley Gasperow
Isaac Hantman by Roberta Hantman
Wladi Pieniek by Victor Schneider and Wilma Braun
Stuart Meyers by Michael Chernikoff
The following have made donations in memory of
Alfred "Al" Brody, beloved brother of Judy Saks:
Aviva Rosen
David and Alberta Fisher
Evelyn Morton
Mark and Amy Scher
Marla Schwartz
Susan and Al Belsky

Greatest Need

In Memory Of:
Jeffrey Krauthamer by the Himelfarb Family
Freda Zelt by Natalie Cantor
Alfred Brody, sister of Judy Saks by Rina Mintz

HAZAK

In Celebration Of:
Ted Fredman on his birthday and Haftarah reading by
Linda and Jeffrey Reisner
Suzy and Sol Levy's anniversary by Harriet and Ted
Fredman
In Honor Of:
Charles Heller on his birthday and the 70th
anniversary of his bar mitzvah, by Harriet and Ted
Fredman
Rachel Fredman and Evan Eisenberg's marriage by
Linda and Jeffrey Reisner
In Memory Of:
Al Brody, brother of Judy Saks by Abby and Phil
Rogers
Rabbi Simon by Gilbert and Bernice August
Al Brody by Harriet and Ted Fredman
Alfred Brody, brother of Judy Saks by Marcia Levine
Dana Lessans, sister of Dr. Stewart Lessans by Marcia
Levine

Hineini Campaign 2023-2024

A Donation Has Been Made By:
Adrienne Rulnick
Andra and Steve Metz
Andrew and Ruth Ritwo
Ann Jacobs
Bonnie Glick and Paul Foldi
Bruce and Marcia Kay
Clara, Avi, Yoav, Zev, Ariel, and Tsvi Margolis
Craig and Bonnie Dickman
David and Catherine Axel
Debbie Band
Deborah Wolfman
Deborah and Nicholas Rodin
Elizabeth and Philip Weintraub
Herschel Cutler
Jason and Jessica Neuringer
Jeffrey Pollak and Karen Foxman
Jeffrey and Bluma Sussman
Jeremy and Alexis Robbins
Joel Schwarz
Mike Wilcove and Susan Weinmann
Morey Rosner
Nicholas and Jo-Anne Fleischer
Richard and Lisa Shofnos
Russell Rothenberg
Sharon Glickman
Sharon and Rabbi Michael Safra
A Speedy Recovery For:
Lev Tokar by Rina and Joseph Gelman
In Appreciation Of:
The clergy for wonderful high holiday services and
the staff for the livestream by Shelly Finkel
In Celebration Of:
Our 7th wedding anniversary by Gary and Liz Stein
In Memory Of:
Dana Lessans, sister of Stuart Lessans by Carol and
Gary Berman
Rabbi Matthew Simon by Mincy Neil
Nancy Buckles by Neil Tender
Harry and Shirley and Sheldon Goldberg by Joel and
Audrey Goldberg
Those who were killed and kidnapped in Israel by
Sarit Scott and Russell Scott Jr.
Lila and Joseph Mensh by Stephanie Mensh and Paul
Berger

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

Karen Gerton Nursery School Enhancement Endowment Fund

In Memory Of:

Elliot Palay by Evan and Lisa Jacobson

Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of:

Our 50th wedding anniversary by Suzy and Sol Levy

In Memory Of:

Nathan S. Franco by Joey Franco

L.I.F.E. Lecture Fund

In Honor Of:

Charles Heller's second bar mitzvah by Linda Heller

Sol Levy by Lewis Gertz

The following have made donations in honor of Suzy

and Sol Levy's 50th wedding anniversary:

Joanne and Steven Zuckerman

Lawrence H. Trope

Lynn and Lewis Gertz

Elizabeth and Phil Weintraub

Linda and Barry Rosenberg

Linda and Steven Siegel

Linda and Charles Heller

Morning Minyan Fund

In Celebration Of:

Irwin Rosenthal's 90th birthday by Jim and Beth Resnick and Family

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Mitch Berkowitz's birthday by Irwin and Sylvia Rosenthal

Morning Minyan and everyone who attends to make it possible by Joey Franco

Morning Minyan by Benson Goldstein

Joel Shankman by Susan Brinn Siegel and David Siegel

Irwin's 90th birthday by Sylvia and Irwin Rosenthal

Morning Minyan by Benson and Erin Goldstein

In Memory Of:

Gertrude Mandel by Chester and Rita Stein

Claire Rosoff, Shirley Samet and Ronald Raffel by Janice Raffel

Phyllis Goldberg, sister by Joel Shankman

Rubin Gertz by Lewis and Lynn Gertz

Rabbi Matthew Simon by Sara Rubinow Simon

Charles Oshinsky, my father by William and Ruth Oshinsky

Rabbi Isadore Breslau Israel Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of:

Ibolya Lakszner, beloved grandmother by Nicholas Fleischer

Rabbi Safra Fund for Programming and Service Leadership Training

In Appreciation Of:

Rabbi Safra and Cantor Perlman by Debra and Jeffrey Fredman

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Michael Safra for his sensitivity, strategy, and scholarship to enrich a bima and send us out with pride by Gerald and Heske Zelsermyer

Tzedakah and Welfare Fund

A Donation Was Made By:

Iris Chuan and Andrew Cheng

Nellie S. Abell

In Memory Of:

Ira Sigel, brother of Sue Taffet by Marcia Kerchner

A Speedy Recovery For:

Myra Cohen by Marilyn and David Levine

Yahrzeit and Yizkor Fund

A Donation Was Made By:

Nanci and Jay Wechsler

Bruce and Marcia Kay

Nava Shlesinger

Paula Pascal Levine

Robin Wind-Faillace and Walter Faillace

In Memory Of:

Dr. Sanford Kay by Marcia and Bruce Kay

Rose Engel by Aaron Engel

Isadore M. Engel by Aaron and Flo Engel

Jolan Kohn by Alan and Agnes Leshner

Flora Isenberg by Alan and Alisa Isenberg

Henrietta Schwartz by Alan Lipschultz

Lionel Lipschultz by Alan Lipschultz

Harriet Lipschultz by Alan Lipschultz

Abe Pollin by Alan Pollin

Jennie Pollin by Alan Pollin

Norma Fleishman by Sharlene and Al Klotz

JoAnn Green by Sharlene and Al Klotz

Jacob Fleishman by Sharlene and Al Klotz

Dr. Murray Follender by Alice Harris

Tessie Hurwitz by Allan and Barbara Hurwitz

Henry Gudelsky by Amy Gudelsky

Albert Gudelsky by Amy Gudelsky

Lena Gudelsky by Amy Gudelsky

Herbert Mautner by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Iserson

Isidore Iserson by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Iserson

Bernice Ritwo by Andrew and Ruth Ritwo

Ben Goldberg by Anita Gross

Anne Goldberg by Anita Gross

Bernard Bobb by Anita Ratain

Irving Honikman by Shelley Honikman

Carol Besner by Arthur Besner

Morris Neustadt by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Neustadt

Irving Penan by Barrett and Frances Penan

Daniel M. Rosenberg by Barry and Linda Rosenberg

Lois Sauve by Linda Molayem

Mary Heyman by Bernard Heyman

Hyman H. Kemil by Rabbi Bernice Kemil Weiss

Michael Greenberg by Bert and Audrey Greenberg

Maria Kofman by Bronislava Kofman

Victor Shargai by Brenda Pascal

Shirley Manning by the Gartman Family

Shana Dorsha by Chaim and Paula Gartman

Mollie Haas by Charlotte Freeman

Alfred Brody by Charlotte Freeman

Abe Lazrus by Charlotte Lazrus

Fannie Siegel by Cherie Baer

Celia Spilka by Chet, Rita, Jonathan, Amanda, Emma

Goldie, and Benny Stein

Harriet Smith by Clara, Avi, Yoav, Zev, Ariel, and

Tsvi Margolis

Joan Geber by the Gerber/Yaffe Family

Charles Stein by David Geber

Jerome Malasky by David Malasky, Jackie and

Amanda

Rose Lee Berman by Terry Irwin

Ray Evans, Harriet Anolik and William Anolik by

Debra J. Anolik

Sylvia Goodman by Donald, Aby, and Linda

Goodman

Meryl Liss Goodman by Donald Goodman and

Family

Sonia Pullekoff by Donald and Carol Vogel

Elsie Tisch by Eddi Tisch, Marissa, Courtney,

Zachary, and Rider

Diana Miller by Edith Black

Joan Kaplan Gindes by Edward Kaplan

Marie Hillwerth by Emanuel and Joan Eisenfeld

Melvin Hillwerth by Emanuel and Joan Eisenfeld

Dr. Sidney Novenstein by Evan and Judy Novenstein

Ester Sokolsky by Felix Sokolsky

Lillian Ezrin by Fred, Stefanie, and Samara Langsam

Edith Simat by Fred, Stefanie, and Samara Langsam

Rubin Gertz by Gary Gertz

Beatrice Lawrence by Gary S. and Margy Lawrence

Belle Finkel by Geoffrey Finkel

Cynthia Finkel by Geoffrey Finkel

David Apelsin by Geoffrey Finkel

Allan Finkel by Geoffrey Finkel

Goldie Apelsin by Geoffrey Finkel

Morris Finkel by Geoffrey Finkel

Dorothy Zatz Cohen by Ellen Ottenstein

Irwin Harrison by Harry and Paula Harrison

Mildred Katzen by Harvey and Barbara Katzen

Samuel Siegel by Harvey and Barbara Katzen

Myer Prosky by the Prosky Family

Maz Horenstein by Ruth Modlin

Irving Saginor by Hortensia R. Saginor

Elsie Schaefer by Judy Schaefer and Dick Freeman

Jeffrey Krauthamer by Howard and Tamra Feuerstein

Max W. Seiler by Ilene R. Gruenfeld

Pauline Seiler by Ilene R. Gruenfeld

Leonard Seiler by Ilene R. Gruenfeld

Ernest Gruenfeld by Ilene R. Gruenfeld

Dr. Jerome Seiler by Ilene R. Gruenfeld

Henrietta Selss by Ira and Karen Selss

Morris Friedenberg by Irwin and Sylvia Rosenthal

Ida Rose Solomon by Irwin and Sylvia Rosenthal

Geraldine Mendelson by the Mendelson Family

Garry Rothmel by Jake Rothmel

Mr. Alex Berlin by Dr. Jay and Lynn Katzen

Mr. Samuel Shier Blustein by Dr. Jay and Lynn

Katzen

Miriam Wechsler by Jay and Nanci Wechsler

Irving Grossman by Jay and Nanci Wechsler

Jerry Daniels by Jill Myers

Those who recently perished in Israel by Jill Myers

Dorothy Aronson Zingesser by Joel and Pam Zingesser

Francine Schwartz by the Zingesser Family

Betty Dondershine by the Zingesser Family

Jeffrey Krauthamer by Joey Franco

Joan Friedenberg by Jonathan and Izzy Salant and

Bonnie Cole

Esther Rankin by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth G. Ullman

Adele Bensignor by Larry and Fern Bensignor

Sylvia Forman by Laurie Forman

Elaine Proger by Laurie Forman

June Alton by Larry and Leslie Kline

Thelma Leshner by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Revzan

Charles Balkman by Larry and Susan Lesser

Julius Sheps by Leah Sheps Zendel and Allan Zendel

Ruth Sheps by Leah Sheps Zendel and Allan Zendel

Ruth Binn by Leonard N. Binn

Elizabeth Hirshman by Leonard N. Binn

Samuel Plasky by Linda Danovitch Bicks

Celia Plasky by Linda Danovitch Bicks

Edna Turkenitch by Lorin and Arleen Luchs

Eva Sidlin by Madelene Brager

Susan Weiss by Marcy, Rachel, and Nan Schechter

Ira L. Levin by Martha Nudel, Sala Levin, and Adam

Levin

Morris Chernikoff by Michael Chernikoff

Ruth Chernikoff by Michael Chernikoff

Terry Roth by Patricia Hoff and Michael Kurman

Susan Kane by Michael and Allison Katcher

Manuel Weiser by Mike and Debbie Herbst

Irving Brown by Michael and Elinor Flyer

Dr. Morris R. Best by Miriam Best

Bertha Fishkin by Nancy Politzer, Kerry and Brian

Dorothy Slifkin by Nancy Scher Billig

Rose N. Greenbaum by Nathan and Beth Greenbaum

Martha Levy by Norman and Evelyn Levy

Philip Aronson by Phil Aronson

Henry Goldman by Philip Goldman

Louis Lipsky by Philip Goldman

Sara Sager and Martin Sager by Randy Sager

Arnold E. Seigel by Rhoda Seigel

Dr. Neil Shulman by Richard and Barbara Daumit

Wendelin I. Lipp by Robert Tebeleff
 Florence Brodsky by the Gasperow Family
 Marcus Wind by Robin Wind-Faillace
 Nathan Schechter by Ron Minsk and Gail Daumit
 Yishai Dweck by Nava and Ron Dweck
 Fannie R. Lenkin by Ronald Lenkin and Family
 Abraham Luchs by Ronald Lenkin and Family
 Morris Erger by Anonymous
 Oscar F. Igersheim by Roy and Adele Igersheim
 Lilyan Z. Goda by Saralee G. Hillman
 Selma Seidel by Steve Moss, Sharon Seidel and family
 Malka Finkel by Shelly Finkel
 William Fisher by Sherry Meltzer and Family
 David Meltzer by Sherry Meltzer and Family
 Ruth Meltzer by Sherry Meltzer
 Louis Shor by Shirley Zabrek
 Arnold S. Light by Shirley Light
 Khalifa Ohayon by Simon Ohayon
 Simha Ohayom by Simon Ohayon
 Edith Milobsky by Stanley Milobsky
 Albert Margolius by Stanley and Linda Margolius
 Diane Dweck by Steven and Elaine Keller
 Rachel Mannheimer by Stuart Graff
 June Hilda Graff by Stuart Graff
 Ruth Boorstein by Sue Tabach
 Alex Schonberger by Suzanna Ilkovitch
 Annette Mintz by Sylvan Mintz
 Manuel Fredman by Theodore Fredman
 Jack Braun by Wilma Braun
 Sidney Goodman by Frederic Goodman
 Diane Saltzman's father, Mendi by Nina Gurman

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
 for a full listing of upcoming events.



If you will be in Florida (or want to go to Florida or have family or friends with a connection to B'nai Israel who will be in Florida!), we hope you will join B'nai Israel for our upcoming Florida reunion:

B'nai Israel FLORIDA REUNION

Sunday, February 4
 11:00 AM

Hunter's Run Country Club
 Boynton Beach, Florida

Event Chairs:
 Jaye and Bob Greenfest

Please join B'nai Israel President Jeff Fredman, Rabbi Michael Safra, and Avery Sudow (Communications and Development Director) as they journey to South Florida to warm up and reconnect over brunch with many of our B'nai Israel families.

Learn more and register at:
www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/floridareunion2024

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP

Brrr it's cold outside but you can stay warm when you visit your Judaica Shop.

We have very warm and welcoming volunteers to help you with selections and ideas for gifts, *tallitot*, *mezuzot* for your homes and much more.

Pictured are some of the many items we purchased from Israel.

We try to support Israel anyway we can and you can too by purchasing these products.



Shop Hours

Monday-Friday
 10:00 AM-12:30 PM
 Tuesday Afternoon
 4:30-6:30 PM
 Sunday
 10:00 AM-12:45 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)

**FOR ALL YOUR
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Lessans Talmud Torah 301-816-5576

301-881-6550
www.bnaiisraelcong.org

We want your child to spend **EVERY DAY** with us!
Schilit Nursery School

HALF-DAY & FULL-DAY OPTIONS

- Experiences for newborns through Pre-K
- Half-day until 12:30 PM or 2:00 PM
- Full-day option until 6:00 PM
- Flexible scheduling options

Our trusted school has taught generations
of B'nai Israel families.
We look forward to meeting yours!



Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year Opens this month.
Take a tour today!

REBECCA RAVSKI Interim Early Childhood Director
ELIZABETH CARPENTER Schilit Nursery School Assistant Director
301.816.5578 | www.bnaiisraelcong.org/nurseryschool