

TheBA Bulletin

Summer 2022

The monthly newsletter of Congregation B'nai Amoona

Summer Snapshot



This summer my son, Zach, will be experiencing eight weeks of being an only child. Mollie is away, having another amazing summer at Camp Ramah Wisconsin and Zach has his parents all to himself, for better or for worse. He loves being in the CIT program at Ramot Amoona, though it's hard for us to believe that our baby is going into eighth grade. We are the parents of an eighth grader and an eleventh grader!

Seeing kids and young adults in the community taking the next steps in their lives always takes a bit of adjustment time for me, but our family is diving into summer: spending time outside (I have the bug bites to prove it) and taking advantage of the very hot weather – perfect for swimming!

For me, summer also means making sure that High Holy Day plans are in order. Yes, it seems like the holidays are a long time away, but the planning happens now. I'm gathering the music and singers and setting rehearsal times. Please let me know if you are interested in singing with me!

Summer also means preparing for a meaningful Tishah B'Av, the commemoration of the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people on the 9th of Av, most notably, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Whenever we mourn, we mourn as a community. We join together when we have a personal loss. We join together when we have a communal loss. And we, as individuals and as a community, have had our fill of both communal and personal losses over the past year.

A loss does not always mean a death. We can mourn the end of a relationship. We can mourn the end of a specific time in our lives. We can mourn a future that isn't going to be what we had once imagined it would be. It is psychologically necessary to acknowledge these losses and to mourn them. Tishah B'Av, takes us through a powerful 25 hour evolution of mourning, guiding us down into the deepest depths and slowly raising us back up. When we experience this together, rather than alone, we recognize and internalize our resilience as individuals and as a people. Remember that the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem could have been the end of Judaism. But we are the inheritors of a wisdom that survives and thrives even after the most brutal attacks. In this way, Tishah B'Av is at once a reminder of our deepest sadness and an inspiration for moving forward to reach our highest heights.

I need to mourn with my community and I need inspiration from my community. I hope to see you for Tishah B'Av where we can sink down to the depths together and then rise up together to bask in the glorious summer sun.

Cantor Sharon Nathanson
Hazzan Sharon Nathanson
314-576-9990 x104
sharon.nathanson@bnaimoona.com



Erev Tishah B'Av Services, Saturday Evening, August 6, 2022 In-Person and Livestream

Eichah (Book of Lamentations) and Elegies will be led by BA members with a song between each chapter.

- 7:00 pm: Shabbat Minchah Service with the participation of upcoming Bat Mitzvah, Leah Weisenberg
- 7:45 pm: Lavish Seudah Shelishit in the Community Room and study session with Rabbi Neal Rose
- 8:10 pm: Birkat Hamazon
- 8:20 pm: Study Session with Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham
- 8:40 pm: Ma'ariv for Tishah B'Av followed by chanting of the Eichah (Book of Lamentations)

Tishah B'Av Morning Services, Sunday, August 7, 2022

In-Person, Livestream, and Zoom
No Tallit or Tefillin to be worn

9:00 am: Shacharit led by Rick Mazur, Torah and Haftarah reading followed by chanting of the Eichah (Book of Lamentations)

Tishah B'Av Afternoon Services followed by Ma'ariv and Havdalah

In-Person, Livestream, and Zoom
Tallit and Tefillin are worn for Minchah only

- 7:30 pm: Minchah - Cantor Sharon Nathanson
Torah reader: Harvey Greenstein
Haftarah reader: Enid Weisberg-Frank, Isaiah Ch. 56
- 8:00 pm: Study session with Rabbi Carnie Shalom Rose
- 8:25 pm: Ma'ariv and Havdalah led by Cantor Sharon Nathanson
- 8:40 pm: End of the Fast

Tishah B'Av at B'nai Amoona is generously sponsored by Enid Weisberg-Frank & Bruce Frank and family in loving memory of their parents - Shurlie & Sidney Weisberg and Simme & Jerry Frank.

TU B'AV

EVENING OF AUGUST 11 THROUGH AUGUST 12

JEWISH
DAY OF
LOVE

Hebrew Terms To Learn To Celebrate Tu B'Av

Ahavah: Love
Kallah: Bride
Chatan: Groom
Mishpachah: Family
Chaver: Friend
Pe'rach/Pra'chim: Flower/Flowers
Lev: Heart



This upcoming year marks 50 years of love at B'nai Amoona's preschool, the Linda Rotskoff ECC. We are so excited to recognize this amazing occasion with an event that is certain to be fun and fabulous! Stay tuned for more information and a save-the-date for this fantastic celebration!

Our Community

When Thank You is not nearly enough....

I'm seldom without words. I'm rarely accused of being silent. And yet, I'm struggling for the right words to express my gratitude. When I came to B'nai Amoona I was excited to become a part of the BA Kehillah (Community). Congregants, Klei Kodesh, families, and the amazing staff of B'nai Amoona, once merely acquaintances, became so much more; each of you became integral to my daily life.

A few weeks ago I was in a car accident. I have a true sense of blessing as I walked away from the accident alive. Unfortunately, I suffered injuries including a broken right wrist and left

hand (yep, I'm right handed). What happened next can only be described as unimaginable and also overwhelming! The cards, the notes, the calls... the gifts, the food, the collections of financial support has been truly incomprehensible.

Judaism is a religion of gratitude. There are countless blessings and acknowledgements of being thankful each and every day. It is a part of our Jewish soul. One of my favorite authors, who also seems to write at times from a Jewish perspective, is A. J. Jacobs. His book, "Thanks a Thousand" is a book detailing his gratitude. He writes about how many "thanks" he could offer just in the process of obtain-

ing his coffee in the morning. It is an incredible tale of the amount of opportunities for gratitude that are available for us each day. Just like in Judaism, we must recognize and appreciate all the good.

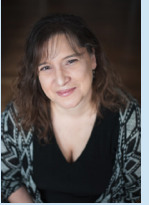
At a time when it is easy to see that which is "not good" or "challenging in the world," you, the community, Kehillah, of B'nai Amoona, have given me and my family SO MUCH to be grateful for in every possible way.

Until I have both hands functional, please accept this note of gratitude as my message of incredible appreciation and thankfulness for all that you have done to support my family and me during this challenging time. To say that

I have a sense of gratitude is a true understatement. I have never before felt such love and support!

With all my love,
Liessa

Liessa
Liessa Alperin
Director of Innovative Learning,
Youth, & Engagement
314-576-9990 x116
liessa@bnaiaamoonaa.com



On the Development Side

Our Congregation is blessed to have members who go above and beyond in a multitude of ways. Some contribute extra to their dues as Benefactors, some sponsor our fundraising events, some underwrite the costs for our galas, some volunteer their time and energies in a myriad of helpful and important ways. Many do a combination of these giving opportunities. The connection for all is their deep and abiding love for B'nai Amoona and their strong desire to see our Shul succeed in every way possible.

This past June 11th and 12th was the trifecta for giving and thanking. Our warmest Todah Rabbim to:

- the Sponsors who supported our Max Levin Homecoming Weekend (see below);
- our Benefactors who were thanked with an Israeli food and wine tasting;
- Diane and Paul Gallant for helping our Judaica Shop come to fruition as the Gallant Family Judaica Shop, complete with a ribbon-cutting and introduction by our own Bob Hoffman, Mayor of Creve Coeur.

(Max Levin's *Under the Stretcher* book is available at the front desk for those sponsors who were unable to attend, as is a special thank you gift for our Benefactors. Please stop by BA at your convenience!)

- As we begin a new fiscal year, how can you help to give back?
- Remember, it is never too late to donate your time to BA by volunteering - simply reach out to Beth Saltzman for a variety of volunteer opportunities - even a few hours on a weekly basis is of great help!
 - Become a Benefactor, easily added to your recently received Membership Agreement, or consider increasing your giving level, if already a Benefactor.
 - Consider increasing your dues contribution, if able.
 - Purchase Scrip - Dierbergs, Schnucks, Starbucks, and Panera are available for immediate BA pick up.
 - When shopping on Amazon, select BA as your favorite charity!
 - For generational giving, consider creating an endowment or legacy gift through a bequest to B'nai Amoona.

This critical support from our members is central to a fiscally sound and vibrant Shul!

AM YISRAEL CHAI OPERATION MAX LEVIN: A ST. LOUIS HOMECOMING



OUR HONORARY CO-CHAIRS:
LESLIE & MICHAEL LITWACK • GALIA MOVITZ
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!
GIFTS AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

\$1,000 SPONSOR GIFTS & ABOVE

ED BALK
RON & LESLIE BECKER
HARVEY & FRAN CANTOR
DAVID & ROBIN CHERVITZ
ALAN & KARYN FINE
PAUL & DIANE GALLANT
LEONARD GLASER

OSCAR GOLDBERG
BOB & BARB HOFFMAN
LESTER GOLDMAN & SUSAN NATHANSON
GARY & MARLA GOLDSTEIN
BARBARA GREEN
HARVEY GREENSTEIN
BUD & JUDY LEVIN
MICHAEL & LESLIE LITWACK

GALIA MOVITZ
MARSHALL MYERS
BEN & ANGELA POREMBA
RABBI CARNIE & PAULIE ROSE
JEFF & TRACEY SINGER
SANDY & GLORIA SPITZER
SAM & DIANE VALENCIA

\$613 SPONSOR GIFTS

RABBI JEFFREY & LAUREN ABRAHAM
MARC & MARILYN ABRAMS
MURRAY & CHERYL ABRAMS
GERALD AXELBAUM & ELLEN SCHAPIRO
JAN BARON
DAN & BARBARA BINDLER
B'NAI AMOONA SISTERHOOD
ALAN & NANCY CHARLSON
BARRY & JACKIE CHOD
ED & LAURIE CHOD
ERIC & SHARI COHEN
RABBI JOE & BARBARA DAVIDSON
JOEL & BETSY DENNIS
EILEEN EDELMAN
BRUCE & SHELLEY EDWARDS
MICHAEL & LAURA ELLENHORN
BARRY & RACHEL FEINBERG
HERSHEY & GAIL FELDSTEIN

STAN & ROCHELLE FERDMAN
NORMAN & NAOMI FISHMAN
BRUCE FRANK & ENID WEISBERG-FRANK
ROBERTA FRANK
LENNY & JULIE FRANKEL
ROSALIE FRANKLIN
STEVE & MARSHA FUNK
PHYLLIS GOLDBERG
LARRY & GAY GOLDENBERG
DAVID & LAURA GOLDMEIER
CARL & DENNY GREENBERG
YORAM HANIN & MISSY KORENBLAT-HANIN
JIM & IRENE HIRSCHFIELD
JOAN HOFFMAN
TED & JUDITH ISAACS
NEAL & SUSAN KALISHMAN
DAVID KANTOR
LYNNIE BALK KANTOR
SANDY KAPLAN

PHILLIP & ARLEEN KORENBLAT
KEN & NANCY KRANZBERG
ALAN LONDE (Z"L)
ALAN & CHRIS LYSS
MICHAEL & CANTOR SHARON NATHANSON
ANDY & RHONDA OBERMAN
JOEL & MONICA PERLMUTTER
SUE & JODIE RICH
STEVE ROSEN & RHONDA O'BRIEN
MICHAEL & LINDA ROSENBLATT
DANIEL ROSENBLUM & ROBYN JACOBS
STEVEN & AVI ROSENZWEIG
KEN & JUDI ROTSCHOFF
KEN RUBIN & JANE TZINBERG
MICHAEL RUBIN & JACKIE LEVIN
ST. LOUIS FRIENDS OF ISRAEL
BETH SALTZMAN
DAVID & CINDY SCHUVAL
IAN & HEIDI SILBERMAN

STEPHEN & MIRIAM SINGER
MATT & JENNIFER SMITH
JOEL & DEBRA SPIGEL
RICHARD STEIN - BERGER MEMORIAL CHAPEL
JERRY & KAREN TABAK
ALAN & RACHEL TAXMAN
RAPHAEL & JILLIAN THOMADSEN
GARY & PHYLLIS TRAUB
ERIC & AMY WALLERSTEIN
ROB & RENEE WASSERMAN
LEONARD & CARLA WEINTRAUB
BRAD & JILL WINTERS
TODD & KIM WOLFF
PATTI WOLKOWITZ
DAVID & ELIZABETH WRIGHT
LARRY & SHERYL ZIGLER
DAN & AMY ZOLL

Gail
Gail Armstrong
Director of Development
314-576-9990 x126
gail@bnaiaamoonaa.com



Our Community

Mazel Tov to...

Elise Krug and **Diane Friedman** on becoming B'nai Amoona Sisterhood Co-Presidents.

Sarah Beth & Gavriel Matt on the birth of their daughter, **Eleora Rose Matt**. Proud grandparents and great-grandparents are **Bruce & Faith Waxman**, Daniel & Hana Matt, **Marvin & Sandy Greenberg**, Charles and Gloria Waxman, Z"L, and Rabbi Hershel and Gustine Matt, Z"L.

The three B'nai Amoona teens elected to the BBYO St. Louis Council Board. Mazel Tov to **Rylie Fine**, daughter of **Jennifer & Kevin Fine**, on being elected as St. Louis Council N'siah. Mazel Tov to **Sam Deutsch**, son of **Lisa & Jimmy Deutsch**, on being elected as St. Louis Council Godol. Mazel Tov to **Madison Miederhoff**, daughter of **Heather & Brant Miederhoff**, on being elected as St. Louis Council S'ganit.

Elizabeth & David Wright and Laurie & Jeff Solomon on the engagement of their children, Brandon Wright and Sari Solomon. Brandon's grandparents are Lois Kaplan and Richard Wright. Sari is from Westfield, New Jersey. Brandon and Sari live in Denver, Colorado.

Elizabeth & David Wright and Barbara and Joe Innamorati on the engagement of their children, Zachary Wright and Lara Innamorati. Zachary's grandparents are Lois Kaplan and Richard Wright. Lara's grandmother is Sandra Halperin. Lara is from Westport, Connecticut. Zachary and Lara live in Denver, CO.

BAUSY on EMTZA Chapter of the Year

Susan & Fred Levko and Maryann and David Jennings on the birth of their granddaughter, Adelina Lily Levko. Proud parents are Sarah and Zachary Levko.

Daniel Goldberg and Racquel Balsam on their engagement and to **Marta and Michael Goldberg** & Elaine Balsam (Z"L) & Arnold and Deborah Balsam on the engagement of their children. Daniel's grandparents are Sylvia (Z"L) and Gilbert (Z"L) Feder & **Elaine (Z"L) and Oscar Goldberg**. Racquel's grandparents are Mary (Z"L) and Max (Z"L) Shapiro & Sol (Z"L) and Rita (Z"L) Balsam.

Yoram Hanin & Missy Korenblat-Hanin and Aaron and Mona Crohn on the birth of their granddaughter, Juliet Rose Hanin. Proud parents are Jacob and Paulette Hanin. Great-grandparents are Paula (Z"L) and Siegbert (Z"L) Crohn, Nancy and Jack (Z"L) Held, **Arleen & Phillip Korenblat**, and Esther Hanin (Z"L) and Yaakov Hanin (Z"L).

First LT Adam Schmitz, his parents, **Jen & Jeff Schmitz**, and brother, **Michael**, on Adam's graduation from the United States Army's elite Ranger Course on April 22, 2022. Adam is currently assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Ft Bragg, NC.

Emtza Region 2022-2023 Regional Executive officers, **Ilana Boyer**, Executive Vice President and **Mitchell Smith**, Membership/Engagement Vice President. Mazel Tov to **Stephen Rosenberg** for Jr. Dugmah!

As of 06/24/22

Condolences



The Congregation extends heartfelt sympathy to the families of:

Jordan Cohen

Irving Buddy Cooper

*Paul Edwards

*Winifred Tober Frelich

Barbara H. Gabris

Ryna J. Hart

*Michael Lewis Holbrook

Michael Kutell

*Hermine Lang

Dr. Jerrold (Jerry) Michaels

Janice Goldenberg Mintz


*Faye Zvibleman

*A tree is planted in Israel through the generosity of the **Plant a Tree for Life Fund** for our B'nai Amoona members of blessed memory listed above.

May their memories be a source of blessing!


As of 06/29/22

August B'not Mitzvah



August 13, 2022

Bat Mitzvah of Leah Weisenberg,
daughter of Judith and Brian Weisenberg



August 27, 2022

Second Bat Mitzvah of Bev Chervitz,
wife of Maynard Chervitz

July & August
VIRTUAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

Morning Minyan - 7:00 am, M-F;
9:00 am, Sun
Zoom and Livestream

Evening Minyan - 6:15 pm,
Sun - Thurs
Zoom and Livestream

Friday Evening Services - 6:00 pm
Livestream

Shabbat Morning Services
9:30 am through July
9:00 am in August
Livestream

Saturday Evening Services -
Through July 30: 7:30 pm
August 6: 7:00 pm
Beginning August 13: 6:30 pm
Livestream

Havdalah -
Immediately Following Saturday
Evening Services
Livestream

For those who are comfortable, we welcome you to join us in-person

SHABBAT
SERVICE SCHEDULE

July 2

Korach

July 9

Chukat

July 16

Balak

July 23

Pinchas
Shabbat Mevarchim
Hachodesh

July 30

Mattot-Masei

August 6

Devarim
Shabbat Hazon

August 13

Ve'ethannan
Shabbat Nahamu

August 20

Ekev
Shabbat Mevarchim
Hachodesh

August 27

Re'eh
Shabbat Rosh Chodesh

Minyan Matters

(SING WITH GUSTO!) IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME!

It's the "lazy, hazy days of summer!" Time to kick back, enjoy a refreshing cold glass of lemonade, plan a vacation, go swimming or whatever you enjoy doing that makes you happy."

I'll tell you what makes me happy! Amazing Minyanaires make me happy! "Leaders of the daily Minyanim," our Zoom Angels and Greeters make me happy! Each Minyanaire is counted as one of the necessary ten individuals needed to ensure a Minyan. Every Minyanaire, a "Gift!" Kudos to All!

Twice a day, morning and evening, B'nai Amoona offers Minyanim for those in our community who wish to recite Kaddish and offer healing prayers for family and friends. A warm and caring place provided for anyone who seeks refuge from their daily routine.

So "cool" off this summer and become a Minyanaire. ONLY ONE HOUR A WEEK on a day of your choosing is all it takes! Act now! Join today! It's "free!" Now, that's an offer you can't refuse!!!

Email minyan@bnaiamoona.com. Let us know you're ready to make a difference in the lives of many! "Become a Minyanaire!" Don't hesitate! Enjoy BAGELS and KIBBITZ after Services!

B'Shalom!

Bev
Beverly Chervitz
314-629-8099
minyan@bnaiamoona.com



Laura
Laura Shapiro
314-229-9448
minyan@bnaiamoona.com



Meet The Team

B’nai Amoona is thrilled to introduce you to our newest staff members and help you get reacquainted with some familiar faces!

Anita Kraus, Executive Director:



For the past decade, Anita has been B’nai Amoona’s dedicated Director of Early Childhood Education. In addition to overseeing our BA preschool and early childhood education, Anita’s creativity and passion led to many innovative family opportunities. As Executive Director, Anita enjoys working with our B’nai Amoona team and lay leaders to better serve our community. When not at B’nai Amoona, Anita may be found cooking, running, reading, or spending time with her family and friends.

Fun fact about Anita: She began driving at the young age of just fourteen and a half years old.

Kerri Alper, Director of The Linda Rotskoff Early Childhood Center (LRECC):



Kerri has been an instrumental part of our Linda Rotskoff Early Childhood Center for the past seven years. Serving as one of our preschool teachers, it’s common to hear a child call out “Hi Morah Kerri” in the hallway as they pass by the office. Just as common is the number of parents and family members who reach out to her for advice on everything from school lunch ideas, to helping children through challenging situations, to prepping for Kindergarten (and beyond). Kerri notes that the favorite part of her day is greeting children and having the ability to see them grow from an infant to a preschool graduate.

Fun fact about Kerri: She regularly reads one to two books every single week..

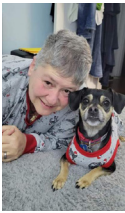
Elisabeth Fox, LRECC Administration Assistant:



Although some may refer to her as “the new Pam,” Elisabeth is no stranger to early childhood education. She has eight years under her belt as an early childhood education professional in a variety of roles and settings including private and public schools. Most recently, Elisabeth was the Aftercare Coordinator and Administrative Aid for a private educational center in Des Peres, MO. She recently moved to the area after living several years in the Pacific Northwest. Although she does miss living near the ocean, she enjoys exploring and thrift shopping in the city.

Fun fact about Elisabeth: Elisabeth once had the exciting opportunity to bottle-feed a tiger and lived in Asia as a teenager..

Chris Whitaker, Food & Kitchen Manager:



Chris has twelve years under her belt as an Institutional Chef specializing in hospital, school, and care facility catering and food management. While she is experienced and enjoys cooking international cuisines, Vietnamese and Chinese dishes are her favorite to cook and eat. She is especially interested in honoring Jewish food practices including creating and perfecting Jewish staple dishes as well as enhancing Jewish experiences through delicious meals. Chris enjoys grilling meat, but when she isn’t cooking, Chris likes to relax on the couch with her wife, Elaine, and her dog Bandit. Chris and Elaine are also very active in local LGBTQ+ community events.

Fun fact about Chris: She loves riding her scooter all over town, but one day hopes to own a motorcycle.

Liessa Alperin, Director of Innovative Learning, Engagement, & Youth

- Four years working for B’nai Amoona
- Enjoys chatting with our BA members of all ages and stages - Liessa loves our Kehillah
- When not working, Liessa can be found spending time with her family, hiking, or being outside
- Fun Fact: if Liessa wasn’t working in the Jewish community, her dream would be to open a children’s bookstore and coffee shop

Gail Armstrong, Director of Development

- Four years working for B’nai Amoona
- Enjoys forming connections with our B’nai Amoona members
- When not working, Gail can be found spending time with her four grandchildren or going to estate sales
- Fun Fact: Gail met with President George W. Bush at the White House with twelve others to talk with him and later that evening, attended the White House Chanukah party

Rachel Bray Spezia, Director of Communications

- Seven years working for B’nai Amoona
- Enjoys collaborating on projects with every department and auxiliary group at B’nai Amoona - it helps her to stay connected to the BA community
- When not working, Rachel can be found at a local playground, art fair, or community event with her son, Wolf, and husband, James
- Fun Fact: Rachel played the violin for twenty years but stopped in college to focus on her (visual) art degree

Laurie Cohen, Administrative Assistant to Cantor Sharon Nathanson & Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham

- Seven years working for B’nai Amoona
- Enjoys collaborating with the people she works with day-to-day and has loved getting to know her fellow B’nai Amoona members through the years (even before working here)
- When not working, Laurie can be found running, walking, or working out in some way
- Fun Fact: Laurie lived in New York for part of her childhood and she is a “die hard” Mizzou fan

Idena Freedman, Programming Assistant

- Eight years working for B’nai Amoona
- Enjoys being involved in several different facets of B’nai Amoona including MKLC, LRECC, Camp Ramot Amoona, and JSC
- When not working, Idena can be found cheering on the Cardinals or Blues at a game, spending time with her family, or shopping for a good bargain
- Fun Fact: Idena loves trying new foods, but hates to cook or bake - she tries to stay out of the kitchen

Amy Maupin, Executive Assistant to Rabbi Rose

- Eight years working for B’nai Amoona
- Enjoys being able to interact with so many wonderful members of B’nai Amoona and finds Rabbi Rose and the rest of our Klei Kodesh to be very inspiring
- When not working, Amy can be found watching movies or playing with her son Jake - her family also enjoys taking vacations together
- Fun Fact: Amy came in second place in her high school’s pentathlon

Marcia Mermelstein, Jewish Senior Connection (JSC) Coordinator

- Seven years working for B’nai Amoona in the 1990’s and almost two years currently
- Enjoys working with her JSC participants, she also enjoyed directing Camp Ramot Amoona previously as well as leading weekly family Shabbat Services
- When not working, Marcia can be found knitting, quilting, playing Monopoly with her grandkids, or watering her outdoor plants - Marcia is also an amazing baker known for her famous pies
- Fun Fact: Marcia is tough to beat when it comes to Movie Musical trivia

Tanya Spivey, ShulCloud Database & Web Manager/IT Supervisor

- Seven years working for B’nai Amoona
- Enjoys compiling data into pretty and useful spreadsheets as well as celebrating the accomplishments of colleagues
- When not working, Tanya can be found training for the RunDisney Princess Half Marathon taking place in 2023
- Fun Fact: Tanya served as a Disney Ambassador at the Disney Store where she was able to “share the magic” with customers

Lifelong Learning

Mazel Tov to our 2022 LRECC Panda Class Graduates!



It's an exciting time at the Linda Rotskoff ECC. At the end of May we celebrated our wonderful school year with the graduation of our LRECC Panda

class. This amazing class accomplished so much in their time with us. They spent their last school year enjoying puzzles, books and all things music. Some of their favorite songs to explore were by The Beatles! It was for this reason that their graduation theme was, "All You Need Is Love." It's always so bittersweet when a class graduates. They are already missed but we wish them well in their next adventure. We know they are off to do great things!

Kerri
Kerri Alper

Director of Early Childhood Education
314-576-9990 x140
kerri@bnaiamoona.com



FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

FAMILY FRIENDS FRIDAY NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE!

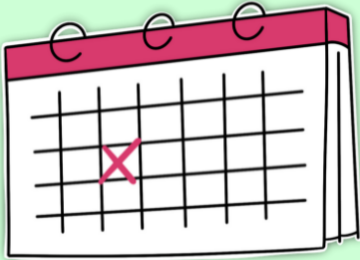
NOW HIRING

FULL TIME TEACHERS
PART TIME TEACHERS
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
MUSIC SPECIALIST

**LINDA ROTSKOFF
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**
AT CONGREGATION B'NAI AMOONA

We are still building our team for the 2022-2023 school year. If you or someone you know may be a good candidate to join us, I would love to chat! Please email me at kerri@bnaiamoona.com to discuss what LRECC is all about.

Important MKLC Dates



- Midweek programs begin the week of September 12
- First Day of Sunday School & Sababa Festival: Sunday, September 18
- Sukkot Family Program & MKLC: Sukkah Building: Sunday, October 9
- Family Shabbat Program: Saturday, October 22
- 10th Grade Washington DC Trip (No MKLC classes): November 3-6



A PICTURE PERFECT SUMMER AT CAMP B'NAI AMI & CAMP RAMOT AMOONA



Get Involved

SISTERHOOD NEWS: Meet Sisterhood's 2022-2023 Co-Presidents, Diane & Elise!

With over 30 years of service to Sisterhood combined, we are thrilled to be the new co-presidents.

To tell you a little bit about ourselves, Diane is from Minneapolis with stops in Great Falls, MT; Madison, WI; Atlanta, Kansas City and has been in St. Louis for 32 years. She has three grown children living in Chicago and recently became a Bubbie. Diane works retail sales at JCrew.

Elise hails from Columbus, OH; making her way to St. Louis via Rochester, NY; Dallas and Ft. Worth, TX; and Atlanta. She has been in St. Louis for 28 years. Elise's two adult children also live in Chicago. She works for the St. Louis Jewish Light and is the administrator for the St. Louis Rabbinical and Cantorial Association.

Our goals for the upcoming year are to attract, recruit and engage a wide demographic of members. We would like to recognize and develop the leadership potential of our Sisterhood. Education is a high priority for us whether it is through our programming or synagogue classes. We also raise monies to support our congregation, community and Israel through various fundraising events. Your ideas and participation are welcome as we work together to make a difference in our B'nai Amoona community.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart!"

Diane Friedman & Elise Krug

Diane & Elise
Diane Friedman & Elise Krug
sisterhood@bnaiaamoona.com



**"A place you want
to be a part of with
women you want to
know."**

**It might still be summer but we
wanted to get the word out and
invite you to be a part of B'nai
Amoona Sisterhood!**

Sisterhood offers friendship, education and a sense of belonging to women of all ages and interests.

Be on the lookout for registration information coming soon!

Questions? email us at:

Mercedes Gelman,
mercegelman@gmail.com

Barb Hoffman,
mzbarb6551@gmail.com

Betsy Dennis,
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Adult Education Classes Starting Soon!



**Keep an eye
out for more
information!**

Our Musical Mensch, Andy Curry

We recently caught up with our Composer in Residence, Andy Curry, who shared a bit about himself, songwriting, and how music keeps him plugged into Judaism

Can you share some of your musical background - how long have you been a musician/singer/composer and some musical highlights you've been a part of in your life?

I can't remember a time when I didn't sing. My mother and father sang decently and often, and we sang in school, so singing was as much a part of life as walking and eating. At the age of eight I was given a ukulele and a Stephen Foster songbook, and I played and sang those songs over and over.

I've had lots of guidance and "osmotic learning," but never an actual lesson until recently. I formed my first band of note in 1972, playing 50s and 60s soul and rhythm and blues. In January 1974, a music-store owner called: There was a band playing at a Lawrence motel; the bassist was quitting next week; would I go and audition? I did. For ten weeks, I played 6 nights a week in lounges, from Indiana to Texas to Wisconsin, for the princely sum of \$150/week.

In 1995, at low point, I delved deeper into Judaism. I led daily services, did the Melton School, and joined Beth Shalom (Conservative) and BIAV (Orthodox). I collaborated with other musicians in leading musical Shabbat services. In 1999, I joined the Nigun Orchestra, KC's premier Jewish band. One of the singers in the band was a great woman named BelleAnne, whom I married in 2002. Under the Chuppah, Rabbi Margolies remarked on the literal and figurative harmony we made. A few years later, I produced the band's CD, "And We Do Weddings."

That same year, I was hired to lead High Holy Day services for Congregation Beth Shalom (and originally, MU Hillel house) in Columbia. I've now performed that function for 23 years. Moving to STL in 2007, we found B'nai Amoona. Cantor Nathanson, ever alert for people who can do stuff, found BelleAnne and me. It's nice to be useful, and you know the rest of the story! One of the things I'm proud of is my participation in the pandemic-era video production of "Together in Song with Cantor Sharon and Friends."

Can you briefly describe your music writing process and the difference between writing melody to accompany prayers/blessings vs writing a song with original lyrics?

Most things I wrote before coming to STL were Jewish-oriented songs in English; they came from my personality and experiences. There's nothing wrong with that, but if you consider the universe of great music, you find that much of it comes from religion, specifically from Bible and liturgy ... from Bach to Carlebach.

In a sense, it is easier to write music to religious texts; the lyrics are great, already written, and usually poetic, so there is meter already in them. Best example: There are at least hundreds of settings for Adon Olam! If I need a setting for a specific text, I'll play with melodies that fit the words, support the textual phrasing, emphasize the right syllables, and would sound right spoken in rhythm.

I'm particularly proud of the Shabbat-Shacharit Amidah that I wrote for Meshorerim, the men's group led by Fred Blumenthal. I imagined going into an old-time shul and hearing a men's choir accompanying the Hazzan in the Chazarat Hashatz, using the appropriate Nusach.

B'nai Amoona is lucky to have both you and BelleAnne bring music to our Shul. Is your house always full of music? What singers or bands might we hear on your radio at home?

There is music in our house! Guests at our Shabbos table tell us that our singing is a treat. Hearing me practice the double bass is not such a treat, so I do it away from other ears. We like to listen to old-but-diverse stuff: Bluegrass, gospel, blues, country & western, Latin, and jazz. Almost all of my favorite performers are dead, or close to it.

Can you share a bit about how music directly relates/affects to your personal Jewish identity (or getting into a prayerful state of mind, etc.).

St. Augustine wrote: "He who sings prays twice." I wish I had said that!

Music is the avenue by which my identity became essentially Jewish, although I enjoy Torah study as well. Spoken prayer is effective if spoken with intent, Kavanah; without Kavanah, it has no value beyond "checking a box." Sometimes, my heart is hard; singing softens and opens my heart so that I can pray better. Our ability to make music is a precious gift from Hashem; it is for us to return it in kind, to use it to praise, honor, cajole, bless, hope, request, argue, grieve, and celebrate. I often wish for worship more like that found in some Black churches - unabashedly musical and emotional.

I have to put in a plug for Hebrew literacy! I took private lessons in biblical Hebrew from Chani Pinsberg for a couple of years, and the comprehension I gained has provided an enhanced appreciation for the liturgy and the Bible. The music is the icing; the words and their meanings are the cake.



Rachel

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Director of Communications
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A special note from our Rabbis and Cantor: Though we do not publish the names of those who make contributions to our Discretionary Funds (as a way to protect their request for anonymity), we deeply appreciate your continued thoughtfulness and generosity. Todah Rabbah & may you continue to be blessed from On-High.

Rabbi Carnie Shalom Rose,
Cantor Sharon Nathanson
Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham
& Rabbi Neal Rose

In addition, we do not publish contributions made by our Klei Kodesh and Board President



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BA is Beaming with PRIDE

June is designated as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in honor of the 1969 Stonewall uprising in Manhattan; Pride programs often include educational and celebratory events like festivals and parades. This year's St. Louis Pride Festival, presented by PrideSTL, took place on June 25 and 26. Many of our B'nai Amoona members were in attendance - here are a few of their photos:



Ellen Alper

In addition to representing our B'nai Amoona community, Ellen and Jennifer joined the Pride Parade along with other National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) delegates. Ellen is the CEO of NCJW-St. Louis and Jennifer serves as an NCJW-St. Louis advocacy manager.
Photo Credit For Ellen and Jennifer's Photos: Bill Motchan



Jennifer Bernstein



The Haluf Family, Erez, Sara, Ruby, Lielle, and Judah
The Haluf family were decked out in head-to-toe rainbow attire down to the last detail. Ruby and Lielle even sported rainbow hair ties to get into the spirit of Pride.



James Wallace
James joined numerous other St. Louis Jewish community members who walked in this year's parade



Wolf Spezia
Rain didn't stop Wolf and his mother from attending the Pride Festival and Parade.