

Beth Tikvah
B'nai Jeshurun

בית תקוה בני ישורון

MAY/JUNE 2020
IYAR - SIVAN 5780

BTBJ...Where You Belong! *The Ruach!*

We are all
in this
together

To all **WORKERS** who serve our community and keep us healthy

WE THANK YOU



2 Journeys: One Will End, One Will Not

Joss Whedon said...

You take people, you put them on a journey, you give them peril, you find out who they really are.

No one knew the journey that the world would have to take to address and battle the corona virus.

The plague has claimed 180,000 lives worldwide; over 44,000 in the United States alone.

We have never seen our country like this.

Times Square empty at noon.

Baseball parks abandoned.

Streets with little traffic.

People standing 6 feet apart.

We will never forget how the outbreak of corona has changed the world and our lives.

May this journey that we are all taking end *bimhaira vi'yamainu mamash – speedily in our time!*

May this journey be taken responsibly by our leaders and by ourselves.

May we follow the advice of scientific and medical experts.

May we not rush to recongregate too soon lest a second outbreak of the virus prove more debilitating than the first.

May we wear our masks, wash our hands, keep our distance and do all we can to stay healthy and safe.

May we appreciate all the medical personnel, first responders and others who are putting their well-being and their lives on the line daily to minister and to save others.

We are all on a journey that the corona virus has forced us to take. It is a journey filled with peril, resulting in thousands dead and sick. The way we handle this journey for ourselves and for others will define who we really are. May we do the things and

say the words that will make us feel proud about how we are taking this journey for the individual and collective good – day by day until it is over!

Walt Whitman wrote...

I tramp a perpetual journey.

During this season Jews the world over are taking a journey from slavery to freedom, from Pesach to Shavuot, through the days of *Sefirat HaOmer*, the Counting of the Omer.

Part of this journey will end.

Our ancestors exited Egypt. The years of slavery came to an end.

Our ancestors reached Mt. Sinai and received the Torah. That stage of their journey concluded, then they continued on their journey.

Joshua led the people into Canaan, the Promised Land. They conquered and settled the land. That part of the process also was completed.

This year, we too have completed segments of our Jewish journeys.

Pesach has come and gone. Unbelievably, we celebrated Seders on line. We sat together yet apart. We ate matzah, said the 4 questions and asked, "When do we eat?"

Pesach has come and gone. Now our sights are on Shavuot, known as *Zman Matan Toratenu*, the season of the giving of the Torah.

Tikufat Sefirat HaOmer, the period of the Counting of the Omer began on the 2nd night of Pesach and lasts for 49 days. Each evening, Jews count the number of days until Shavuot, enumerating both the number of weeks and the number of days that have elapsed. This mitzvah is found in the Torah in Leviticus 23 that enjoins us to do the daily counting.

The Counting of the Omer will also end. Wednesday, May 27th we will count the final night and day, then celebrate Shavuot on Thursday night, May 28th with our annual night of study, our Layl Tikkun Shavuot that evening. We'll have Yizkor Memorial services on the first day of Shavuot this year, on Friday, May 29th with morning services beginning at 10:00 am. Lily Bentley will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah that Shabbat. Sunday morning May 31st we'll present Confirmation exercises beginning at 10:30 am.

RABBI GRIFE (CONTINUED)

All these events will come and go. We'll conclude the days of the Omer, Shavuot and Confirmation.

But, in the spirit of Walt Whitman, the perpetual journey of studying, receiving and living a life of Torah must never end!!

The rabbis asked, "Why is Shavuot called the time of the giving of the Torah, not the receiving of the Torah?"

One answer is that while the Torah was only given once, at Mt. Sinai circa mid-13th century BCE, we constantly receive the Torah, its knowledge, lessons and wisdom into our hearts, minds and lives throughout our entire lives.

The greatest Jewish scholar is thrilled when he is labelled a "*Talmid Chacham* – a wise student". That is because one should never stop learning all of one's days!

As soon as we complete the Torah on Simchat Torah, we immediately recommence its reading. Why? Didn't we just hear and learn the stories? One, because there is always something new to learn. Two, this time we are a year older and wiser and able to understand it on a different hopefully higher level. For these reasons and more, we should be eager to reread the Torah every year of our lives!

So, my friends, we are all travelling on the journeys of our lives including the pursuit of attaining all that a life living Jewishly can impart to us.

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 3 teaches, "*Lakol zman, vi'et li'chol chaifetz tachat hashamayim* – there is a time for everything; a season set for every purpose underneath the heavens."

There is a time for things to end; a time for things not to end.

The end to the devastation that corona has already wrought can't come too soon. We lament each and every life that has been lost. We sympathize with every person who has lost a loved one or has a loved one who is ill. We'll give thanks for every life saved and every life spared. We'll give thanks to everyone who helped others along this journey.

President George Bush said in the wake of 9/11...

A great people must defend a great nation.

Let us be that great people! Let us defend our great nation by doing all we can to battle corona! Let us prove victorious because we have the will, the strength and the vision to see this fight through to the end!

But pursuing a life of Torah should never end. Each day presents us with a new opportunity to learn and to grow, to seek, to understand, to accomplish and to advance. Every day supplies us with a chance to do a mitzvah to improve ourselves and the world, to learn a lesson that will refine our souls, to gain new perspectives to bring us peace. Many journeys end. But I hope that our desire to grow and improve and polish our souls with the help of all that the Torah and Judaism has to offer...

In the spirit of President Bush's words,
May the great Jewish people rise up to embrace and uphold our great Tradition mi'dor la'dor – from one generation to the next!

That's a sacred and worthwhile journey that I hope will never end!!

I wish everyone a healthy, safe and optimistic spring and Omer season!!



Rabbi Roni Handler
Director of
Congregational
Learning/Associate
Rabbi

Each year our students build on their base of Jewish learning and practice as they become more knowledgeable and compassionate Jewish people. The objectives of each grade include mitzvot connected to specific holidays, those that are between us and other people and those that are between us and God. As important as all of these mitzvot might be in their own time and place, we also learn that they can be pushed aside in favor of saving another human life. This principle is known as pikuach nefesh.

Needless to say, this Spring has not unfolded as any of us might have imagined. Instead of playing baseball and lacrosse on the fields, learning with friends in school and religious school, and looking forward to recitals, proms and trips, most of us have been heeding Governor Wolf's orders to stay-at-home. Every day we stay home, keep our distance, and adjust to this current situation as we enact this principle of pikuach nefesh, taking care of ourselves and those most vulnerable in our society. And, of course, words cannot begin to express our gratitude and appreciation for those who cannot stay-at-home. All of our BTBJ members and those in our community who continue to go to work each day as doctors, nurses, first responders, funeral directors and other essential workers. Thank you for all you do!

It has been a joy to see some of your faces in virtual services and classes. But I miss greeting you at the door on Tuesday afternoons, seeing grown-ups in the carpool line, and hearing the laughter and excitement fill the halls of BTBJ as our students learn with their friends and teachers.

I want to thank all of the parents, students and teachers who pivoted so quickly in March. Our teachers have continued to adapt their teaching and experiment with new technology, and they look forward to thinking about how they might even apply what they have learned into their teaching in future years! While we know that nothing can replace the joy of gathering together in-person or the type of instruction that is made possible in that environment, it has been amazing to observe all of the incredible learning and connecting that has continued virtually over these last several weeks.

Please mark your calendar for our virtual l'hitraot! We will join together by Zoom for a closing program on Sunday, May 17th! We will have a chance to look back on our year with a fun slideshow, give awards for Shabbat attendance, Shabbatstar (the person who attended the most services this year), and our Better 2Write Essay contest winner! Stay tuned for more information and the Zoom link.

TODAH RABBAH (a HUGE thank you) to everyone who helped to make this year possible: students, parents, teachers, teen aides, BTBJ office and maintenance staff, members of the Religious School Committee and Religious School Parent Support Group, and, of course, Rabbi Grife, Cantor Benjamin, Valarie Hurwitz, Kathy Gordon and our religious school administrative assistant-Mindy Davidoff! Everyone in this community pours their hearts and souls into caring for each other and keeping this community strong.

Though our Summer plans may still be uncertain, may you go in peace (bo'achem l'shalom) and return to your BTBJ community in peace (tzetchem l'shalom). We hope and pray we can soon join together again in person!

Family Virtual
Quizzo Night
May 17, 2020
7:00 pm



NANCY CENTER
President

I hope this message finds you well during these unprecedented days. This is a great time to reflect on what positive changes might transpire from our “stay at home” experience. It has forced most of us to slow down for a little and realize what is most important; our health, our family and our friends. Many of our ancestors have experienced trying times in their lives and as Jews we have always been able to move forward and come out stronger. Right now we might not be together in our building but we can still be together spiritually and emotionally. I hope you have taken the opportunity to visit us via Zoom.

I want to thank all of our staff; the teachers, clergy, custodial and office staff for going above and beyond for our BTBJ family. Our preschool and religious school teachers are all reaching out to their students via Zoom and trying to continue our community virtually as much as possible. Our clergy have had Zoom sessions almost every day and we have had wonderful attendance during these events. Our custodial staff has been working doing a thorough cleaning of the building and taking care of some other maintenance needs. I also want to show gratitude to our wonderful office staff led by Val for making sure that we were successful in applying early for the Payroll Protection Plan Loan under the Cares Act.

Our Executive Board along with our Executive Advisory Board and our Board of Directors have been working tirelessly to make sure that we are very fiscally responsible at BTBJ during these very trying times. Please know that BTBJ went into this pandemic having had one of our most successful fundraisers ever, our timing could not have been better. We are looking at our budget closely and will continue to monitor it regularly. We are confident that with the support of our community, we will get through this together and be stronger.

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to be the President of this wonderful community for the past two years. I have enjoyed getting to know many of

you more personally during my tenure and I hope that continues. For any of you that have considered being more involved in BTBJ, please contemplate it seriously. We have such an amazing community that I am so proud to have led and I am sure you would feel the same way if you give yourself the opportunity. Thank you for all the support along the way and I look forward to seeing the continued growth under the new regime.

Thank you all again for your support of BTBJ and myself as your leader.

Sincerely,

Nancy Center President BTBJ

Mazel Tov To:

Tobi Farbstein for winning First Prize in the First Annual George Lieber Essay Contest on Resistance through Gettysburg College. Tobi won a thousand dollar scholarship to any college and Gettysburg College published her essay in their library and online webpage.

Our Sincere Condolences to:

Lori Chiara and family on the passing of their beloved grandmother and great grandmother, **Bernice Lipkin**.

Rabbi David Klatzker and family on the passing of their beloved wife and mother, **Randy Katz**.

Jayne Krauss and family on the passing of their beloved grandmother and great grandmother, **Janice Spieller**.

Marla Sones and family on the passing of their beloved former husband and stepfather, **Ray Gardner**.



David Barrist, Men's Club President

The last song on Billy Joel's final pop / rock studio album, "River of Dreams" was titled: "Famous Last Words." In a sense, I feel like that is what I am writing. When I accepted the nomination to be President of BTBJ's Men's Club, a 2-year term seemed like an eternity. Honestly, it feels like just yesterday and at the same time; ten years ago.

Much like all of you, my emotions run from feeling fulfilled to being cheated out of the final three months of my Presidency. If you've read my previous submissions to this newsletter, the glass is never half empty; always more than half full. As a BTBJ Community, we need to be strong and supportive for those who have lost much more than just a few months of events and programming.

My daughter Hope and her high school senior peers have lost the entire second half of their senior year. This is something that cannot be rescheduled. Time with friends and classmates; gone. Time to properly thank teachers and say good-bye; gone. Their trip to Disney World, spring sports, prom, a last march through the elementary schools, graduation; gone. We will get through whatever virtual graduation schools will offer. Then, there's the looming possibility that their freshman year in college will also be online.

This COVID-19 Coronavirus is a nightmare of a daily news story and frightening statistics until it hits home. As many of you know, I battled the virus for a couple of weeks. I am fully recovered. My father (at time of publication) has been hospitalized for over a month. Thankfully, he is on the path to recovery. Others are not as fortunate. We all directly or indirectly know or heard of someone whose life was cut short by this dreaded pandemic. While remaining socially cautious, we can all assist those who may desperately need. I have always been proud of BTBJ for being the small community who makes the effort of those ten times the size. Right now, we are needed in every way imaginable.

One day, hopefully soon, the curve will flatten, and life will evolve back to some sort of normal. When it does, BTBJ will be stronger than ever. The efforts of the staff, clergy, teachers, and board of directors have been unbelievable. I always say that you never fully appreciate someone's worth until you see them in the face of adversity. BTBJ leadership: A+++

Moving forward, Men's Club will not miss a beat. I am thrilled that Michael Seeherman will succeed me as President of the Men's Club. Michael's passion for BTBJ will ensure that our Men's Club will soar to boundless heights.

While Michael Seeherman's leadership is the future, I must thank the present and past. Our Board of Directors is what has made serving as President so fulfilling. Words cannot express how much I have enjoyed working and getting to know all of our Men's Club leaders. Over my two-year term, directors and officers of the Men's Club have included: Michael Seeherman, Steve Flaks, Warren Chiara, Rich Schindler, Art Verbit, Rob Slutsky, Fred Weissberger, Peter Ghosh, David Kaganovsky, Howard Cohen, David Nuddle, Jon Picker, Joe Valentine, Michael Drossner, Aaron Soowal, Sam Friedman, and Matt Bloch.

Last and certainly should be first, I want to thank our members and member-sponsors. Without your participation and support the Men's Club, quite literally, would not exist. In the not-too-distant future, we will be counting on your engagement again; more than ever! While I cannot name every member, I CAN properly acknowledge and thank our sponsors: Howard Cohen, Michael Drossner, Tom Haley, and Rob Slutsky. Finally a special thank you to our "Chai 360, Circle of Life" sponsors: Bruce Engleman, David Kaganovsky, Mike Levy, David Nuddle, Brett Schwartz, Matt Schwenderman, Joe Valentine, and Stan Weisbaum.

So, in Billy Joel's words: "These are the last words I have to say. It's always hard to say goodbye. But now it's time to put this book away. And that's the story of my life."

Thank you BTBJ Community for allowing me to serve as your Men's Club President. It has been an honor.

Humbly Yours,

David Barrist



Jen Schindler

Wendy Kurtz

Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Over the past weeks I have often referred to the pandemic as a B rated horror flick, however, today I would like to focus on The GOOD coming from this time we have all spent at home.

- Extra time with my 2020 High School Student – Becca has grown into an impressive young woman. She is an extremely social individual. As a Senior and 18-year-old, she was rarely home in the evenings this school year. Working, school events, wing night, all kept her busy. She had found her wings and was able to fly. Then came March 13th and the Stay at Home order for Montgomery County and the schools were closed. Her Senior Year halted and everything she was looking forward to for four years was taken away, the Senior Class Trip, Senior Class Banquet, Prom and Graduation. Completely crushed, she has leaned on us a little. Needing daily hugs, jokes to make her laugh, sad shows to help her cry, Netflix Parties to bond with friends and some birthday drive-bys to get her out of the house. I am cherishing all the time I have with her now, because I know this will be the last time, we will have her attention for this long. She is sick of being home with us. However, at the same time, Becca is grateful that she has a warm, safe home, plenty to eat, time to learn how to bake and a basement workout space to release some of the stress she is feeling. My heart aches for all 2020 graduates and all they have missed, both high school and college, but this extra time is a gift that I am taking advantage of.

- Catching up with friends – Not only am I going on Zoom with friends that I usually keep in touch with, but I am also taking the time to go on calls with people I have not seen for 30 years. My BBYO Region did a reunion call and over 50 Alumni joined in. Even the “kids” I led on a BBYO trip through Israel in 1995, reached out to me and invited me on a group chat and Zoom call with them. I always speak with my closest friends from college at least once a week, but now we are doing WhatsApp and Zoom calls, happy hours and the like. It would have been so easy to do before the quarantine, but we never did. Now, we do not want to stop them, even when life gets back to a sort of normal. I am choosing to cherish this time connecting.

- Celebrating the milestones – 2 of our Sisterhood members’ sons became B’nai Mitzvah in the past two weeks. I was overjoyed to help them celebrate, by being on their Zoom services. A hardy Mazel Tov to Stephanie Barrie on Josh becoming a Bar Mitzvah and to Alison Spector on Evan also becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Each of you looked so proud at the end of your service. Congratulations to your families as well.

- Being there for friends – along with the celebrations, I have had 3 friends who lost parents during this time. While I was unable to give actual hugs, sitting in on the Zoom Services and Shivas has allowed me to learn so much about their parent who passed. Extended family members are very eager to share their stories about their loved one. I know it is a huge comfort to those who are mourning to hear those stories. The stories are what will allow their beloved parent to live on.

- Sisterhood Connections – While we had to cancel a few of our Spring programs, we decided to add 2 new ones to our calendar. Please put down these dates:

- o Thursday, May 7th – Baking with Stephanie and Recipe Swap – on Zoom, Sign-up & Ingredient List to be sent later this week.

- o Monday, 18th – Virtual BINGO – Gift Card Prizes for each winner! – No Cost to You to Play.

We hope to see you in the coming weeks! Take deep breaths, walks (we all need our vitamin D!) and know that our members are here to support you if you need ANYTHING!

Save the Dates!

2 Sisterhood Virtual Zoom Programs
for May 2020

Thursday, May 7th, 2020
7:30 pm

**Cooking with
Stephanie (Barrie)
& Recipe Swap**

Mandel Bread
Ingredients list to be
sent with invite
We all have been
making the same meals during
quarantine, share a yummy recipe
with the group. Directions on how to
share recipes are coming.



Monday, May 18th, 2020
7:30 pm

Virtual BINGO!

Free for Sisterhood Members
Prizes for all winners
Sign-ups will be necessary to
receive BINGO cards via email
ahead of time. Keep an eye out for
the invitation.



Hay Move Up Day

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

7:00 p.m.
(Zoom)

**Mazel Tov to our Hay
Class Graduates!**

- Joshua Barrie**
- Lily Bentley**
- Matthew Brucker**
- Molly Feinberg**
- Benjamin Getson**
- Claire Getson**
- Reese Gittleman**
- Matthew Hay**
- Emma Hoffman**
- Lauren Hoffman**
- Naomi Hoffman**
- Eliana Kaganovsky**
- Dean Kaiser**
- Wills Kaiser**
- Dorey Levinton**
- Lukas Markovitz**
- Elana Meltzer**
- Matthew Miller**
- Mya Pettine**
- Avery Plon**
- Jemmi Seeherman**
- Evan Spector**
- Jacob Steinberg**
- Seth Walcoff**

Our Early Childhood Center Graduates



Walter Albert
Scarlett Baglin
Josseline Deiley
James Gayl
Levi Hackman
Bailey Kurtz
Isla Powell
Jordan Rosenfeld
Danica Treitel

Teachers:
Leanne & Amy

BTBJ Early Childhood Center Bright Stars

Alexis Braverman
Kellan Colby
Tyler Davidoff
Madison Goldblum
Chloe Knox
Reece Marks
Aiden Rothberg
Frank Stake
Max Wolf

Teachers:
Lori & Robin



BTBJ Early Childhood Center Super Stars

Confirmation Services

*You are Cordially
Invited to Attend
Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun
Confirmation Services
Sunday, May 31, 2020 6 Sivan 5780
Virtual Services 10:30 a.m.*



*Zoe Gittleman
Daughter of Ariane and
Jeffrey Gittleman*



*Rayna Handis
Daughter of
Rachel and Lee Handis*



*Julia Levinson
Daughter of Sharon Levinson
and Brett Levinson*



*Bryan Spector
Son of
Janice and Richard Spector*



*Dylan Smith
Son of
Elissa and Mark Smith*



*Halle Schwartzman
Daughter of Beth and
David Schwartzman*

Our Annual

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Thursday, May 28, 2020

beginning 9:00 p.m.

A Night of Havdalah & Study

**"Tonight's Study Program:
Rabbi Saul Grife
teaching Daf Yomi"**

**All are cordially invited to welcome the
holiday of Shavuot, known as the
"Season of the Giving of the Torah"
with this exciting annual night of
Torah study!**



May and June definitely did not end up being the way we planned! This has all taken us to a new world of remote learning and isolation that we would never think of.

Despite all of this, it is truly AMAZING to see our BTBJ families rise to the occasion and be there for one another. Whether it is zooming on services, a shiva call, religious school, meet-ings...EVERYONE has been there to support one another which is what makes BTBJ such a special place to belong.

Continue to use the zoom links to stay connected to our community! We recently hosted a virtual talent show after havdalah and it was wonderful to see so much talent in our religious school. We had the Gayl siblings dancing, Brody Smith playing familiar tunes on the clarinet, a Speigel family lip sync, the Goldstein sisters singing and dancing and Bayla Rosen lip syncing.

We are sad that the school year will come to a close without all of us being physically together in school but hopefully the summer and fall will be a different story. We have really enjoyed being your RSPSG co chairs this year and look forward to continuing to add activities and events to make our school year fun and engaging. A HUGE thank you to Sherri Drossner who spearheaded the Home Room parents as well as Elissa Smith who took charge of the office volunteers. Thank you to all of our Home Room parents, office volunteers and every other parent that helped out in one way or another. Hopefully you will think about helping out again next year as well as all of our office helpers.

Please stay safe and healthy! We miss seeing you!

As we look forward to the 2020-2012 school year, we are ALWAYS looking for suggestions that make BTBJ the most amazing place to be!

Fondly-
Terri Rosen and Rachel Handis
RSPSG Co-Chairs

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

To all **WORKERS** who serve our community and keep us healthy

WE THANK YOU

Paramedic Anna Morgan, Whitmarsh Ambulance.



Asst. Chief Christian Reiner, Ambler Ambulance Springfield station.



Alexis Bentley, Robin Connell and Perry Swartz delivering meals to our First Responders

Thank you!





**Matthew Miller
Son of
Gayle and Richard
Brother of Seth
Becomes a
Bar Mitzvah on
May 9, 2020**

We are excited to share in Matthew's next chapter in his life - becoming a Bar Mitzvah!

Matthew is in seventh grade at Sandy Run Middle School in Upper Dublin. Matthew loves playing almost any sport. Matthew has studied for his Bar Mitzvah throughout three seasons of sports – fall is soccer (for the 7th grade school team and the year round township travel team), winter is intramural basketball, and spring was supposed to be lacrosse (for the 7th grade school team and the township travel team).

Matthew has a strong Jewish identity and commitment to give back Judaically as well. Matthew has also participated in the Junior Maccabi Games the last two summers.

During the summer, Matthew attends overnight camp at Bridgton Sports Camp for three weeks in North Bridgton, Maine. This upcoming summer will be his 5th year attending Bridgton.

Matthew was awarded the SHINE Award at his school for exceptional character in the following traits: Selflessness, Humility, Integrity, Nobility and Empathy.

Due to his love of sports, Matthew has chosen for his mitzvah project to help with the Special Olympics. From January until the shutdown, Matthew has assisted at Friday night practices for the Titan basketball team that meets at the North Penn YMCA. Matthew enjoys being able to share his love of sports with this special community. Matthew hopes to continue this mitzvah as his schedule permits in the future.

We are proud of the young man Matthew has become. He has learned patience, understanding and acceptance of others in unique situations. We continue to be amazed at the decisions he makes. We look forward to sharing in all his future accomplishments.



**Elana Fay Meltzer
Daughter of
Dana and Joshua
Sister of Sara
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
May 23, 2020
(Virtual)
Rescheduled Date
January 16, 2021**

Elana Fay Meltzer is a seventh grader at Sandy Run Middle School. She has been an active member of our Jewish community since age two, through her participation in BTBJ's Preschool, Religious School and holiday celebrations.

Elana loves dance and music, performing in recitals most of her life. She loves art, especially drawing and painting. Elana is creative and – like many artists – is often able to see something special that others may miss. She is independent, sensitive and thoughtful, often happy to follow her own path. Elana has a special bond with and kindness for all animals, especially her dog Maisie and her rabbit, Angelina. Elana enjoys reading and spending time with her friends. She loves her summers at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, where she has made wonderful friendships.

We are proud of Elana and the wonderful young woman she has become, and we are excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with her friends and family. Elana will read her Haftarah portion and Maftir on May 23, 2020, and her Bat Mitzvah service and celebration will be on January 16, 2021.

We would like to thank Cantor Benjamin, Rabbi Grife, Rabbi Roni and all of Elana's other religious school educators for helping her prepare for her Bat Mitzvah and reach this joyous milestone.



**Lily Bentley
Daughter of
Alexis and Christopher
Sister of Aaron
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
May 30, 2020
(Virtual)
Rescheduled Date
November 7, 2020**

We are so excited for Lily's upcoming Bat Mitzvah on May 30th, 2020. Lily began her Jewish education early on as a preschool student at the Terry Lynne Lokoff Daycare center (FELS). She became part of the Primary program at BTBJ at the age of 5 and has been an active participant in all of the Jewish education programs BTBJ has to offer. Lily has a strong connection to her Jewish identity and volunteers with the Gan and Nitzanim classrooms. She enjoys helping the younger children begin their religious school experience and looks forward to her continued volunteer work with BTBJ's religious school students in the upcoming years.

Lily Paige Bentley is a 7th grade student at Colonial Middle School and is on the distinguished honor roll. She began dance classes and gymnastics at a very early age. Although she enjoyed competing on the Philadelphia Gymnastics intramural team, Lily decided to commit her time to what she enjoys most, dance. Lily is extremely dedicated as evidenced by her participation in various styles of dance, including lyrical, jazz, street jazz, ballet, modern and hip hop. She is a member of the Junior Hip-Hop company and the Institute of Dance Artistry's Repertory Company. She has performed at the Philadelphia 76er's games, Abramson Jewish Center, Kisses for Kyle (a foundation that benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society) dance marathon and Generations benefit as well as Philadelphia Phoenix games. She had performed in numerous choreography showcases. Lily shines on and off the stage.

Lily has attended Twin Spring Farm Day Camp since she was 6 years old. She also attends Camp Lindenmere in the Poconos for 3 weeks each summer. This year will be her 4th summer at Lindenmere. Lily enjoys various activities at Camp Lindenmere including theater, art classes, lake activities and outdoor adventures. In her first summer at camp, Lily majored in Newspaper writing and contributed to several articles in the Lindenmere Newsletter. Last summer Lily had a lead role in the summer production of The Wizard of Oz.

For Lily's Bat Mitzvah project she has decided to focus on the issue of homelessness. Lily is raising money to provide blessing bags to a Philadelphia homeless shelter. To help raise funds, Lily is working with the owner of the Institute of Dance Artistry to coordinate a fundraiser showcase performance. Lily is helping to recruit dancers and market the event. The event was originally scheduled to happen in early May, however we anticipate that it will need to be rescheduled to a time after Lily's Bat Mitzvah.

Our family is immensely proud of Lily for all of her accomplishments and her commitment to Judaism. This simcha would not have been possible without the support and efforts of her BTBJ family. We would like to thank Rabbi Grife, Rabbi Roni, Rabbi Isabel, Cantor Greenfield, Sharon Levinson, Valarie Hurwitz and all of the religious school teachers for their support and guidance to help Lily become a Bat Mitzvah!





**Juliana Ghosh
Daughter of
Sarah and Peter
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
June 6, 2020
(Virtual)
Rescheduled Date
December 12, 2020**

Juliana Ghosh is a seventh grader at Sandy Run Middle School, and has been part of the BTBJ family since 2016. While Juliana participates in activities with the Hay class, she is continuing her Jewish education attending Hebrew school classes at Gratz College as part of a program for students who had attended Jewish Day school, and are currently attending public school.

Juliana is part of the chorus and select chorus at her middle school, and was recently in her school's production of Aladdin Junior. She is also a member of HaZaPrep, the middle school division of HaZamir, a Jewish Choir with members in the United States and Israel. Her love of music also extends to playing piano, singing show tunes and pop music, as well as dancing. Juliana is part of the Nava Nritya Dance Academy, where she studies classic Indian dance, and is part of their annual charity dance recital. She has been playing rec soccer for Upper Dublin Township for the past seven years, and enjoys playing goalie and offense. Juliana is also involved in Girl Scouts. She will receive her silver award, a leadership and community service award for teaching the 3-5 age groups of preschoolers at BTBJ about plants, as well as building a garden bed at BTBJ and planting herbs and vegetables with her fellow Girl Scouts.

There were two mitzvah projects that Juliana completed. One project was to collect sanitary products for a charity in India affiliated with her dance academy. Two large suitcases were filled, and the sanitary products collected

were brought over and given to those in need. Her second project was delivering meals to the needy with her Dad through the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA). Even during the pandemic, Juliana helped to deliver food to those in need, including 2 holocaust survivors.

We are proud and excited for Juliana to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah both virtually and in person with our family, friends and BTBJ congregation. Juliana has worked hard, and we are grateful that she has had such heartfelt support and guidance from Rabbi Grife, Rabbi Roni, Cantor Benjamin, Marcie Leshner and Val Hurwitz - thank you!

Please send us information regarding:

**Your high school graduate
Your college graduate
Your post-college graduate
and**

**Tell us about all Honors, Awards,
Scholarships and future plans.
We will be placing a Graduation section in
our Summer Newsletter
and would be honored to share your
information with our
Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun Families.**

**Send notices to:
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CLASS
of
2020



**Kai Silverman
Son of
Jodi and Lee
Brother of Caleb
Becomes a
Bar Mitzvah on
June 6, 2020
(Virtual)**

Kai and his family are excited for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah on June 6, 2020. Although the celebration has been moved to the fall, we are looking forward to a meaningful service which will be live streamed via Zoom and Facebook to friends and family all over the country on Kai's original June date. Kai started in BTBJ Preschool at 3 years old where he became immersed in Jewish traditions and teachings. BTBJ is where Kai met his closest friends whom he calls "brothers" to this day. Over the past 5 years he has reinforced his connection to Judaism through summers at NJY overnight camp.

Kai is currently in 6th grade at Colonial Middle School where he is excelling academically. Outside of school his passion is basketball which he loves to play whether on an organized team, at the playground with friends or in our driveway with his big brother Caleb. He is described by coaches and teammates as a team player who never gives up. Kai also loves history and science. His dream is to travel the world so he can learn about all different cultures. He has grown especially fond of Israel through Moreh Sharon's teachings.

For his mitzvah project Kai chose to help his dad distribute chromebooks to children in the School District of Philadelphia during the COVID-19 shutdown. He is passionate around helping others and making sure that people have what they need.

We wish to thank Rabbi Roni, Rabbi Grife, Cantor Benjamin and Moreh Sharon for helping to prepare Kai for his Bar Mitzvah. A special shout out to the BTBJ community for the support and flexibility over the years, but especially during these unprecedented times.



**Matthew Edward Brucker
Son of
Heather and Scott
Brother of
David and Marissa
Becomes a
Bar Mitzvah on
June 13, 2020
(Virtual)
Rescheduled
November 14, 2020**

We are always proud of Matthew, and watching his resilience and maturity as he prepares for his big day during this time of tremendous uncertainty has given us great joy. If we cannot be together at BTBJ to celebrate this milestone with Matthew, our family and friends will Zoom and rejoice in hearing him read from the Torah as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah. We will also celebrate with extended family and friends when it is safe to do so, and we look forward to that day.

Matthew is in 7th grade at Colonial Middle School, where he is a distinguished honors student. Matthew was a member of the 4 on 4 For A Cure Basketball Tournament committee, and has been an active participant in school and township travel sports teams for many years. Matthew loves to play basketball and soccer, and is a huge fan of all professional sports. Recently, he has started watching competitive NBA HORSE tournaments on ESPN, demonstrating his willingness to take whatever he can get and make lemonade out of lemons.

Matthew is adored by David and Marissa, who each share a special relationship with him. Marissa recently observed how much the three of them have in common, now that Matthew has become a teenager. As parents, it is a pleasure to watch them enjoy being together, especially during quarantine. Matthew is also blessed to have all four of his grandparents to share this special milestone, and he will be surrounded by a large extended family who will travel from near and far or happily Zoom in, whatever the case may be.

Matthew has spent the past five summers at Camp Canadensis, and is hopeful that there will be camp this summer. For his Mitzvah Project, Matthew started collecting gently used sneakers to be donated to

children in need throughout Philadelphia through Our Closet, an organization that is powered by JFCS. Matthew has shifted his mitzvah focus due to the pandemic and is now completing many small and ongoing mitzvot for his community with his family. He will return to collecting sneakers when it is safe to do so.

We would like to thank Rabbi Grife, Cantor Benjamin, Rabbi Roni, Naomi Bright Lerman, and Valarie Hurwitz, along with all of Matthew's religious school teachers, especially Sharon Levinson, who helped prepare him for his big day. A special thank you goes to all of the lay leaders and professional staff of BTBJ who work so hard behind the scenes to help our incredible community survive and thrive. We will get through this pandemic together.

BTBJ Board and Annual Meeting



Wednesday
May 27, 2020
7:00 p.m.



Lauren Hoffman
Daughter of
Elizabeth and BJ
Sister of Rachel
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
June 20, 2020
(Virtual)

We are so delighted to be celebrating Lauren's Bat Mitzvah with family, friends, and the BTBJ community. We are immensely proud of Lauren and all of her accomplishments! Her fun-loving and lighthearted nature truly brings us joy and smiles to all those she encounters.

Lauren is in seventh grade at Sandy Run Middle School, where she is a member of the field hockey team and upon return to school, will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. An avid soccer player for the Upper Dublin Soccer Club, Lauren enjoys playing both offense and goalie. She also enjoys baking, reading every book she can find, making videos with her sister, and taking her cat on walks. Each summer, Lauren looks forward to tent camping at her favorite Girl Scout camp where she loves to challenge herself on the high ropes, rock wall and zip line.

For her Bat Mitzvah project, Lauren wanted to find a way to help people in her own community. In her research she discovered that over 350 families are food insecure in Upper Dublin. To help combat this, she decided to organize a food drive to benefit UD HOST (Helping Our Students Together.) UD HOST provides food on weekends, over school breaks, and now during national pandemics to middle school students and their families in the UDSD. With the current situation, Lauren was not able to volunteer with the charity as she had planned, but she hopes to do so in the fall.

We would like to thank Lauren's religious school teachers and Cantor Benjamin for their help in getting Lauren to this moment. Of course, a heartfelt thank you is due to Rabbi Grife and Rabbi Roni for all of their guidance and counsel. We are so very grateful for their help.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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In memory of Ray Gardner

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In memory of Ray Gardner

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In memory of Lillian Zemble

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Russell

In appreciation of Rabbi Roni for guiding Brooke and Charlie Russell through wedding preparations and creating a beautiful ceremony

LINDA'S FUND FOR THE LOVE OF ISRAEL

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Mazel Tov to Rabbi Grife on the marriage of his daughter Alana to Ofir

The Engleman family

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Mazel Tov to Rabbi Grife on the marriage of his daughter Alana to Ofir

Dr. Dan Hyman

In appreciation of Zoom Services

Drs. Marcie and Richard Lowe and family

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Grife on the marriage of his daughter Alana to Ofir

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weissberger and family

Lillian Zemble

HAY CLASS FUND

The Engleman family

Mazel Tov to David and Leanne Kaganovsky on Eliana's Bat Mitzvah

PRESCHOOL FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Madvedoff and family

In memory of Ray Gardner

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Kaganovsky

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In memory of Susan Rickles

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In memory of Marshall Ford

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SCHEDULE of SERVICES

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Light candles.....7:38 pm
Virtual Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 2 SHABBAT

Virtual Services Featuring Matthew Hay.....10:00 am

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Light candles.....7:45 pm
Virtual Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 9 SHABBAT

Virtual Services.....10:00 am

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Light candles.....7:52 pm
Virtual Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 16 SHABBAT

Virtual Services.....10:00 am

FRIDAY, MAY 22

Light candles.....7:59 pm
Virtual Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 23 SHABBAT

Virtual Services featuring Elana Meltzer.....10:00 am

THURSDAY, MAY 28 EREV SHAVUOT

Virtual Tikkun Layl Shavuot Program.....9:00 pm

FRIDAY, MAY 29 SHAVUOT - DAY 1

Virtual Shavuot Services with Yizkor.....10:00 am
Light Candles.....8:04 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 30 SHAVUOT - DAY 2

Virtual Shavuot Services
featuring Lily Bentley.....10:00 am

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Virtual Confirmation Services.....10:30 am

SCHEDULE of SERVICES

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Light Candles.....8:09 pm
Virtual Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 SHABBAT

Virtual Services featuring Juliana Ghosh.....10:00 am
Minha Services featuring Kai Silverman.....4:30 pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Light Candles.....8:13 pm
Virtual Services6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 SHABBAT

Virtual Services featuring Matthew Brucker.....10:00 am

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Light Candles.....8:15 pm
Virtual Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 SHABBAT

Virtual Services featuring Lauren Hoffman.....10:00 am

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

Light Candles.....8:16 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JULY 3

Light Candles.....8:15 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 4 SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Light Candles.....8:13 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 11 SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Light Candles.....8:09 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 18 SHABBAT