



High Holy Days with B'nai Havurah



The High Holy Days, just around the corner, provide a time for quiet reflection, but the days leading up to the *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe) can be extremely busy and challenging to all. The following information may be useful to you in your upcoming holy day preparations.

To save paper, postage costs, and to streamline activity, we are including fewer forms in our High Holy Days mailing and directing members and guests to our website to complete forms for childcare and children's programs, our potluck, our catered dinner, and more. We will update our website to reflect the most current news. If you would rather have us mail forms to you, please let us know and we will be happy to accommodate!

Do check our website periodically for important news and updates. Registration and payment opportunities will also be included for specified activities. On our website you can find forms, information, and updates about all things High Holy Days, including (but not limited to):

- Childcare and youth programming
- Information about adult and kids choir rehearsals
- Donation opportunities
- Volunteer opportunities
- Lulav/etrog fundraiser for Sukkot

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B'nai Havurah members celebrate at the "Founders Seekers" 50th Anniversary event in March. More photos on page 10.

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B'nai Havurah High Holy Days Schedule 2013



Event	Date and Time	Location
Selichot: Film, text study and service (childcare available, registration required)	Sat., August 31, 7:30 pm	Rodef Shalom
Erev Rosh Hashanah:		
Family Musical Service	Wed., Sept. 4, 5:30 pm	Central Christian Church
Catered Communal Dinner (nominal fee)	Wed., Sept. 4, 6:30 pm	Central Christian Church
Adult-focused Service	Wed., Sept. 4, 7:30 pm	Central Christian Church
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day: Services		
Children's Programs (all ages)	Thurs., Sept. 5, 10:00 am	Central Christian Church
Potluck Lunch (register online, no cost)	Thurs., Sept. 5, 1:00 pm	Central Christian Church
Tashlich Services	Thurs., Sept. 5, 2:00 & 4:00 pm	<i>See below</i>
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day: Services		
Lunch (no cost)	Fri., Sept. 6, 12:30 pm	<i>See below</i>
Erev Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre Service	Fri. Sept. 13, 7:30 pm	Central Christian Church
Yom Kippur: Services		
Children's Programs (nominal fee, registration required)	Sat., Sept. 14, 10:00 am	Central Christian Church
Learning and experiential programming	Sat., Sept. 14, 3:30-5:00 pm	Central Christian Church
Healing Service	Sat., Sept. 14, 5:15 pm	Central Christian Church
Yizkor and Neilah Services	Sat., Sept. 14, 6:00 pm	Central Christian Church
Havdalah & Break-the-fast	Sat., Sept. 14, 7:30 pm	Central Christian Church
Sukkah Soirée	Sat., Sept. 21, evening	<i>See below</i>
Simchat Torah	Fri., Sept. 27, 7:00 pm	B'nai Havurah

Locations:

B'nai Havurah, 6445 East Ohio Avenue, Denver

Central Christian Church, 3690 Cherry Creek South Drive, Denver

Selichot Service at Rodef Shalom, 450 South Kearney Street, Denver

Tashlich Services on Rosh Hashanah 1st Day, meet at Central Christian Church and walk to Cherry Creek (2 blocks)

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Lunch and Sukkah Soirée will be held at Gail ben Ezra's home – contact B'nai Havurah for address

For updates and additional details go to bnaihavurah.org

High Holy Days with B'nai Havurah



The upcoming High Holy Days services, activities, and programs are sure to prove meaningful to you and your family, and we are excited about some additions to our program which should make your involvement even more gratifying.

Community Outreach

One new and exciting initiative involves our members! In another couple of weeks, all members will receive High Holy Days “tickets” for non-members who are looking for a home for the High Holy Days. The ticket, along with an attached flier, provides additional information about B'nai Havurah as well as a schedule of High Holy Days services and programs.

Elaine Selsberg, a member of B'nai's membership committee, sees the High Holy Days season as a wonderful opportunity to introduce B'nai Havurah to those in the community who are looking for community and Jewish involvement. “We are asking our members to help us get word out about B'nai and give tickets out to friends, neighbors, and family members who are curious about B'nai Havurah.” Shauna Morgan-Sherman, also on the membership committee, adds, “How many of us have been asked about where we go for the High Holy Days? I know people have asked me and I am always happy to tell them about B'nai Havurah. Now, I will have a ticket to pass along to them that presents all the information about our High Holy Days in a concise manner.” Becky Epstein adds, “With a ticket in hand and their contact information provided on the flipside of the ticket, visitors will feel a little more comfortable attending services, and we will be able to contact them after the holidays to further engage them in our wonderful community.” Donations from visitors to B'nai's services are welcome but certainly not required. ■



A Note About Our Yizkor Book

You may have already received a letter from us about the Yizkor book we create each year during this time to honor and celebrate the memories of our departed loved ones. The letter provides you with information included in last year's Yizkor book for you to review and approve, as well as information on how to make a Yizkor donation either online or by mailing a check. If you need a copy of the Yizkor book form, you may print out a copy from our website. ■

It Takes a Village!

The High Holy Days committee comprises leads in four key areas. In addition to her role as volunteer lead for services and ritual, Joan Wallis will serve as High Holy Days chair, Risa Aqua will take the lead on children's programming, and Paul Simon will serve as our volunteer recruitment and coordination lead. We have not yet filled the lead position for hospitality, which includes all oversight of our potluck, catered dinner, Kiddush, and more.

In order to ensure that our High Holy Days run smoothly for all, we will need your help, as well. We need a number of volunteers for event setup, cleanup, greeting, making phone

calls, passing out books, staffing the parking lot, preparing and setting out food, and more! Please go to our website at bnaihavurah.org to register for volunteer opportunities or call our office at 303-388-4441. ■

High Holy Days Nusach

Music leaders Hal Aqua, Susan Spero, Linda Treibitz, and Carla Sciaky were thinking how great it would be to feature Rabbi Evette's strong and beautiful voice more throughout our High Holy Days, particularly for the *nusach* (prayer melodies) specific to these services. We asked her if she would consider leading the Amidah and Hatzit Kaddish portions of the services, and she readily agreed. Since we are a Reconstructionist community and value and encourage participation in our services, it seems fitting to offer all B'nai Havurah members the opportunity to learn the new tunes so that everyone who wishes to will be able to chant these prayers along with the rabbi come September.

To this end, we will soon post mp3 recordings of these prayers on our website, complete with Hebrew and transliterated text to follow along. Carla met with Rabbi Evette and recorded her singing each of these prayers. The rabbi will also preview the new tunes at Shabbat services through the remainder of the summer, as well as offering several evening workshops to learn them in August.

We are excited to be able to enrich our High Holy Days services, both with Rabbi Evette's musicianship and with a deeper community-wide experience of the holiday *nusach*! ■

High Holy Days with B'nai Havurah

What's Up with the Early Date for the High Holy Days?

Rosh Hashanah is early this year because of Passover, the Torah, the lunar calendar, and the solar calendar. The first night is just two days after Labor Day! Oy vey.

The Jewish calendar is based on the lunar cycle. The Gregorian calendar, under which most of us currently live, is based on the solar cycle. These two calendars don't match.

Since the lunar calendar is on average 354 days, corrections in the Jewish calendar need to be made periodically to keep Jewish holidays in the right season (spring, harvest, gathering the wheat, etc.).

According to Torah, Passover is a holiday in the month of springtime. To ensure that Passover falls in the spring, the Jewish/lunar calendar adds an extra month every few years. This month creates a *shana m'ubberet*, a "leap" (literally, "pregnant") year. This means that Rosh Hashanah can vary by as much as one month over the years.

Since the date for Rosh Hashanah depends on the date for the previous Passover, which varies from year to year, the date for Rosh Hashanah varies. ■

—Liz Evans, Vice Chair for Education

Selichot Service Saturday Aug. 31

"In the shtetl of Lubavitch, on the Shabbat preceding the month of Elul, though summer still lingered and the day was bright and sunny, there was a change in the air; one already smelled the Elul-scent; a teshuva-wind was blowing."
—Rabbi Y. Yitzchak

Let's imagine that the end of the Jewish year is like a narrow passage between two enormous rocks that we must pass through in order to reach a new destination. A place of change, transformation, and renewal. We will need to rid ourselves of excess baggage in order to get through. Releasing that which no longer serves us: old resentments, anger, stuff. This period of Jewish time has been likened to a cleaning of one's spiritual house, which starts with YOU. The entire month of Elul (the final month in the Jewish calendar, which begins at sundown August 6) can be a time of assessing who we are, what we strive for, how we can be better, returning to our truest selves (*teshuva*), as well as asking for forgiveness.

As the month of Elul comes to a close, a service devoted to prayers for forgiveness takes place

The month of Elul is a time for cleaning one's spiritual house.

in the synagogue after havdalah on the Saturday evening before Rosh Hashanah.

According to the Reconstructionist High Holy Days *machzor*, "the Selichot service serves as an introduction, preparation and bridge into the season of *teshuva* — it is the season's overture." Selichot prayers derive their name from the Hebrew word for pardon and include prayers of forgiveness. The service is a time to face the year that is ending, acknowledging both the joys and pain while preparing ourselves for the new year with open minds and hearts. ■

—Joan Wallis, Chair of 2013/5774 High Holy Days

Consider Joining the High Holy Days Choir!

Whether you are a veteran or new to Choir, please email Susan@speroandco.biz to sign up for this year's High Holy Days Choir. There will be 5 or 6 rehearsals on Thursdays from 7:15-9:30 pm: 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22 and possibly 8/29. Erev Rosh Hashanah is 9/4. You don't need to audition or be able to read Hebrew. It's helpful if you can read music. You do need to come to rehearsals, work hard and be willing to have fun. Come join us! It's a great way to participate in our services.

*L'shanah tovah tikateyvu —
"May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."*

Shari, Matthew and I wish you, your family and loved ones a meaningful journey during the High Holy Days.

—Rabbi Evette Lutman

Each year as summer fades into fall, Jewish tradition invites us to turn inwards. The month of Elul precedes the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We dedicate this time to preparing ourselves for the holidays so that we can experience them as fully as possible. During Elul we are asked to look into ourselves. We think about who we are and who we want to be. Whose forgiveness do we need in order for us to enter a new year with a clean slate? —Ritualwell.org



L-R: Rabbi Evette Lutman, Matthew Doddmead, Shari Abramowitz

Tikkun Olam: Healing the World

Best secluded trail just minutes from home; your Uncle Morty's spotty history; that little diner that has the best steak dinner for a song — all things that are best kept secret. There are other things, though, you'd want everyone to know. One such thing is B'nai Havurah's Tikkun Olam committee and its grant program that has funded more than ten worthy causes and social action initiatives in the past two years.

The grants committee is ready and waiting for your proposal! The next grant application deadline is August 31, and the Tikkun Olam grants subcommittee would like to consider your application. For information about the grant program and to download an application form, go to the B'nai Havurah website under "outreach" or contact the office at 303-388-4441.

Below is a list of the many causes that received support through a Tikkun Olam grant:

- Funds for free dental clinics for Global Dental Relief, submitted by Leslie Swid
- Purchase of a manual from a national inclusivity group, submitted by Judy Reaven and Susan Marcus
- Purchase of educational pamphlets about BRCA (genes that directly affect risk for breast and ovarian

cancer) through the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance, submitted by Katie Reinisch

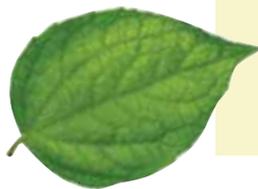
- Supplies for knitting items that are then donated to students at Place Bridge Academy and children in other countries, a Peace Pod Project, submitted by Arna Caplan
- Supplies to build an Ultimate Gaga frame for Place Bridge Academy students, submitted by David Ades
- Art supplies for an after-school program at Place Bridge Academy, submitted by Rivka Schwab
- Purchase shoes and books for children at Place Bridge Academy, submitted by Susan Marcus
- Mountain backpacking trips for at-risk teenagers through Big City Mountaineers, submitted by Miriam Rosenblum
- Backpacks and school supplies for needy children through Jewish Family Service, submitted by Glenn Cooper
- Sponsorship of part of the Habitat Interfaith Alliance golf tournament fundraiser, submitted by Nancy McCahill ■

—Nancy McCahill and Glenn Cooper,
Vice-Chairs of the Tikkun Olam
committee



Nancy McCahill, co-chair of Tikkun Olam (center), hoists a ceiling joist with two other volunteers at the Habitat Interfaith Alliance build on Sunday, June 23. Volunteers from B'nai Havurah, Temple Sinai, Rodef Shalom, and Temple Micah worked together on the townhome for the Qader-Faraj family.

Note: The Tikkun Olam grant program funds activities sponsored by or involving B'nai Havurah members. The funds are made possible by \$9/year (half shekel) contributions from B'nai Havurah members and young adults who are bar/bat mitzvahs, as well as other contributions. The Tikkun Olam Committee has the responsibility of allocating monies (up to \$500) to activities that contribute to the "healing of the world" and are consistent with the Mission and Values Statements of B'nai Havurah.



It's not easy being green — or is it?

The newly sprouted B'nai Green Team (offshoot of Tikkun Olam) aims to help trim energy use and save money. We want to reduce the carbon footprint of our facility and of members' own homes. To join the Green Team or to sign up for green coaching, please write "Green" in the subject line and contact either Sally Klein at h1thywlthy@aol.com or Lorrie Guttman at lorrie_edits@yahoo.com.

Book Review: Moving Waters

Step into 21st century Los Angeles and Rabbi Beth's reform congregation of mostly young attractive actors, producers, and screenwriters. The author of this collection of short stories offered copies for free to the first five small synagogue libraries to request it. We figured we had nothing to lose. As it turns out, we had much to gain. The book is *Moving Waters* by Racelle Rosett, herself a television writer. Many of these stories were previously published in journals such as *New Vilna Review*, *Santa Monica Review*, and *Tikkun*. Rosett is the winner of the *Moment Magazine/Karma Foundation Prize* for Jewish short fiction and the *Lilith Fiction Prize*. For full review, go to www.bnaihavurah.org.

Moving Waters is just one of thousands of books available in the B'nai Havurah library. You can check the online catalog through our website. ■ —Anna Lazaroff, chair of the Library Committee



Message from Council Chair and Executive Director



Lissa Levin



Becky Epstein

the summer and into the High Holy Days. Here you will find information to help you navigate the High Holy Days, and we also encourage you to go to our website, www.bnaihavurah.org, for updates and opportunities

Chaverim,
We are pleased to have received positive input on the re-emergence of *Kol Havurot!* As a community, we obviously appreciate the newsletter, as it helps us stay connected to one another through good times and challenging times.

This issue will be a resource to you during

to register for the many programs and activities offered. There you will also find a myriad of volunteer jobs we need to fill and ask that you consider volunteering where, when, and however you are able to help us create a memorable, meaningful, and extraordinary High Holy Days season.

Todah rabah to our many B'nai Havurah members who have donated (and committed for future years) to our 2013 Above & Beyond (A & B) Fund. We are pleased to report that we have raised about \$60,000 in payments and pledges. We have just \$20,000 to go until we reach our goal for 2013. Revenue from dues alone covers only about half of our expenses, which is why funds raised through our Above & Beyond campaign are so critical for our continued success. If you have not done so, we encourage you to make an Above & Beyond donation. Expect a call, in the coming month, from a Federation Council member asking

you to contribute; any amount will be greatly appreciated.

We welcome and thank our incoming Federation Council members, who join us in July for a two-year term. We have several Council members who are with us for one more year, and we are fortunate to have their continued involvement. Below, you will find a list of our entire Federation Council. As a reminder, Council meetings are open (with rare exceptions) to all members, and you are welcome to join us for meetings. The council meets on the third Tuesday of the month, but do call the office to confirm.

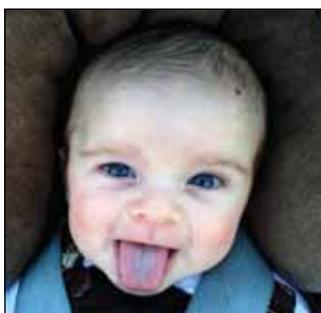
All our best for a wonderful summer and a sweet New Year,

Lissa Levin, Chair, Federation Council
Becky Epstein, Executive Director

Mazel Tov to three sets of happy and proud B'nai Havurah members and grandparents! We asked parents and grandparents of babies born after January 1 of 2013 to send us cute photos and we received some adorable pictures. Thanks!



Leo Samuel Cave at two months old. He was born March 18 in New Haven, Conn. His parents are Ellie Guttman and Jeff Cave. Denver grandparents are Lorrie Guttman and Joe Guttman.



Daniel Rashi Abbasi was born February 15. Grandparents Al and Patricia Mizrahi were there for his birth, and then again in May. Daniel, about 3 months old in this photo, is the son of Raj Abbasi and Rabbi Katie Mizrahi (daughter of Al and Patricia).



Haylee Jade Johnson-Burnley at 2½ months. Her parents are Alexis Burnley and Andrew Johnson. Her grandparents are Lissa Levin (Alexis' mom) and Dan Taubman. She was born April 10.

Our 2013/2014 Federation Council Members bring blessings to our community, and it is with gratitude that we acknowledge them:

Officers

Lissa Levin, Chair
Liz Evans, Vice-Chair, Integrated Learning
Marilyn Winokur, Vice-Chair, Administration
Lee Fisher, Vice-Chair, Programs and Services
Greg Tamkin, Secretary
Julie DuPree, Co-Treasurer
Marc Krasner, Co-Treasurer

Elected Federation Council Members

Gail ben Ezra
Holly Greenfield
Scott Merenstein
Jen Stier
Jennifer Wiener

Havurah-Appointed Federation Council Members

John Freed, Dorot
Jon Manheim, Mosaica
Joyce Thorn, Shalom
Risa Aqua, HaMakor
Paula Gudder, Ben Tzion
Joanne Ostrow, Yofi
Shirley Cohen, Derech Chadasha

Member Profile: Fay Strauss

Really, Fay Strauss didn't want to move to Denver. And now she doesn't want to leave. "I have so many attachments here," says the longtime B'nai Havurah member.

She and her husband, Eric, left Baltimore to come here in 1967. He worked for Martin Marietta and was transferred to Denver. But shortly before they left their home, they had happened to meet Dick Greenspun, one of the original B'nai members. So they did have that connection and having learned about Reconstructionism from him, they decided that was their kind of Judaism, though they had been brought up much more traditionally.

They got involved at B'nai immediately, Fay recalls, and were delighted that "you knew everybody and you ran to help everybody." She even fondly remembers the arguments at B'nai retreats that became "skirmishes" over topics such as what

kind of education the community should offer its children. She and Eric had two children, Steve and Andrea, and there are now four grandchildren.

The couple was active in many, many organizations, including a Chicano-Jewish Dialogue. She served on the board of the American Jewish Committee and set up CAJE leadership training. She was co-chair of the White House Conference on Aging for Colorado and chair of the Colorado Commission on Aging.

Fay was trained as a mathematician and had worked at Langley Field in Virginia, at what was a precursor to NASA. Her several years working as an aide to U.S. Sen. Floyd Haskell, a Colorado Democrat, were particularly exciting. On any given day, Fay says, "You never knew what was going to happen."

"When you get to be my age (88 years old), you think, 'Did it matter that I was here?'" One affirmative



answer came a few years ago, when she received a prestigious national award from AARP for her community service.

Still a devoted B'nai member, Fay says the congregation may have lost the "extreme intimacy" of its early years, but "we've gained some things." She's happy to have a rabbi, and this one in particular. Of Rabbi Evette she says, "I adore her. She is wonderful. She's a mensch."

And so are you, Fay Strauss. ■

B'nai Blueprint in Progress

Work on the B'nai Blueprint or Strategic Plan started in late 2012, and since then the committee working on the Blueprint has made significant progress.

"All organizations, of all sizes, use a strategic plan to help set the direction for the future and B'nai Havurah is not different," explains Gail ben Ezra, co-chair of the B'nai Blueprint committee. B'nai Havurah's Federation Council felt that this year, our 50th, was an opportune time to create a strategic plan for the next three years. The plan will address important issues such as membership growth, finances and long term viability, marketplace assessment (where do we fit into the larger Jewish community), our programs, and more.

Marilyn Winokur, co-chair of the planning committee, adds, "B'nai Havurah is in an excellent position for growth given our dynamic rabbi,

new executive director, strong school principal, involved membership, and strong, positive, forward-looking Federation Council."

The process, in a nutshell:

Late 2012:

- Dr. Henry Shreibman, a consultant with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), began working with the B'nai Blueprint group to help lay the foundation for a cohesive and comprehensive blueprint for B'nai's future development. Dr. Shreibman's expertise was available to B'nai Havurah as a benefit to us through our membership in the RRC.

February–Present, 2013:

- The committee engaged in an analysis of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) to determine who we've been, who we are now, who we want to be.
- Using the SWOT analysis and our

mission and values as our guide, the committee identified our key result areas (key components that define B'nai Havurah).

Future:

- Each key result area (KRA) will be further developed (to include goals and strategies) by B'nai Havurah established committees (ie., Library Committee, Budget and Finance, Integrated Learning, Religious School, etc.)
- The Blueprint Committee will now flesh out the plan with input from committees, congregants, and community leaders.
- Opportunities will be provided for the membership to review and comment upon the Blueprint prior to adoption of a final document. ■

—Gail ben Ezra, Marilyn Winokur, Ben Honigman, Rick Kornfeld, Lissa Levin, Marty Kaplan, Steve Galpern, Jennifer Wiener, Rabbi Evette and Becky Epstein

Religious School News

We ended our school year with our 4th Annual Jewish Arts and Culture Festival, a culmination of a thematic unit studied by each grade.

The Arts and Culture Festival is devoted to celebrating, teaching, and learning about Jewish art and culture because of its significance to Reconstructionist Judaism. According to the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, "Judaism is the entire cultural legacy of the Jewish people. Religion is central; Jewish spiritual insights and religious teachings give meaning and purpose to our lives. Yet our creativity as expressed through art, music and drama, languages and literature, and our relationship with the land of Israel itself are also integral parts of Jewish

culture. Each of these aspects provides a gateway into the Jewish experience that can enrich and inspire us."

This year we added healing arts workshops, a drumming circle, and a new culinary artist. Every year we have a children's gallery, vendors, performing artists, and a creation station that encourage all who attend to participate in this wonderful festival. The celebration and experience of the arts as uniquely Jewish brings our B'nai Havurah community together with our school.

As this school year comes to a close, we look forward to a new year of learning in September. Our registration for next year was extremely successful, with almost 100% of our

families planning to return next year. New this year, we will be teaming up with Hadassah to bring our families and the Jewish community in Denver the Al Galgalim program for families with children ages 2 to kindergarten.

To learn more about our school and/or Al Galgalim, please contact Carol Morris at carol@bnaihavurah.org or call 303-388-4441, ext. 11. ■

—Dr. Carol Loveman Morris



Carol Morris

Scenes from the 2013 Jewish Arts and Culture Festival



Creation Station



Jackson family in Art Therapy Workshop



Lilia with 4th Grade mezuzot



Drumming circle



Create Meaningful Jewish Ritual for your Preschooler with Al Galgalim

If you have a preschooler ages 2 to 5, you may be ready for **Training Wheels**, also known as **Al Galgalim**. It's a program to help families "create meaningful Jewish home rituals and celebrations," says Carol Morris, school principal at B'nai Havurah. Once a month, parents and/or grandparents and the tots meet to learn about Jewish holidays together, says Hadassah's Anita Wenner.

Hadassah is "delighted," Wenner says, that B'nai Havurah has agreed to co-sponsor the program, which is open to all families, not just those affiliated with B'nai Havurah. The program, well-tested by Hadassah nationally, involves nine 90-minute sessions that include arts and crafts projects, Shabbat and holiday songs, and parenting discussions.

It will begin on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 10:00 am at B'nai Havurah and meet on the second Sunday of each month. The program fee is \$72, which includes a one-year trial membership to both Hadassah and B'nai Havurah.

"I am confident that this is an opportunity for families with young children that is not to be missed," says Morris.

For more information and to register, visit the B'nai website at bnaihavurah.org or contact Carol Morris at 303-388-4441 ext. 11, carol@bnaihavurah.org. Families eligible for Mazel Tot can enroll for this class at no or reduced cost. Go to www.mazeltot.org or phone Perri Klein at 303-398-7407.

B'nai Havurah's Inclusivity Initiative

B'nai Havurah has always strived to be a welcoming and inclusive community. Rabbi Evette has been pivotal in making inclusivity a central part of our mission. Beginning in July 2012, B'nai Havurah agreed (with support from the Federation Council)

Rabbi Evette has been pivotal in making inclusivity a central part of our mission.

to become one of three pilot sites of the Denver Jewish Disabilities Network (JDN). All pilot sites are using the manual "Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities" by Shelly Christensen to guide our efforts. A primary goal of this initiative is to identify the physical, developmental, and emotional difficulties or other accessibility challenges that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in what we offer as a community: religious education, worship services, adult education, and holiday programming.

Over the past several months, we have started to recognize and target areas of need for individuals with accessibility challenges, through conversations with lay leadership and staff. In conjunction with this initiative, Rabbi Evette led an inclusion-focused Shabbat service in February, and we coordinated with the Library Committee to do a book display with inclusive themes.

As our Inclusivity Committee discussed the numerous ways in

which the greater B'nai community could be involved in this process, we decided that a logo reflecting our mission, would be a helpful way to draw attention to this initiative. What better way to design a logo than to ask our artistic students in the religious school? A logo contest was held this past spring, and we selected a winner (Stella Weiss)! Get familiar with this logo — its appearance signals our efforts to make accommodations and increase accessibility to B'nai events and activities. In the coming weeks and months we will be reaching out to the entire community to further understand the unmet needs of our members.

In "What's Nu" and event announcements, we have added a statement noting that people are encouraged to contact the office if special accommodations would help any individual to fully participate in B'nai Havurah programs. Please let your voice be heard and we will make every effort to meet the need. We hope to continue to raise awareness, guide and support B'nai Havurah to become and remain meaningfully inclusive, and facilitate participation of all members of all abilities and challenges. ■

Members of the committee: Judy Reaven (chair), Liz Shane, Anna Lazaroff, and Rabbi Evette Lutman



Rabbi Evette with logo contest winner Stella Weiss



Membership Events

If you are reading this, you are likely a new member or a seasoned member. If you know someone who has been curious about B'nai Havurah, the new member orientation is just the thing for him or her!

New Member Orientation and Frozen Yogurt Tasting Sunday, August 11, 2:00-3:00 pm

All members who joined in late 2012 and the first half of 2013 are encouraged to join us for a fun and informative orientation. Please call or email Shauna Morgan-Sherman to RSVP, 720-470-7835, shauna4488@hotmail.com.

Connect with B'nai Havurah by joining a Havurah Thursday, August 15, 7:00 pm

We will discuss the benefits of being in a havurah, meet others who are also interested, and make initial plans to help launch a new havurah/havurot.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Elaine Selsberg at Rechtfam@aol.com. Light dinner will be provided.

B'nai Havurah Welcomes Our New Members

Siobhan Houston, Jamie & Mai Stone, Chana Lampner, Joe Klocek & Leah Hagler

Founders Seekers Celebration



On March 23, 2013, more than 220 guests attended a special event at the Jewish Community Center to honor our founders and celebrate B'nai Havurah's 50th year.

The program, which met with enthusiastic approval, featured witty and tender opening statements from our 50th Event co-chairs, Elizabeth Ferber Reder and Bobbie Towbin; a video of our founders created by Family Legacies; a hysterical slide show produced by an inspired Ed Towbin and friends; and musical entertainment by Hal Aqua and Susan Spero.

We raised more than \$12,000. To see a list of our special sponsors and donors, please refer to our recognitions pages in this issue of *Kol Havurot*. ■



Co-chairs Elizabeth Ferber Reder and Bobbie Towbin



Honoring our founders, pictured L-R: Ruth & Art Chapman, Alida Stein, Diane Choate, Judy & Harvey Cohen, Shirley & Mike Coren. Not pictured: Janet & Art Fine, Celeste Grynberg, Sandra & Arnold Heller, Susanne Nathanson, and Carol & Irwin Wagner.



Full house at the Jewish Community Center, where more than 220 guests were in attendance.



Gail Loyd, Alice Turak, Emily Roet



Susan Spero, Shari Abramowitz, Alan Greenberg, and Linda Treibitz entertain the crowd.



Ed Towbin's hilarious slide show featured a dancing Art Chapman and Art Fine.



L'chayim!

More photos online at www.bnaihavurah.org

Photos provided by Jill Kaplan Photography

Gey Ga Zinta Heyt, Graduates! (Go in Good Health)

Congratulations!

Today is your day!

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself

Any direction you choose.

You're on your own and you know

what you know.

**And YOU are the Guy (or gal) who'll
decide where to go.**

(From Oh the Places You'll Go!,

by Dr. Seuss)

As they head off to college, two of B'nai Havurah's newest high school graduates remember their bar and bat mitzvah preparation with fondness. Both Jordan Rudman and Galit Deitel said that the friendships they formed there and the things they learned will stay with them through the years.

Jordan is the recipient of the Boettcher Foundation scholarship, which provides full tuition for four years, books and materials, as well as a stipend. He's planning on attending Colorado College to major in science and to study molecular biology or

biochemistry as a door to a medical degree. He will, no doubt, continue his many other extracurricular interests like vocal music, theater, and mountaineering.

Galit received the National Council of Jewish Women Susan Kaufman Memorial Scholarship, which will help fund her adventures at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. She chose it for its neuroscience program. She is looking at medicine or forensics as a path to *tikkun olam*, and likes the way neuroscience addresses the mechanics, the physics, and the chemistry of the brain, as well as the function, or psychology, of the brain.

Both Jordan and Galit are approaching their college education with a spirit of adventure, looking forward to seeing what opportunities present themselves in this new learning environment, and what doors open. Both seem focused on service to others as much as their own personal success.

Galit and Jordan are both graduates of East High School in Denver as well as B'nai Havurah's b'nai mitzvah classes. We send them



Jordan Rudman



Galit Deitel

off, as well as all of our graduates, with congratulations on their past successes and wishes for many more in the future, hoping to see them again soon.

Galit and her friend Gillian Greenberg have been trying to get a teen group started at B'nai Havurah. While Galit and Gillian head off to college, they hope someone will carry their efforts forward. ■

—Gail Loyd

A hearty mazel tov and Kol Hakavod to all of our graduating seniors, who are off and away to new and wonderful adventures!

Emily Abramson, Goucher College

Joie Akerson, Wesleyan University

Jonah Baskin, University of Chicago

Noa Rose Baumgarten, University of San Francisco

Galit Deitel, Macalester College

Matthew Doddemeade, Gap Year – Study Music

Jacob Isaac Gabel, University of Denver

Gillian Greenberg Morrison, Washington University in St. Louis

Koby Howards, Seattle University

Ethan Kotel, University of Puget Sound

Jordan Rudman, Colorado College

Liza Jane Silverman, CU Boulder

Daniel Steinhauer, CU Boulder

(Thank you to Carol Morris and Elaine Selsberg for their assistance in compiling this list.)

Please join us as B'nai Havurah honors our graduating seniors and visiting college students at a special Oneg after the Music Shabbat on Saturday, August 3. Friends and families are welcome to attend!

Yaffa's Savory is pleased to extend a special invitation to members of B'nai Havurah and their friends and family for four Mondays in July: July 8, 15, 22, and 29.

The fixed price menu is \$20 per couple for either lunch or dinner (not including tax and tip). All meals include Israeli salad and Moroccan saffron rice, and dessert (classic baklava, Vienna's apple strudel, or Vienna's sweet cheese strudel for two). Main dishes include: Chicken Shawarma, Beef/Turkey Kebabs, Yaffa's Moroccan Kafta. Vegetarian main dishes are: Portabella Venetsia, Humus/Olive tapenade, Humus/Harissa, Humus/Baba Ganush. Additional cost to order from the full menu.

Come early, as the restaurant does not take reservations. For parties of more than 8 people, contact Becky Epstein at B'nai Havurah at 303-388-4441 ext. 15. Yaffa will donate 15% from every meal purchased to B'nai Havurah (not including tax or tip).

BRING THIS ADVERTISEMENT WITH YOU TO RECEIVE THE \$20 PER COUPLE FIXED PRICE and for B'nai Havurah to receive a 15% donation.

Yaffa's Savory Mediterranean Culinaria, www.yaffasavory.com
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Hours: 11 am – 8:00 pm (orders accepted until 8:30 pm)



B'nai Havurah gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who have made donations from March 1 to June 5, 2013. If we have inadvertently omitted someone who should be recognized, please let the office know and we will include that donation in our next issue of Kol Havurot.

GENERAL FUND

Purpose: to strengthen B'nai Havurah as a Community

General/Undesignated:

Libby Bortz & Michael Altenberg
Gregg Colman
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Am Yisroel:

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In Memory of:

Herbert Aal, z"l

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Eva Passer, z"l

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Phyllis Goodman

Morton Sherman, z"l

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Alan Greenberg & Liane

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Laurie & Louis Morris and

Family

Allan Simon, z"l

Fay Strauss

Sigmund Strauss, z"l

Fay Strauss

Khaya Klara Takarskaya, z"l

Jim & Galina Esterby

In Honor/Appreciation/

Celebration of:

Hal Aqua, for Daniel Simon's

Bar Mitzvah

Mitch Simon & Pamela Spiegel

B'nai Havurah, in appreciation

for vendor opportunity

at the 2013 Jewish Arts &

Culture Festival

Shari Abramowitz

Rabbi Birdie, for Daniel's Bar

Mitzvah

Mitch Simon & Pamela Spiegel

Refuah Sheleymah

(Blessings for a Speedy

Recovery) to:

Sara Chouan

Cherie Karo Schwartz & Larry

Schwartz

Adina Reshotko

Celeste Grynberg

Cherie Karo Schwartz

Sara Chouan

Jan Steinhauer

Gloria Weiss

Barb Wisott

Sheila Pack

FOUNDERS SEEKERS,

Honoring the Roots of our Journey, 50th Anniversary Celebration

In Honor/Appreciation of our Founders:

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Suzanne Boxer-Gassman &

Gerald Gassman

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Alice Turak

Irwin & Carol Wagner

Neil Weiss & Daisy Berl

Peter & Eileen Weiss

Marilyn Winokur

In Honor/Appreciation/

Celebration of:

Everyone who worked on the

Founders/Seekers event

Art & Ruth Chapman

Art and Janet Fine

David Fine & Stephanie

Wasserman

The Founders Event

Committee

Paula & Stan Gudder

Ruth and Art Chapman

Ken Hailpern

The Galperns

Carl & Joyce Norden

Susanne Nathanson

Justine Reed

Judy & Harvey Cohen, Carol &

Irwin Wagner, and Shirley &

Mike Coren

Lynn & Lisa Taussig

In Memory of:

Bess Abrams, z"l

Caryn Aviv & Dawn Weber

All of our loved ones, z"l

Harold & Marcey Birenboim

Bob Blumenthal, z"l

Pat Blumenthal & Ron

LaFollette

Ralph Goodman, z"l

David & Diane Choate

Norma Lande, z"l

Jerry Lande

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Eli & Adina Reshotko

Ken Van Horn, z"l

Bobbie Van Horn

Additional donors to the

50th Celebration and our

founders through our

Tribute Book:

Hal & Risa Aqua & Family

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B'nai Havurah Staff

Stephen Booth-Nadav & Jan &

Ariella Nadav

Susan Brody – Family Legacies

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Judy & Harvey Cohen

Colorado Business Bank

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Barbara Ellman – Individual and

Family Therapist

Elizabeth Ferber Reder & Bernard

Reder

Rachel Fine – Labor of Love

Gail ben Ezra & Marilyn

Winokur – Future Pathways

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FUND (RDF)

Purpose: to provide tzedakah

for Rabbi Evette to distribute

among members, community

and charitable organizations

in need

General/Undesignated:

Rabbi Birdie & Dr. Jeffrey Becker

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Michelle & Dean Goss

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Jennifer Reich & David Scudamore

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In Memory of:

Sanford Kramer, z"l
Art & Janet Fine
Fay Levine, z"l
Stan & Paula Gudder
Armeda McCann, z"l
Stan & Paula Gudder
Susanne Nathanson's Aunt Hilda, z"l
Stan & Paula Gudder
Dan Pollack, z"l
Stan & Paula Gudder
Rose and Morris Segal, z"l
Alvin & Bettie Steinberg
J. Lewis Spiegel, z"l
Stan & Paula Gudder

In Honor/Appreciation/Celebration of:
Sara Abenante's high school graduation and acceptance to Drexel
Paula & Stan Gudder
Noa Baumgarten's high school graduation
Paula & Stan Gudder
Diane and David Choate's 40th wedding anniversary
Paula & Stan Gudder
Matthew Doddemeade's graduation from DSA
Paula & Stan Gudder
Natalie Fine's graduation from Wesleyan University
Paula & Stan Gudder
Gillian Greenberg's high school graduation
Paula & Stan Gudder
Meredith, Ben & Zahava Levy on the arrival of baby girl Levy
Paula & Stan Gudder
Susan Macky & Ron Snyder for their new granddaughter
Paula & Stan Gudder
Carol Morris, for Daniel's bar mitzvah
Mitch Simon & Pamela Spiegel
Carol Morris, for the 2013 Jewish Arts and Culture Festival
Cherie Karo Schwartz & Larry Schwartz

Ben Nathanson's graduation from the CU BA/MBA Program
Paula & Stan Gudder
Sophie Nathanson's high school graduation
Paula & Stan Gudder
Daniel Steinhauer's high school graduation
Paula & Stan Gudder
Rachel Towbin's high school graduation
Paula & Stan Gudder
Joan Winn & Rick Ball for their new granddaughter
Paula & Stan Gudder

Refuah Sheleymah (Blessings for a Speedy Recovery) to:
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Naomi Halpern-Wisott
Adina Reshotko
Stan & Paula Gudder

KIDDUSH FUND
Purpose: Sponsors subsidize or provide delicious, substantial Shabbat or Chag Oneg Kiddushim

In Memory of:
Karen Aqua, z"l
Hal and Risa Aqua
Lester Saidman, z"l
Zeik Saidman & Alana Smart
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Fay Strauss
Rose Katz and Melvin Wallis, z"l
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Ben Honigman & Mary Kohn
Eli Perlman, z"l
Paul Littman & Sheila Lehrburger Littman
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In Honor/Appreciation/Celebration of:
Our 60th wedding anniversary
Eli & Adina Reshotko

JEFFREY HERTZ MEMORIAL FUND
Purpose: to provide scholarships for teen Israel summer trips and camp, and other congregational needs

In Memory of:
Jeffrey Hertz, z"l
Tamara and Emma Hertz & Doug Johnson
Sanford & Rosemary Hertz
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TIKKUN OLAM (Other than ½ Shekel donation)
Purpose: to enable us to fulfill our commitment to social justice and repairing the world

Place Bridge Academy
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Carla Seashore Buckstein

MUSIC AND SOUND FUND
Purpose: to purchase music for our choir and maintain our sound system

In Honor/Appreciation/Celebration of:
Dan Recht's special birthday
Jeff & Sharon Haber

YISKOR
Purpose: to provide funds to print our Yizkor book to honor the memory of our loved ones

In Memory of:
Albert Wallis, z"l
Miriam Wallis

Above & Beyond listings have been postponed to our next edition Fall/Winter of Kol Havurot. We thank the more than 75 families who have made their annual gift. Please contact our office to make your Above & Beyond gift.

B'nai Mitzvah March 1-June 15, 2013

Jamie Sheinbaum (Jack and Becky Sheinbaum), March 2, 2013
Sunny (Annabelle) Stier-Wood (Jennifer Stier and Brock Wood), April 6 2013
Daniel Simon (Alyson Probst and Mitch Simon), May 11, 2013
Zoë Hopkins (Jennifer Oxman), May 18, 2013
Hannah Rudman (Eva Cherin and Craig Rudman), June 8, 2013
Eliana Goldberg (Bill Goldberg and Karen Silverman), June 15, 2013

Passings since February 28, 2013

Laurel Elizabeth Adams, z"l, Member
Harry Aschkinasi, z"l, Member
Ralph Goodman, z"l, Father of Debbie Goodman, sister of Bobbie (Ed) Towbin, sister-in-law of Phyllis Goodman
Irving Howards, z"l, Father of Steve (Deborah Andrews) Howards
Helen Kastner Kane, z"l, Mother of Felice Morel
Douglas Donovan Neumann, z"l, Father of Sharon (Jerome) Tinianow
Harold Rosenblatt, z"l, Grandfather of Jason (Kate) Shiroff
Steven Skalabrin, z"l, Brother of Terri (Scott Bearman) Skalabrin

Mike Towbin Returns to Denver

Dr. Mike Towbin, who grew up in our congregation, has returned to Denver to work for Shalom Cares. Mike's family has deep roots with our synagogue. Parents Ed and Bobbie Towbin were instrumental in starting B'nai Havurah in the '60s. His sisters and brothers-in-law, Risa and Hal Aqua and Sam and Rob Baumgarten, and their families are also members, as are several other of Mike's relatives.

After practicing in Fort Collins for 20 years, Mike is now serving as Medical Director for Shalom Park Professional Services, caring for patients on the Shalom Park campus in Aurora, as well as in other Denver-area nursing homes. Mike and his wife, Mia, have two daughters, Rachel, 18, and Madelaine, 15, who will remain in Fort Collins until Madelaine finishes high school.

A warm welcome back to Denver, Mike! ■



Mike Towbin


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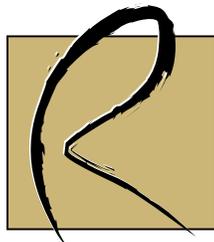


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I wish to remain anonymous

For additional information about these funds, other options for giving, or to make your donation online, please visit our website at bnaihavurah.org. Thank you for your generosity!

Check below to designate the category for your donation:

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- Kehillah (community)
- Am Yisrael (the Jewish people)

