

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024



CONGREGATION B'NAI TZEDEK

The TZEDEK

SCROLL



Shabbat Dinner With CONGRESSMAN GLENN IVEY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH

6:30 PM SERVICES FOLLOWED BY SPEAKER AND DINNER

Honor the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
with our distinguished speaker: Congressman Glenn Ivey.

Early Bird: \$20/Adult \$12/Child After Jan 5th: \$25/Adult \$15/Child
Visit bnaitzedek.org to register by January 10th



RABBI JEFFREY SALKIN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

6:30 PM SERVICES FOLLOWED BY SPEAKER AND DINNER

Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, celebrated author and thought leader to discuss his latest book: *Tikkun Ha-Am/Repairing Our People: Israel and the Crisis in Liberal Judaism*.

Early Bird: \$23/Adult \$12/Child
After Feb 19th: \$28/Adult \$15/Child
Visit bnaitzedek.org to register by February 21st

Supported by the Goldstein-Leibowitz Adult Education Fund



RABBI JOSEPH TELUSHKIN

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH

6:30 PM SERVICES FOLLOWED BY SPEAKER AND DINNER
NY Times best-selling author of more than 15 books





Ezra, Julie, Margalit, Jason,
Micha, Miriam, and Noam invite you to...

an evening of
Music & Cocktails
with Rabbi Stuart
& Symcha
Weinblatt

01.20.24
7:30 PM
@ CBT

Music by acoustic guitarist
David Andrew Smith
Savory and sweet snacks

Casual Chic Attire
\$54/person
Register by January 10th
at bnaitzedek.org



This musical evening with Symcha and Rabbi Weinblatt is
proudly brought to you by our CBT Celebrations Committee.

Special thanks to the Music and Cocktails event hosts:

Shari & Brian Abramson
Laura & Zachary Cohen
Talia & Darren Farber
Rachel & Pete Federowicz
Sandra & Adam Fine
Barbara & Irvin Guterman
Rachel & Michael Hyman
Lindsay & Adam Maarec
Margalit & Jason Moshe
Danielle & Adam Roffman
Caryn & Gary Silverman
Julie & Ezra Weinblatt
Miriam & Micha Weinblatt
Noam Weinblatt



OUR STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE YOU

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Barbara Guterman
barbguterman@gmail.com



B'nai Tzedek is affiliated with the
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS "THE LAST DANCE"

Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt | potomacrebbe@cbtpotomac.org



It is flattering and gratifying when members tell me that they read or listen to my sermons when they are sent out. I am truly grateful when people tell me that they send them to their family and friends and that they are shared with a far-reaching audience. Over the years, I have received notes and emails from people as far away as Africa and Asia who somehow read or saw something I wrote and delivered.

Not to downplay how significant this is, but I must tell you, and I am sure this will not come as a surprise – I would really love for you to come to services and hear them live.

It's like the difference between buying Starbucks coffee in the grocery store and drinking it at home, and having a cup of coffee at a Starbucks. The flavor and taste might be the same in both places, but when you have it at home you miss out on the atmosphere and the experience of being with others. And Judaism is all about being with others and being part of a community. It is why the late Rabbi Harold Kushner used to say, "*Kiddush* is as important as *kaddish*", meaning the *schmoozing* and *kibbitzing* that take place after the service should not be discounted.

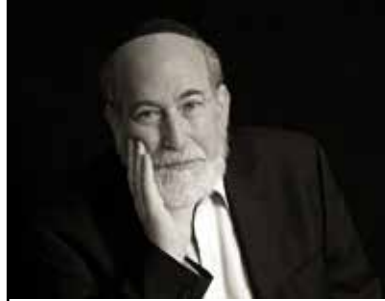
As I begin this last stretch of my term as the Senior Rabbi of B'nai Tzedek, I can't help but think about athletes who announce that they will be retiring at the end of the season. Usually, fans come out to see their favorite player – be it in basketball, football, baseball, hockey, or whatever sport they may play in that last year of their active career in record numbers. And then, just as we can read about and watch highlights of the game at home, you can still read, listen to and share my sermons when you are at home- the best of both worlds!

Not that I want to compare myself to any exceptional, beloved athlete, but you get the point – I would love to see our synagogue full every *Shabbat* in the coming months.

Who knows? You might even hear a sermon or two that you think is a home run.



SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND WITH RABBI JOSEPH TELUSHKIN MARCH 8-10, 2024



A weekend with one of America's best known rabbis and best-selling authors, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. He will be visiting as a scholar in residence in honor of Rabbi Weinblatt's 36 years as our rabbi. Join us to hear him speak at

Shabbat dinner, Saturday morning services, Sunday morning brunch, and a special program on Saturday evening on Jewish humor for members of the Rabbi's Circle.

Rabbi Telushkin, the author of 15 books including: *Jewish Literacy*, *Jewish Wisdom*, *A Code of Jewish Ethics*, *The Book of Jewish Values*, *The Rebbe*, *Jewish Humor*, and many other best-selling books.

Supported by the Amor Lane Adult Education Fund



WHAT INSPIRES ME ABOUT BEING JEWISH RESUMES IN THE HOLT FAMILY CHAPEL 9:30 - 10:30 AM



Save the dates to join Rabbi Weinblatt for the remainder of his 7-part course: ***What Inspires Me About Being Jewish!***

Previous attendance not required.

Tuesdays: March 19th, 26th & April 2nd

HARVEST AGAINST HUNGER FOOD DRIVE!

Congregation B'nai Tzedek donated 679 pounds of food to Manna Food Center!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AM YISRAEL CHAI

Barbara Guterman | barbguterman@gmail.com



As the President of B'nai Tzedek, I always find myself immensely proud of who we are as a congregation and a community. And this sentiment resonates even more deeply, when we are tested as a community. Much like when the world

changed on September 11, 2001, so too did our world change on October 7th.

In our hearts, our minds and in the history books, we will forever mark our lives as Jews before October 7th, and after. However, it is in the after that we emerged as a more resolute, strong, resilient people, committed to our Jewish faith, our people and an unwavering support of our beloved Israel. But that is who Congregation B'nai Tzedek has always been.

From the moment we began to understand the atrocities unfolding in Israel, Rabbi Weinblatt guided us with swift and strong leadership, delivering powerful messages and setting the tone to help us navigate the news of the horrific war as it was happening. The night of the incursion, now known as Black *Shabbat*, we celebrated *Simchat Torah* with a somber tone to honor our traditions, but with less joy. One of the *hakafot* was even done silently.

This was followed by a series of moving services, where special prayers and readings were added to capture our mood and express our concerns. We participated in community prayer vigils, opportunities for open dialogue, and raised money to support Israeli soldiers in the field and the IDF. We were well-represented in the March for Israel on the National Mall on November 14th, as over 500 members joined the largest gathering of Jews in support of Israel.

Many thanks go out to the staff and lay leaders who helped to raise our banners, flags and voices to show our unwavering commitment to Israel and our people.

Among the specific responses we organized following the attack include:

- Raising over \$12,000 for handheld sonogram units allowing soldiers quick triage and surgery in the field
- Participating in the Vigil of Jewish Unity and Solidarity with Israel at Har Shalom
- Raising \$25,000 for additional security personnel and measures for our congregation
- Hosting weekly informative *Shabbat* dinners with speakers that included Daniel Flesch – decorated veteran and former advisor to Israel's Ambassador to the UN. Anila Ali, a Muslim activist working to combat Antisemitism as the Founder of the American Muslim Women's Empowerment Council, and Sawsan Hasson, a Druze woman and Minister of Public Affairs for the Embassy of Israel. Their diverse perspectives and alliance with the Jewish people were heartwarming and affirming.

- Rabbi Weinblatt wrote to attorneys in our congregation and shared with them a letter from prominent law firms that anti-Semitism will have an adverse impact on being hired
- Symcha Weinblatt lead a challah baking prayer vigil for women who also made warm hats for IDF soldiers

The war is not over, and our support as individuals, as a congregation and as part of the larger Jewish community will continue in innumerable ways for as long as it is needed.

I would like to extend my personal thank you to each of you for being part of the support network that we form together. Whether you have chosen to attend services more often, or to simply extend a handshake, hug or knowing glance to your fellow Jew, there is no doubt that we are there for one another in good times and perhaps more importantly, in bad. As I stated at the beginning, I am so proud to be a member of our extraordinary CBT community, a synagogue so passionate and devoted to each other and to our homeland.

Am Yisrael Chai.

WORLD WIDE WRAP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
9:00 AM IN THE CBT CHAPEL

Join the CBT Brotherhood as we learn how to wrap *tefillin* during *minyan*. No experience necessary and we will have extra pairs available. Rabbi Weinblatt will talk about the *mitzvah* of wrapping *tefillin* and there will be bagels and *schmoozing* afterwards!



CONGREGANT-LED SHABBAT

TORAH STUDY

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
FOLLOWING *KIDDUSH*

Join us to study the *Parashat* for the following week led by your fellow congregants!

These brief and informal study sessions are lay-led and are held on the first *Shabbat* of each month, approximately 30 minutes after the conclusion of services.

Upcoming sessions:

Jan. 12	<i>Vaera</i>	Deborah Fox
Feb. 3	<i>Mishpatim</i>	Fred Jacobs

CANTOR'S NOTES FINDING HOPE AND CHANGE THROUGH OUR VOICES

Cantor Marshall Kapell | mkapell@cbtpotomac.org



The past several months have been grueling for the Jewish community. But there have also been moments of hope. One key example was at the National Rally for Israel on November 14. Joining 500 of our CBT congregants and marching in solidarity with nearly 300,000 advocates and allies, listening to stories from the families of hostages and politicians, standing up to antisemitism, and supporting Israel, while cheering and singing together, exemplified the strength and power of the Jewish people.

Following the rally, on the same night, I had the opportunity to see *Ragtime* at Signature Theater. *Ragtime* is a 1998 Tony-award winning musical - the production received 13 Tony Award nominations and won four - based on E.L. Doctorow's novel with book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. The musical deals with discrimination and social inequality in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. Sadly, the themes of this show have remained relevant throughout the years, and, while I've seen three productions of *Ragtime* and listened to countless recordings, the production could not be more relevant than on the day of the rally.

The show tells the stories of three unrelated families whose lives intersect: A well-off, privileged white family in New Rochelle; Coalhouse Walker Jr., an African-American ragtime performer and Sarah, the mother of his child, who are victims of racist violence; and Tatté, an Eastern European Jewish immigrant and his young daughter.

As Dan Dwyer notes in his review of the Tanglewood production this summer: "With topics of racism, women's inequality, anti-Semitism, economic and legal injustice, the story holds a mirror up to a contemporary society that seems to be regressing rather than progressing."

But, *Ragtime* is also a profound story of hope and resilience. And these themes were even more profound after marching, only several hours earlier, in support of Israel and Jews around the world.

The lyrics of *Wheel of a Dream*, a soaring piece sung by Coalhouse Walker are particularly powerful:

Your sword could be a sermon
Or the power of the pen
Teach every child to raise his voice
And then my brothers, then
Will justice be demanded by ten million righteous men
Make them hear you-

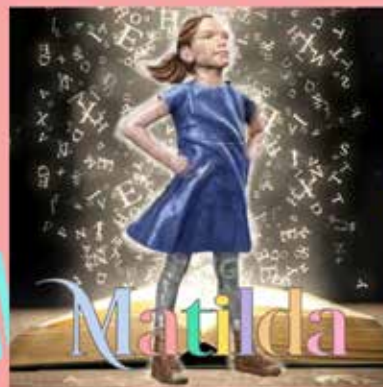
May we continue to find hope, strength, and change through our voices.

Symcha & Rabbi Stuart
Weinblatt
and
Margalit & Jason Moche
cordially invite you to
the Bat Mitzvah of
Olivia Moche!

Saturday, January 20th
9:30 am Services

Services will be followed by
a celebratory kiddush luncheon

Theatre@CBT Presents...



Saturday, February 17 @ 7:30pm

Sunday, February 18 @ 2pm

Book by Dennis Kelly
Music & Lyrics by Tim Minchin

Purchase tickets at:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theatre@cbt>

*Don't miss this fun and entertaining show-
perfect for the whole family!*

SISTERHOOD

Holli Jaffe | hbjaffe@verizon.net and
Geri Shapiro | ironmomgeri@yahoo.com, Co-Presidents



First - the reveal! Our Mystery Event was go-kart driving at Autobahn Dulles. What a blast! And it is not as easy as it looks. Those curves are sharp! Dinner was great and we had fun playing the arcade games and bingo where some fabulous prizes were claimed. Another Mystery Night is already being planned. Don't miss out on the fun!



Sisterhood was a sponsor of JWI's Women To Watch Conference and Gala in support of our very own Barbara Guterman, a 2023 Women To Watch Honoree. Sisterhood members represented us at the DC conference and gala. It was an informative and thought-provoking event. We're so glad to have been a part of it.

Sisterhood members participated in Friday night services at our Sisterhood Installation *Shabbat* where our 2024 officers were sworn in. We enjoyed a wonderful *oneg* following the services.

The Sisterhood Social Action Committee had a very busy winter. In December, sisters joined the CBT Inclusion Committee at the annual *Chanukah* dance with individuals, staff and friends of MAKOM (formerly JFGH). We had a fun time dining and dancing. Others participated in holiday gift buying and wrapping sponsored by KINDH (Kids In Need at the Holidays) to assure low-income kids had gifts and a holiday meal. And still others were part of the inaugural virtual soup cooking event, coordinated with KindSoups, one of the many programs from KindWorks. These efforts helped residents in need as well as newly-arrived refugees in our community. From the comfort of our kitchens via Zoom, KindSoups guru, Marsha Scheinman, led Bnai Buddies (the cooks' nickname for themselves) in preparing Turkish Red Lentil Soup. Future virtual soup-making sessions will be scheduled.

Please join us in this worthwhile event. The Sisterhood also fulfilled some of the wish list of the young patients at the NIH Children's Inn through a variety of donations. Please visit www.childrensinn.org/get-involved/wish-list to see the list or contact communications@childrensinn.org to learn more. Last, the Committee is still accepting used sewing machines to deliver to recently settled Afghan families. If you have a machine that you wish to donate, please contact Carol Preston at carol.preston@gmail.com.

As usual, programming gave us time together through fun and lively activities. Monthly Canasta nights continue to be enjoyed and another installment of Sunday morning learning and playing Mah Jongg was well attended. The Book Club hosted a discussion of *Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin in January. Phew! That was a long one, but well worth the time. Are you an avid reader? Recommend a book and lead the discussion. We would love to have you!

Keep an eye out for the dates to help assemble the *Mishloach Manot* boxes for *Purim* and information on our second women-only *seder*.

MATZAH BALL MADNESS WITH LISA AND DARYL SHAPIRO

Sunday, February 4th
5:00 PM
\$10 per person

Register at bnaitzedek.org



The Shapiros are back and this time they're taking on the elusive matzah ball! Perfect your recipe from CBT's unofficial in-house foodies!



Next time you're in, join us in congratulating Rigo, our maintenance crew member of 14 years, on his new U.S. Citizenship! This has been a long-time coming for him and he is proud to be an American!

B'NAI TZEDEK TURNS OUT IN RECORD NUMBERS TO SUPPORT ISRAEL

SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL RALLY ON NOVEMBER 14TH.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE IDF:

Gary & Carol Berman
Allan & Annette Chandler
Leslie & Barbara Fenton
Ilene & Dick Mudge
Steve Schlosser & Lois Hollander
Harvey & Shari Goodman
Norman Ressin

Michelle & Scott Cornblatt
Edwin & Toby Heilweil
Stephen, Dale & Leah Harburg
Matthew & Allie Ammerman
Lisa & Michael Cordell
Leonard & Marilyn Shapiro
Ruida Cheng & Lingchuan Chu



TO READ WHAT
WE HAVE DONE
TO SUPPORT
ISRAEL,
SEE PAGE 4

RABBI WEINBLATT REPORTS ON RABBINIC MISSION TO ISRAEL SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH 9:30 AM SERVICES

Come to services to hear Rabbi Weinblatt share his experiences from the rabbinic mission trip he is leading to Israel and will have just returned from.



TORAH SCHOLAR

Robin & Jay Hammer

FIVE BOOKS

Carol & Gary Berman

The Family of Herbie &

Miriam Cherner

Donna & Bruce Genderson

Barbara & Irvin Guterman

Caryn & Gary Silverman

KEY PASSAGES IN THE TORAH

Stacy & Kenneth Samet

Pennie & Gary Abramson

Norma & Dean Eisen

SIGNATURE STORIES

Amy & Richard Cantor

Amy & Kevin Kertesz & Children

Molly Meegan & Abbe Lowell

Jennifer & Michael Lustbader & Family

Melanie & Rene Moreno

Iris Myles

Lisa & Daryl Shapiro

Diane Snyder & Al Steren

HACHNASAT TORAH: WELCOMING OUR NEW TORAH

Save the date for the exciting arrival of our new *Sefer Torah* on **March 17th at 11:00 am.**



THANK YOU TO THE GENEROSITY
OF THOSE WHO MADE A DEDICATION SO CONGREGATION
B'NAI TZEDEK CAN "WRITE OUR TORAH, WRITE OUR FUTURE"*

INDIVIDUAL PARASHOT

Deborah Fox & Maury Epner

Joy & Marc Gerber

Leslie & Bruce Lane

Lauren & Aaron Perry

Geri & Jerry Shapiro

Jennifer & Mark Vandroff

Ainsley MacLean Wollman & Bruce Wollman

SPECIAL VERSES

Patricia & Stanley Beder and Family

Ann & Mark Birns

Jessica & Andrew Chod

Sherri & Scot Farrell

Sandra & Adam Fine

Alene Fisher

Cheri & Roger Friedman

The Harburg Family

Drs. Ruth & Neil Hoffman

Roslyn Mazer & David Holzworth

Rachel & Michael Hyman

Gail & Gary Kushner

Lindsay & Adam Maarec

Paulette Mintz

Ilene & Richard Mudge

Linda & Barry Perlis, Gail Moskowitz & Family

Jane & Ken Rosenthal

Diane & Saul Schweber

Nancy & Ami Sheintal

Nina & Stanley Snow

Lisa Bleier & Rodney Tanner

INDIVIDUAL VERSE

Kallie & Mark Forman

Esther & Albert Perry

INDIVIDUAL WORD

Lisa & Bruce Cort

Ilana Cutler

Federowicz Family

Beth Ingber

Donna & Mark Lewis

Sheryl & Marc Margolis

Susan & Eric Raps

Lori & Roy Rodman

Jill & Alan Tanenbaum

INDIVIDUAL LETTER

Allie Ammerman

Dianne Kozuch & Burton Amernick

Kathy & Dean Baird

Michael Beder

Amy & Asher Bernstein

Adina Braun

Eliana & Howard Byck and Family

Nicole & Gregory Cohen

Lisa & Michael Cordell

Jennifer Engel Fisher & Ethan David Fisher

Laura Dachner & Ed Friedman

Sandy & Jorge Goldstein

Larry, Laura & Jonathan Gordon

Alison & Richard Greenhouse

Jan & Richard Grossman

Eileen & Merv Hamburg

Carol Urbach Herson

Ruth & Neil Hoffman

Bari & Samuel Itscoitz

Elaine, Melvin, Marshall & Sara Kapell

Andrea Karp

Amy & Kevin Kertesz

The Klinger Family

Lois & Merrill Kramer

Alan, Carole, Amy & Adam Kuritzky

Miriam Lansky

The Lerman Family

Naomi Levin

The Mackey Family

The Marks Family

Grace & Stanley Morgenstein

Gail Moskowitz

Podberesky Family

ViVi & Art Rosen

Harvey Rumeld

Patricia & Howard Sachs

Vicki Salamon

Sanders Family

Barbara Sandler

Tina Schechter

Shari & Matt Shaw

Carol & Doug Sherman

Denise E. Silverberg

Melanie & Steven Teplinsky

Julie & Ezra Weinblatt

The Weiss Family - Randy, Andi, Lauren, Ryan,

Stephen & Ashley

Jaclyn & Adam Williamowsky

CHILDREN'S LETTERS

Noa Anderson

Eli Anderson

Ehrlich Family

Allison and Dan Fleck

Allison & Kyle Fleit

Courtney & Joshua Krutoy

Evelyn & Howard Sacks

Adam Sawyer

Spector Family

It's not too late to contribute. Help us reach our goal to raise funds to procure and secure the financial well-being and success of our synagogue.

To dedicate a passage, scan the QR code or call the office at (301) 299-0225.



*As of 12/8/23

Save the Date



Celebrate Rabbi Weinblatt 36 Years of Leadership Sunday, May 19, 2024

Gala Committee:

Co-Chairs: Yvelisse Dinte & Caryn Silverman

Shari Abramson

Robin Hammer

Laura Cohen

Rachel Hyman

Talia Farber

Wendy Katzen

Michal Niakani

Join the Celebration Committee and participate in these
enriching educational and cultural programs

Upcoming Celebration Events Honoring Rabbi Weinblatt:

Friday, February 23, 2024 Shabbat Dinner

Friday-Sunday,
March 8-10, 2024

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

The Gala Committee is also hard at work with wonderful entertainment planned and has secured Signature Catering for the main event. Details for opportunities to support the event have been sent, please join us and help us make the evening a success. We need your help and participation.

SEEING THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Moshe Ben-Lev, Religious School Director | mben-lev@cbtpotomac.org



Some years ago, one of our great local Jewish educators, Avi West, stressed the importance of teaching current Jewish events as they arise. His reasoning was simple, we want what we teach to be relevant, informative, and responsive to what is occurring in our lives looking through news with a Jewish lens.

That message couldn't possibly be more relevant than it is now! Since October 7th, I have been laser focused on how we can address what has occurred and the aftermath every time we meet as a school community. As one can imagine, this is especially challenging as the horrors of a massacre followed by an intensive war and a rise in antisemitic acts worldwide is not child appropriate and yet must be addressed in a way that that allows our curious students to ask difficult and sensitive questions. Many parents share what's going on in the world with their children especially when it comes to Israel and American Jewry. Fortunately, the Jewish education community has offered an amazing amount of resources and advice to educators.

Thus far, we have had group conversations with 3-6 grade during *tefilla* time midweek. K-6 grade have collected *tzedakah* for Magen David Adom and the FIDF which included presentations beforehand. All of our students have created cards for Israeli children and soldiers, and our 5th and 6th graders have been creating cards for their teacher Ido, our *Shaliach*, who was serving in the tank unit in the IDF. Lastly, three of our 6th graders volunteered to visit all the classrooms and have students make Israel friendship bracelets (which are on sale in the synagogue gift store – see the flyer for details).

So what's next? Each semester, as a part of our weekly Sunday classes for 3-6 grade, we offer elective classes. In late January through May, we will be offering Israel-focused electives which, once complete with 10 class sessions, will conclude with a showcase festival around *Yom Ha'atzmaut* where families will celebrate our student's creativity and connection with Israel.

Out of this tragedy, we hope that our students feel a strong connection with Israel and their own Jewish identity, and make a conscious, educated effort to remain engaged and committed to the Jewish state.

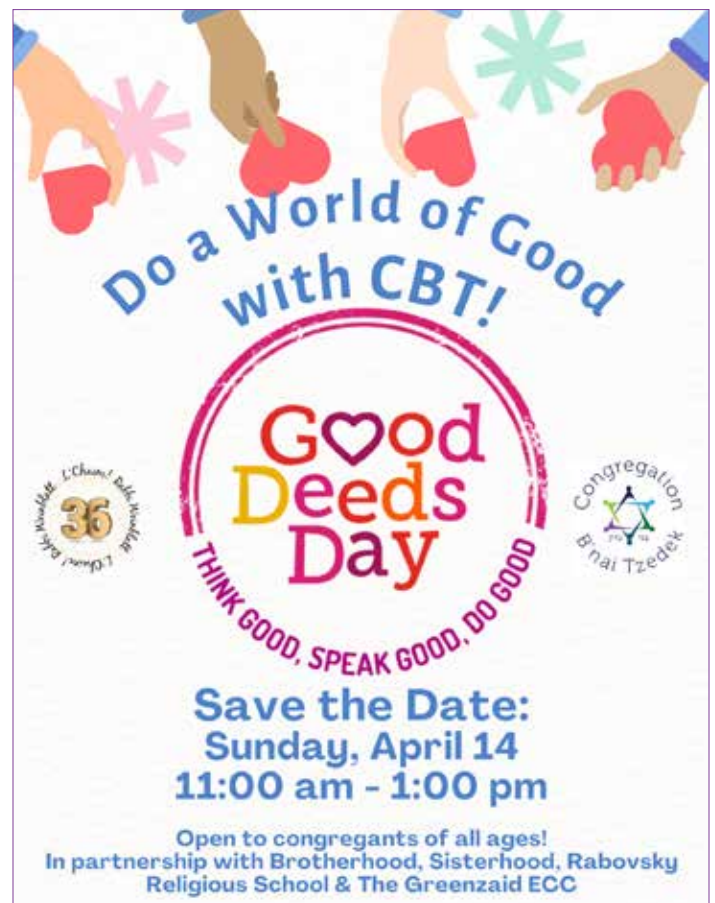
Religious School Presents..... Israel Friendship Bracelets!!

Three of our 6th graders created a bracelet making project to show their support for Israel. Each grade from K-6 created these masterpieces for you to wear, give as gifts, and show your love of Eretz Yisrael!



For a low price of \$5.00 each, proceeds will be donated to the FIDF (Friends for Israel Defense Forces).

Show your support for our students and soldiers by purchasing these beautiful accessories.



**Do a World of Good
with CBT!**

Good Deeds Day

THINK GOOD, SPEAK GOOD, DO GOOD

Save the Date:
Sunday, April 14
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Open to congregants of all ages!
In partnership with Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Rabovsky
Religious School & The Greenzaid ECC

THE GREENZAID EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

OFF TO A GREAT START

Jane Greenblatt, GECC Director | jgreenblatt@cbtpotomac.org



The GECC had a memorable finish to 2023! We held our wonderful community *Chanukah* celebration, where we shared the fun and excitement of the holiday with each other, family and clergy! We loved singing songs with the cantor, enjoying delicious food and playing games

together. The end of the year also brought Tot *Shabbats* with Lisa Baydush, combined Friendsgiving feasts with our friends from other classes and the CBT Family *Chanukah* night! The happy sounds of children playing and learning together, our active parent association and continued support from our clergy and board are a testament to our thriving school!

Additionally, we had a day of learning for our staff. Teachers attended a professional development workshop focusing on the concepts of play as learning opportunities. We explored the importance of play and the kinds of learning (such as problem solving, collaboration, motor skills and imagination) that happens during play. We discussed ways to facilitate quality play and that young children learn best when they are engaged, secure and confident. Our wonderful teachers are always open to new ideas and research to provide the best atmosphere and methods; they are truly an impressive group!

It is hard to believe we are already planning for next school year! Our registration opens in January. I recommend registering as soon as you are eligible, as there are already wait-lists for some of our programs and we hate to turn anyone away. Also in January, we are looking forward to our Pack & Play event on Monday, January 15th, where families can help pack care packages for children at The Children's Inn and spend some time at our very own open gym (directed by My Gym)

in the social hall! We are also looking forward to our annual PJ *Havdalah* on Saturday, Feb. 24th, Tot *Shabbats* on January 6th and February 3rd and new this year, our Presidents Day Concert with Mr. Jon and Friends!

We are so excited for all the amazing things to come! I invite you to visit the GECC and see for yourself all the amazing things happening here each day!

Upcoming Events

- GECC resumes from winter break, Wednesday, January 3rd
- Tot *Shabbat* with Lisa Baydush, Saturday, January 6th at 11:00 am in the Weinberg Assembly Area
- MLK Pack & Play Day, Monday, January 15th at 10:00 am in the Burtoff Social Hall
- GECC closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day, Monday January 15th
- Registration for the 2024-2025 school year opens for CBT members, January 8th
- Tot *Shabbat* with Lisa Baydush, Saturday, February 3rd at 11:00 am in the Weinberg Assembly area
- Presidents Day Concert with Mr. Jon & Friends, Monday, February 19th, 11:00 am in the CBT Sanctuary
- GECC closed in observance of President's Day, Monday, February 19th
- PJ *Havdalah* at CBT, Saturday February 24th at 5:30 pm



GECC parents, caregivers and children are invited to take part in a day of service packing care packages for children in local hospitals.

There will also be "Open Gym" with My Gym (a local favorite) in the social hall.

SEND US YOUR COLLEGE STUDENT'S INFO!

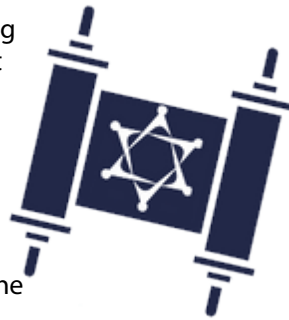
Send an email to marketing@cbtpotomac.org to tell us where your child(ren) are attending college, with their name and address and area of study so that we can keep in touch with them.



The GECC Pack & Play Day
Monday, January 15th
10:00 - 12:00 pm

THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR TORAH PROJECT

What a profoundly enriching journey it has been, crafting our own Torah. We started the *Sefer Torah* project about a year ago. Reflecting on the work of our clergy, administrative staff, and volunteers that culminated in four days of writing Torah, we are elated by the results. At the outset, we set forth two primary objectives: firstly, to encourage widespread participation in the spiritual journey of the 613th *Mitzvah*—writing Torah; and secondly, to garner \$500,000 in contributions to fortify the future of our Congregation.



Undoubtedly, we have exceeded our expectations in achieving our first goal. Over 500 family members from our Congregation contributed by inscribing letters, partaking in unique learning experiences, activities and blessings as they fulfilled the 613th *Mitzvah*. People of all ages, from toddlers to those in their 90's, joined in this joyous and emotional experience. Approximately two dozen Congregants, along with our administrative team, were fully immersed in the creation and coordination of each day. Whether as a volunteer or letter writer, the experience proved unforgettable. The inaugural day witnessed a beautiful synthesis of song, dance, learning and communal unity within our synagogue community. The events of October 7 imbued subsequent Torah writing days in October and November with a more somber tone, fostering a deep personal connection to our heritage.

Turning to our second objective, we have reached an impressive 80% of our target. We express gratitude to the numerous members who have already supported our Torah writing project, contributing to the safeguarding of our synagogue's future through their dedications. Notably, dedications for the Torah and each of the Five Books have been secured. While many renowned prayers and sections have found sponsors, several significant and meaningful opportunities remain available, including the Ten Commandments, *V'ahavta*, the story of Noah's Ark and more. As we progress towards the completion of our Torah, we eagerly anticipate the additional sponsorship of key portions. To make a pledge, visit bnaitzedek.org/writing-our-future-pledge-form.html.

The celebration for the completion of the Torah is swiftly approaching, and we will soon share more details about the events of that momentous week.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS A QUICK REFERENCE

For All:

1/5	6:30pm	<i>L'Dor Vador</i> , Birthday Blessings Service
1/12	7:30pm	MLK <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner With... Congressman Glenn Ivey
2/2	6:30pm	<i>L'Dor Vador</i> , Birthday Blessings Service
2/11	9am	World Wide Wrap
2/17	9:30am	Inclusion <i>Shabbat</i>
2/17	7:30pm	Theatre@CBT Presents <i>Matilda</i>
2/18	2pm	Theatre@CBT Presents <i>Matilda</i>
2/23	7:30pm	<i>Shabbat</i> Dinner With... Rabbi Salkin

For Kids & Families:

1/6	11am	Tot <i>Shabbat</i>
1/15	10am	GECC MLK Pack & Play Day
2/3	11am	Tot <i>Shabbat</i>
2/19	11am	GECC President's Day Concert
2/24	5:30pm	PJ <i>Havdalah</i>

For Adults:

1/20	7:30pm	Cocktails with Rabbi Stuart & Symcha Weinblatt
2/4	5pm	Cooking with Lisa & Daryl Shapiro: Matzah Ball Soup
2/29	7pm	Movie Night

L'DOR VADOR & BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS The First Friday of the Month 6:30 pm Services

Join us for a musical service featuring students from our Religious School, and then and stay to celebrate birthdays with a special treat!

January 5th
February 2nd
March 1st



Looking for
a Facility
for Your
Next Simcha?

Looking for a space for a wedding, special event, party or meeting? We have the perfect space for you! Please contact Sylvia Mace at smace@cbtnpotomac.org or (301) 299-0225 for more information.

CELEBRATING *B'NAI MITZVAH*



Rachel Temkin will become a *Bat Mitzvah* on *Shabbat*, January 6, 2024. She is the daughter of **Melissa and Josh Temkin**, the sister of Jeremy Temkin (10), and the granddaughter of Barbara and Larry Temkin and Lynne and Tom Greenfield. She is a 7th grader at The Holton Arms School, where her favorite subject is science. When she is not in school, Rachel enjoys playing the piano, reading and crocheting. Rachel will have out-of-town guests coming from Georgia and Arizona.



Lucas Lang will become a *Bar Mitzvah* on *Shabbat*, January 13, 2024. He is the son of **Lauren and Brian Lang**, brother of Jacob Lang (14) and the grandson of Dede and Marvin Lang and Carol and Richard Baran. Lucas is a 7th grader at The Bullis School, where his favorite subject is science. Lucas also enjoys soccer and tennis.



Olivia Moche will become a *Bat Mitzvah* on *Shabbat*, January 20, 2024. She is the daughter of **Margalit and Jason Moche**, the sister of Talia Moche (14) and Alexa Moche (7), and the granddaughter of Marsha and Allen Moche and Rabbi Stuart and Symcha Weinblatt. Olivia is in 6th grade and attends Ramaz in New York, where her favorite subject is math. She also enjoys basketball, making movies and skiing. She is still deciding on a *tzedakah* project, but knows it will have something to do with Israel. She will have guests attending from New York, Florida and Massachusetts.



Sara Chaya Perlis will become a *Bat Mitzvah* on *Shabbat*, February 17, 2024. She is the daughter of **Allison and Aaron Perlis**, the sister of Sam Perlis (15), Avis Perlis (10), and the granddaughter of Linda and Barry Perlis, Gail Moskowitz, and the late Richard Moskowitz. She is a 7th grader at McClean School, where her favorite subjects are math and PE. When she is not in school, Sara enjoys soccer and basketball. For her *Tzedakah* project Sara will be donating to Comfort Cases, an organization that supports kids in foster care. Sara will have out-of-town guests from California, North Carolina, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania.



Sierra Godes will become a *Bat Mitzvah* on *Shabbat*, February 24, 2024. She is the daughter of **Deborah and Scott Godes**, the sister of Fiona Godes (19), and the granddaughter of Richard and Doreen Godes, and Richard and Marcia Ringel. She is a 7th grader at Julius West Middle School, where her favorite subjects are English and Spanish. When she is not in school, Sierra enjoys dance (including ballet, tap, modern, lyrical, and jazz). She danced the lead role of Clara in the Nutcracker over the holidays. Sierra also enjoys helping with her mom's home bakery. For her *Tzedakah* project, she will have a bake sale and split the proceeds between No Kid Hungry and the Jewish National Fund. Sierra will have out-of-town guests coming from Florida, North Carolina, Illinois, California and New England.

IN THE CBT FAMILY

MAZEL TOV TO...

Jodi & Adam Berger on the birth of their daughter Fallyn Rose Berger
Danielle & Shaun Collins on the birth of their daughter Ava Elizabeth
Julie & Zachary Forrest on birth of their daughter Paige Mackenzie
Gail and Gary Kushner on the birth of their grandson, Oliver Wade Kushner
Daniel Steinway Matthew on the birth of his twin granddaughters, Bella and Bea
Jerry Stouck and Mindy Buren on the birth of their granddaughter, Esther
Melanie and Rene Moreno on the birth of their granddaughter, Isabelle Curiel Fitzgerald

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF

Hope Berman, mother of Blair Berman
Phylis Prussick, mother of Ron Prussick
Diane Schweber, wife of Saul Schweber
Neil Schor, brother of Lori Ulanow
Moises Steren, husband of Perla Steren and father of Fabiana Offit, Al Steren, John Steren and Marc Steren
Abram Vizhansky, father of Tamara Feldblyum

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rachel and David Berman
Henry and Rachel Brem
Alexandra and Adam Draiman
Joram and James Hopenfeld
Amanda and Adam Moskowitz
Anu Sharma Lazarus and James Lazarus
Lauren and Scott Selman
Robert Stillman

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Jill and Jason Martin, in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Olivia Martin
The Chernoff and Jacobson families, in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter and granddaughter, Hannah Chernoff
 Abigail's proud grandparents, **Etty & Avi Orgad and Ellen & Richard Miller**, in honor of her *Bat Mitzvah*
Lauren and Mark Miller, in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Peri
Nancy and Ami Sheintal, in honor of Ami's special 80th birthday and the safe return of our *Shaliach*, Ido Naaman
 Brianna's mother, **Mara Zusman**; Brianna's aunt and uncle, **Lisa and Jason Kravitz**; and Brianna's grandfather, **Randall Zusman**, in honor of Brianna's *Bat Mitzvah*

If you would like to sponsor a *kiddush*, contact the office at (301) 299-0225

DONATIONS

OCTOBER -NOVEMBER 2023

B'NAI MITZVAH GIFT FUND

Jason & Jill Martin in honor of Liane Aaron preparing
Olivia Martin for her *Bat Mitzvah*

BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

Ann & Mark Birns in memory of Moises Steren

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

Shelley and Joe Brodecki in appreciation of Cantor
Marshall Kapell for officiating at the baby-naming of
our granddaughter, Zoe Irena Furst

Jan & Richard Grossman in honor of The Cantor
Jason & Jill Martin in honor of Olivia Martin's *Bat Mitzvah*

Diane and Al Steren in honor of Cantor Kapell's
support at cemetery and leading *shiva* for Moises
Stere. B'nai Tzedek Supports Israel

CARING/GEMILUT CHESED FUND

Judy and Ric Erdheim in memory of Renee Cooper
The Fink Family in memory of Moises Steren
Barbara & Irv Guterman with best wishes to Staci Katz
in support of a full recovery

Barbara & Irv Guterman in memory of Moises Steren
Carolyn and Newt Plaisance in memory of Moises
Stere

Harvey Rumeld in memory of Moises Steren
Nancy & Ami Sheintal in memory of Moises Steren

ETERNAL LIGHT FUND

Avi Benaïm in memory of Moises Steren
Carol & Gary Berman in memory of Moises Steren,
husband of Perla Steren and father to Al Steren
Carol and Gary Berman in memory of Neil Schor,
brother of Lori Ulanow

Eliot D Cohen in memory of Barbara Susan Cohen
Joan Dorf in memory of Theodore Dorf & Shirley Haug
Lori & Bruce Dubinsky in honor of Moises Steren
Jeremy Fox in honor of State of Israel

Andrew & Helene Glick in memory of Henry Glick
Jill and Steven Gould in memory of Moises Steren
Kim Hall in memory of Moises Steren
Rachel Hess in memory of Moises Steren
Robin and Matthew Weinberg in memory of Moises
Stere

Roger and Luanne Karr in memory of Moises Steren
Vivian Levi in memory of Masliach Levis
Paula and David Lowe in memory of Dr. Moises Steren
Louis Marmon & Andrea Felzer Marmon in memory of
Moises Steren

Marvin & Barbara Menick in memory of Debbie Maytin
Esther & Barry Mourad in appreciation of all the prayers
Honey Nashman in memory of Moises Steren
Linda & Barry Perlis in memory of Herbert F. Sacks
Howard and Tricia Sachs in memory of Moises Steren
Laury, Lewis and the boys in memory of Moises Steren
Cheryl Huff & Michael Schlee in honor of May this
donation help shine a light on any Jewish family
during a time of loss and sadness

ETERNAL LIGHT FUND (continued)

Marsha & Richard Schuman in memory of Moises
Stere

Doug & Carol Sherman in memory of Rose Sherman
Caryn & Gary Silverman in memory of David Graber
Deborah Langer and Jonathan Shanfield in memory of
Moises Steren

Amy and Michael Stolker and family in memory of
Melissa McCormack

Denise Ulsney and Family in memory of Claire Licht
and Herman Sack

Jill and Michael Weinstein in memory of Sylvia Webman

FUTURE ENDOWMENT FUND

Robin Licht in memory of Myron Weinberg

GREENZAID EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER FUND

Evalyn and Kenny Cohn in memory of Moises Steren
Stanley Smerin in memory of Isadore Smerin

HIDDUR FUND

Matthew Bogin & Eily Stashowerm in memory of Neil
Schor

JEWISH CONTINUITY FUND

Lois & Merrill Kramer in memory of Dr. Moises Steren

LANE FAMILY CHILDREN'S SHABBAT FUND

Lauren & Jordan Cooper in honor of the naming of
Maia Sadie Cooper

MITZVAH FUND

Tamara & Richard Haskin in memory of Moises Steren
Melissa and Andy Polott in memory of Moises Steren

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Amy Polinger In honor and loving memory of Eleanore
& Bernard Gann

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jason Martin in honor of Olivia Martin's *Bat Mitzvah*
Orit Sasson in honor of Natalie Wollman's *Bat Mitzvah*
Ede and Bruce Slovin in memory of Moises Steren
Gina & Dan Steinway in appreciation of Rabbi

Weinblatt for the wonderful naming ceremony for
their granddaughters Bella and Bea Steinway
Diane and Al Steren in appreciation of Rabbi
Weinblatt's support for the family, funeral and *shiva*
of Moises Steren

Anonymous in honor of Karen Wolf

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Steven Braunstein in memory of Moises Steren
Carole & Alan Kuritzky in memory of Nina Adler
Carole & Alan Kuritzky in memory of Clarence Kuritzky

TEACHER RECOGNITION FUND

Roger and Luanne Karr in memory of Hilda Karr

TORAH FUND

Susan & Eric Raps in memory of Moises Steren
The Teplinsky Family in honor of Ido Naaman
The Teplinsky Family in memory of The Victims of the
Simchat Torah Attack

W. LANGFAN ISRAEL FUND

The Chmara Family in memory of Moises Steren
Orit Sasson in honor of Natalie Wollman's *Bat Mitzvah*

WEINBERG/SCHIFF ISRAEL QUEST FUND

Robyn Licht in memory of Myron Weinberg

SHARE WITH US...

Please inform the synagogue
of any significant life events,
births, engagements,
weddings, anniversaries, job
changes, so we can be in
touch and include it in future
Scrolls so we can say
MAZEL TOV as a community.



For those of
you who live
in Florida all
of part of the
year, please share
with us your phone
and address to
marketing@cbtpotomac.org so
that we can notify you when we
have events there.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, WE
WILL LIST DONORS TO
THE SUPPORTER'S FUND
AND RABBI'S CIRCLE.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

KEY: ■ = Events for all ■ = Events for adults ■ = Events for children and families

JANUARY 2024

Friday

6:30 pm
L'Dor Vador,
Birthday
Blessings
Service

5

Saturday

11:00 am
Tot Shabbat w/
Lisa Baydush

6

Friday

7:30 pm
MLK Shabbat
Dinner With...
Congress-
man
Glenn Ivey

12

Monday

10:00 am
GECC MLK Pack
& Play Day

15

Saturday

7:30 pm
Cocktails with
Rabbi Stuart
& Symcha
Weinblatt

20

FEBRUARY 2024

Friday

6:30 pm
L'Dor Vador,
Birthday
Blessings
Service

2

Saturday

11:00 am
Tot Shabbat w/
Lisa Baydush

3

Sunday

5:00 pm
Cooking with
Lisa & Daryl
Shapiro:
Matzah Ball
Soup

4

Sunday

9:00 am
World Wide
Wrap

11

Saturday

9:30 am
Inclusion
Shabbat

17

Sunday

2:00 pm
Theatre@
CBT Presents
Matilda

18

Monday

11:00 pm
GECC President's
Day Concert

19

Friday

7:30 pm
Shabbat Dinner
With...Rabbi
Salkin

23

Saturday

5:30 pm
PJ
Havdalah

24

Thursday

7:00 pm
Movie Night

29

COMING SOON:

- 3/8-10 Scholar in Residence Weekend with Rabbi Telushkin
- 3/17 Hachnasat Torah: Welcoming Our New Torah
- 5/19 Rabbi Weinblatt's Retirement Gala



SERVICES:

- Services- In-person Friday evenings at 6:30 pm, Saturday mornings at 9:30 am
- Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am
- Weekdays (Monday - Thursday) at 7:00 pm on Zoom





Building Community Together

10621 South Glen Road
Potomac, MD 20854
www.bnaitzedek.org

THE ART OF THE ISRAELI SALAD WITH IDO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH AT 6:30 PM

Celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* with CBT by learning how to make the perfect Israeli salad.

Our *Shaliach*, Ido, will also discuss the current agricultural crisis in Israel and how we can help!



This program is for ages 11 and up.
\$10 pp. Register at bnaitzedek.org

Supported by the William Langfan Israel Fund
and the Mersky Myles Family Holiday Fund



B'nai Tzedek Celebrates Israel