



# HANUKKIYAH LIGHTING 5782



**HANUKKAH  
HOMECOMING**

*A great miracle is happening here*

November 28, 2021- December 5, 2021



We will have the Hanukkiyah Lighting outside (socially distanced, with masks) on the front lawn. These groups are hosting the lighting; everyone is welcome to attend.

1st Night	Sunday, November 28th	Brotherhood @ 5:30 pm
2nd Night	Monday, November 29th	Social Action @ 5:30 pm
3rd Night	Tuesday, November 30th	Sisterhood @ 5:30 pm
4th Night	Wednesday, December 1st	Board of Directors @ 5:30 pm
5th Night	Thursday, December 2nd	RLWRS @ 5:30 pm
6th Night	Friday, December 3rd	Early Birds @ 3:45 pm*
7th Night	Saturday, December 4th	BSBI Congregation @ 5:30 pm
8th Night	Sunday, December 5th	Adult Education @ 5:30 pm

\*Please note the time for Friday night.

## TEMPLE TOPICS

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## BETH SHOLOM B'NAI ISRAEL

400 Middle Turnpike East, Manchester, CT 06040

(860) 643-9563 [www.myshul.org](http://www.myshul.org)

### Clergy

Rabbi: Randall J. Konigsburg

Rabbi Emeritus: Richard J. Plavin

### Staff

Office Manager: Judy Sawtelle

Marketing Coordinator: Jake Rudder

Bookkeeper: Shari Haley

Education Director: Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz

Maintenance Specialist: Dave Pastula

### BSBI Board of Directors

Co-Presidents: Dawn & Jack Steigelfest

Executive Vice President: Russ Benblatt

Co-Vice Presidents of Finance: Alan & Hope Igdalsky

Co-Vice Presidents of Membership: Sally Ivaldi Z"L & Merle Cohen

Vice President of Ritual: Steve Cohen

Co-Vice Presidents of Education: Rebecca Rumbo/Bea Brodie

Vice President of Fundraising: Ken Wichman

Vice President of Administration: Ron Abrahams

Vice President of Buildings & Grounds: Ed Reilly

Vice President of Cemeteries: Liza Mandel

Recording Secretary: Steven Wollins

Immediate Past President: Phil Margolis

Sisterhood Representative: Brina Abrahams

Brotherhood Representative: Dave Alter

Board of Trustees Representative: Gordon Brodie

Member At Large: Steve Cohen

Member At Large: Jay Bigman

Member At Large: Spin Zucker

Co-Chairs, Personnel: Gayle Block & Mike Turk

Chair, Social Action: Carol Hatch

Chair, Youth Activities: Ilene O'Neil

Chair, Adult Programming: Debbie Benblatt

Legal Counsel: Bruce Beck

### Services

**Monday through Thursday: 7:00 PM**

**Friday: 6:00 PM**

**Saturday: 10:00 AM**

All service times are as listed above unless otherwise noted in the calendar. The entire community is welcome to attend any of our services. Services Monday-Thursday are virtual. Friday and Saturday services are hybrid. Zoom information will be included in emails.

You may contact us via email at:

**Rabbi Konigsburg:** rabbenu@myshul.org

**Judy Sawtelle:** admin@myshul.org

**Jake Rudder:** programming@myshul.org

**Shari Haley:** accounting@myshul.org

**Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz:** RLWRSDirector@myshul.org

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JUDAISM



## Upcoming Events!



**Due to COVID-19, all events are  
subject to change.**

**Please visit [www.myshul.org](http://www.myshul.org) for all updates.**

### Wednesday, December 1: Hanukkah

5:30 pm Hanukkah 4th Candle Lighting at BSBI -  
Board of Directors

### Thursday, December 2: Hanukkah

5:30 pm Latkes & Lights  
Hanukkah 5th Candle Lighting at BSBI – RLWRS

### Friday, December 3: Hanukkah

3:45 pm Hanukkah 6th Candle Lighting at BSBI -  
Early Bird

### Saturday, December 4: Hanukkah

5:30 pm Hanukkah 7th Candle Lighting at BSBI -  
Congregation  
7:00pm Jazz Fest

### Sunday, December 5: Hanukkah

12:00 pm RLWRS Hanukkah Celebration  
5:30 pm Hanukkah 8th Candle Lighting at BSBI -  
Adult Education

### Tuesday, December 7

12:00 pm Lunch & Learn  
7:30 pm BSBI Academy

### Sunday, December 12

9:30 am Brotherhood Breakfast  
10:00 am Brotherhood Speaker

### Monday, December 13

7:30 pm Sisterhood/Hadassah Book Club

### Tuesday, December 14

12:00 pm Lunch & Learn  
1:30 pm Knit & Kvetch  
7:30 pm BSBI Academy

### Wednesday, December 15

7:30 pm BOD Board Meeting

### Saturday, December 18

10:00 am Junior Congregation

### Tuesday, December 21

12:00 pm Lunch & Learn  
7:30 pm Sisterhood Board Meeting

### Sunday, December 26

11:30 am Sisterhood Adventure Walk

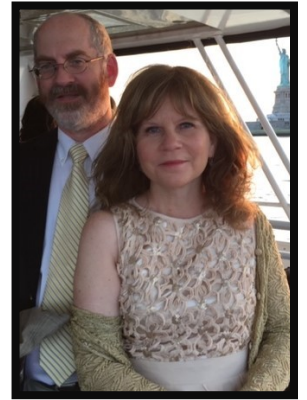
### Tuesday, December 28

12:00 pm Lunch & Learn  
7:30 pm BSBI Academy

## *Words from the Co-Presidents*

Hanukkah, which derives from the Hebrew word meaning “to dedicate,” commemorates the success of the Maccabean revolt against the Syrian Greek regime that had taken control of Judea in the Second Century before the common era. As the legend goes, when the Jews rededicated the Temple, there was only enough pure olive oil for the Temple’s lamp to last one day, but the oil miraculously lasted the eight days it took to locate more. Jews have been celebrating the eight-day Festival of Lights ever since.

In many households, it is common to exchange gifts each day of the holiday. Here at BSBI, we feel like we have already received the equivalent of eight gifts in the past few months. They include:



- The arrival of the equipment necessary to complete phase II of the HVAC project in time for the High Holidays
- Securing Eversource’s help in connecting the power necessary to complete phase II despite hurricane delays
- Installation of professional live stream system in time for the High Holidays
- The ability to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend High Holiday services in person
- Finding a new High Holiday Cantor who enhanced our holiday experience
- A return to in-person events, including B’nai Mitzvah, a Comedy Show, and the ability to enjoy breaking bread together
- Finding new help for Judy in the office in light of Tova’s departure
- That all of this occurred without a COVID outbreak that jeopardized the health of our congregation

Some of these may seem miraculous, but most were accomplished through the efforts of people, fellow members of this congregation and staff, with a bit of help from above.

We do not celebrate Hanukkah in the hope of getting presents (although who doesn’t like presents). We celebrate the freedom to worship imbedded in the Hanukkah story and the light in the darkness of winter that promises the return of warmer and longer days. We also hope you share the warm feeling that comes from the resilience and successes of this congregation in difficult times.

**Dawn & Jack Steigelfest**  
**BSBI Co-Presidents**

### *This Date in Jewish History*

27 Kislev – 27 Tevet

**27 Kislev** – Shmuel Yosef Agnon and Nelly Sachs won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1966, the first international recognition of a Hebrew writer.

**6 Tevet** – Dr. Sabato Morais started a new seminary in New York on this date in 1887. It would be the predecessor of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Of the eight students, one was Joseph Hertz, who would go on to be the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire.

**15 Tevet** – Prime Minister Menachim Begin and President Anwar el-Sadat met in Ismailia, Egypt in 1977 to discuss peace between the two countries.

**15 Tevet** – *Yahrzeit* of Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer, who brought Conservative Judaism to much of South America, and who revitalized Congregation Adath Yeshurun in New York City.

**18 Tevet** – *Yahrzeit* of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the most important Jewish philosophers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**24 Tevet** – *Yahrzeit* of Rabbi Isaac Klein, author of modern Handbook of Religious Jewish Practice for the Conservative Jewish community.

## Faith, Hope, Prayer

It's December. For Jews, it is hardly "the most wonderful time of the year." We are celebrating Hanukkah at the beginning of the month and BSBI will host our Sixth Annual Jazz Festival on December 4th. Both are joyful events that are celebrated in December. But ever since Thanksgiving, another wonderful day celebrated by the Jewish community, all the rest of our country is focused on Christmas.

For years, the Jewish community wrestled with the "December Dilemma," i.e., how to navigate Christmas and everything that is connected to it. It is not just the interfaith families that have to make decisions how to steer through two very unequal holidays. Any Jewish family not very connected to their Judaism has trouble figuring out how to address this time of year. This year Hanukkah and Christmas are almost a month apart. There will be even less connection than usual between the days. I guess that means there will be less talk of "Hanukkah Bushes" and blue and white lights.

So, what are Jews supposed to do for Christmas? The short answer is nothing. It is just not our holiday. We do decorations at Sukkot time. We give gifts to the poor on Purim. We celebrate our redemption on Pesach. If we try and co-opt Christmas for our Jewish homes, it would not be a celebration of Christmas, but for Christians, it would be offensive.

Yet just because we don't celebrate Christmas, does not mean we can't celebrate the holiday with our Christian neighbors. If a neighbor needs help selecting, bringing home, or decorating a tree for their home, there is nothing wrong with helping them celebrate their holiday. If we are invited to a holiday party, or receive a gift of Christmas cookies, or even get a Christmas card or two, we have not violated any aspect of our Judaism. If we have Christian relatives who invite us for Christmas at their home, there is no reason to separate ourselves from our family. While we should not bring Christmas into our homes, we can enjoy this holiday with those who do celebrate the holiday. Just as there is no crime in inviting Christians to our home to see Hanukkah lights and to enjoy latkes, there is no harm in being invited to join in a Christmas celebration (although Judaism does say to always pay attention to Shabbat and Kashrut).

It is harder where schools and organizations require their Jewish constituents to take part in holiday festivities. It is a struggle to get some schools to let Jewish children sit out the holiday activities. It is important that we share the ideas behind holidays with each other; coercion, however, is unacceptable. Even when government institutions try to be balanced and display several holiday symbols, it is not appropriate to display religious symbols in this country where government is forbidden to promote any one religion.

I do admit that over the course of December, the constant reminders of Christmas, the constant sounds of holiday music, the endless barrage of commercialism as we are implored to buy...buy...buy does get tiresome. I don't get into the shopping stuff, the Black Friday, the after-Christmas sales, the last-minute bargains. Mostly I stay out of the stores.

I feel for my clergy friends who fight like mad at this time of the year to try and get people to focus on the reason for the holiday celebration rather than the commercialism that tends to dominate the airwaves. Hanukkah is about religious freedom. Christmas is about bringing peace on earth. The theology of the holidays is sound; yet the constant barrage of commercials overwhelms the theology.

Christmas and New Year's Day are national holidays. Take a day off. Be respectful of those who celebrate these holidays. Learn about them. Wish your Christian friends a happy holiday. Santa Claus will bring presents and joy to those families who celebrate the day. Santa will not be visiting Jewish chimneys. That is OK. When the family time around the tree on Christmas morning is over and their family dinners are through; when church time and family time are over; there is no reason we can't sit down and watch a football game together.

And that is what makes this country great.



## Call the Rabbi!

Rabbi Konigsburg visits the local hospitals on a regular basis. An important part of his duties is to bring comfort and healing to those who are sick. Due to privacy laws, the hospitals can't tell him if one of our members has been admitted.

He could be just down the hall, but if he doesn't know someone is there, he will not know to make a visit.

Please call the Rabbi if you or someone you know is in the hospital so a timely visit can be made: **860-643-9563**



## Having a Vision for Your Life

**Where there is no vision, the people perish—Proverbs 29:18**

In our religious school, many of our discussions examine personal visions. You may be surprised to learn this, but children do have their personal visions, even with their limited experience.

I learned recently about a Google staff member who suggested that rather than asking our kids what they want to “be” when they grow up, we should ask them what problems they wish to solve in the world. I found this conversation to be exciting because the focus of the conversation shifts to “What do I need to learn to be able to achieve that?” In other words, the more our children focus on what they would like to accomplish, the more likely they will be to succeed.

Nobel Laureate Isidor Rabi (Physics) was once asked why he chose to be a scientist. He answered that while most parents would ask their children if they had learned anything at school that day, his mother would greet him with, “Did you ask any good questions in school today?”

When we ask questions, we are on a mission to get an answer. We are motivated to learn and take an active role in our development. Those who ask questions pick up far more information than those who glide passively through their school years. And remember, asking questions is a very Jewish thing to do.

In Proverbs, we learn, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” This is true for nations, for communities, and for individuals. Every nation needs a vision of what it stands for and the role it hopes to play in the world.

If a nation lacks direction, it will ultimately fall into anarchy or under the power of another nation. In contrast, a country that rallies around strong ideals and values will be united and strong, achieving great things both for its people and for the world. The same is true for any community. If it supports strong ideals and values, it will achieve great things.

In the same way, if we as individuals do not know what we stand for or what we want to do with our lives, we can end up in confusion. Without clear direction in our lives, we are not likely to accomplish much. We are all given talents and abilities by God. We are all good at something. It is our job to discover our talents, form a vision, and create a mission for our lives.

When we know what problems we want to solve with our God-given abilities, we are already on our way to making great contributions. When we ask important questions, we are already on our way to becoming full of wisdom.

In this Chanukah season, I want to inspire you to encourage your children’s vision and mission for their lives. Let us ask ourselves and our children these questions: What would we like to accomplish? What kind of person would we like to be? How do we want to be remembered? How can we serve God? Let us ask ourselves these questions frequently—and then live the answers.

## WHAT DOES CHANUKAH MEAN, AND HOW DO WE SPELL IT ANYWAY? EDUCATION=DEDICATION

The word Chanukah means “dedication.” The word comes from the Hebrew word “chinuch” which means “education.” Is it any wonder that Jews have a full commitment and dedication to education and learning? The Jewish people have a tremendously full history, but unfortunately, many of us have huge gaps in our learning; we skip from Deuteronomy (the return to the Promised Land and the death of Moses) to the Babylonian exile, to the declaration of the state of Israel in 1948! The history of the Jewish people has made us who we are today. The struggle of the Maccabees to preserve our unique history continues today. As we light the lights of Chanukah, let’s dedicate ourselves to knowing, and owning, our history.

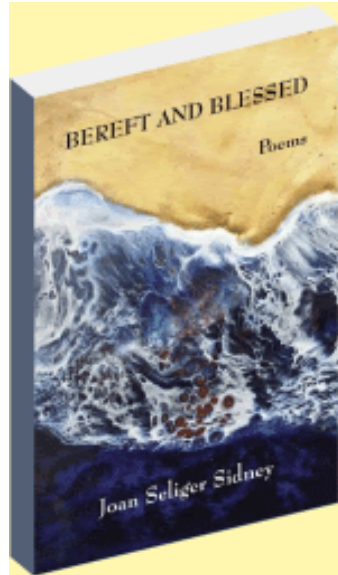
By the way, we spell it: chet-nun-vav-kaf-hay!

Wishing you a joyous, celebratory Chanukah,  
**Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz**  
RLWRS Education Director

## Rabbi Richard Plavin Library

David Alter, Librarian

### Suggested Reading List

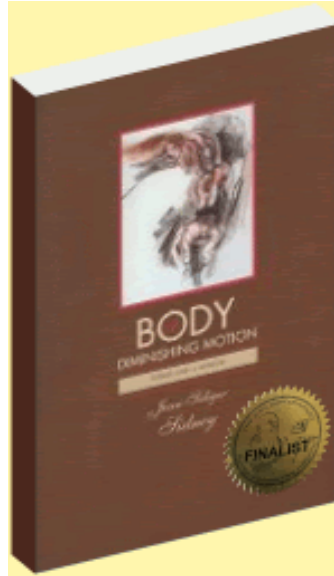


*Bereft and Blessed* and *Body of Diminishing Motion* are poems and memoirs by Joan Seliger Sidney. Joan is the Writer-in-Residence at UConn's Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life. As a second-generation Holocaust survivor, she uses her poems to display witness to the Holocaust and her experiences with multiple sclerosis.

*Bereft and Blessed* is about times gone past that were tumultuous, tragic, challenging and inspiring. Her poems share the very powerful reality of her family's Holocaust experiences and her heritage.

*Body of Diminishing Motion* explores the many issues associated with confronting serious physical and/or psychological illness, her illness, MS, which she expresses through the poems.

For further information about Joan or to purchase these books see Joan's website: <http://www.joanseligersidney.org>



### Important: Update Your Contact Information!

- \* Have a new cell number or gave up your landline?
- \* Want to be added to our email list to get our bi-weekly announcements, sad news notifications and other important information related to the congregation?
- \* Think you signed up to get emails but haven't received any?
- \* Planning on moving or getting a new email address?
- \* Have a child who has gone off to college and would like to keep up to date with life at BSBI?

Please contact the office directly regarding **ANY** changes or issues by or by sending an email to [admin@myshul.org](mailto:admin@myshul.org).

**REMEMBER:** We cannot reach you if our records are not up to date!

## Social Action Committee

First of all, thank you to all our congregants who participated in Count Your Blessings. As a result of your generosity, we were able to send donations to MACC and HVCC to provide Thanksgiving meals to more than a dozen families in Manchester and Vernon. In addition, we made a generous contribution to the Kosher Food Pantry in West Hartford as a Hanukkah donation.

We have also been in the midst of a winter clothing donation. Our congregants have been generous in their donations, and I would especially like to thank Anne Fink and the knitters and crocheters of Knit and Kvetch for their generous donation of hand-made hats. Our intention was to donate these items to refugee and immigrant families who will be coming to Connecticut. These were to be delivered to a church in New Haven, which would distribute them to the families. Unfortunately, the church had to withdraw from this activity, and IRIS is not accepting clothing either. The items will be put to good use, however, through local clothing banks. If the Manchester Warming Center reopens, I will offer some of the items to that facility. Sometimes good intentions must adapt to changing circumstance.

I hope that you all have a joyous Hanukkah.

**Carol Hatch**  
Chair, Social Action





## Birthdays

Jeffrey Tardif 12/1  
 Ellen Neuhaus 12/2  
 Craig Banks 12/2  
 Eleanor Lipton 12/3  
 Harvey Kahaner 12/6  
 Iris Schlank 12/7  
 Glenn Hauer 12/7  
 Susan Luxemburg 12/7  
 Laura Levine 12/10  
 Rochelle Levine 12/10  
 Talia Zimmerman 12/12  
 Richard Schiller 12/14  
 Rebecca Steigelfest 12/14  
 Richard Carlton 12/16  
 Carol Hatch 12/17  
 Lauren Bula 12/18

Jeffrey Lassow 12/18  
 Sue Pitler 12/20  
 Gillian Cohen 12/20  
 Alfred Stern 12/20  
 Richard Berkman 12/20  
 Blanche Stone 12/22  
 Judy Meyer 12/22  
 Rachel Partney 12/22  
 Judith Eckhouse 12/22  
 Sandi Garfield 12/23  
 Richard Ketai 12/24  
 Risa Filkoff 12/26  
 Loren Reichlin 12/28  
 Hedda Reichlin 12/30

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Anniversaries



Saul Nesselroth & Carol Lewis-12/30





**ShopRite**

**Manchester ShopRite**

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- ✓ Great Prices
- ✓ Great People

Monday thru Saturday 6am to 11pm  
Sunday 6am to 10pm  
(860) 645-3240

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With This Coupon  
Towards The Purchase of  
\$5.00 or More On Any  
**Empire Fresh  
or Frozen Items**

With this coupon and an add'l. purchase of \$5.00  
or more (excluding items prohibited by law),  
limit one per family. Good at any ShopRite.  
Effective thru Dec. 31, 2021



Have a *simcha* you want to share with the congregation?  
Make sure to notify Tova at [programming@myshul.org](mailto:programming@myshul.org) so  
she can include it in the bulletin!

***If we have overlooked a special date please contact us at: 860-643-9563 ext. 100  
so that we may celebrate it in the future.***





## Sisterhood Speaks



### What's Ahead for Sisterhood?

**Monday, December 13, 7:30 pm**  
Sisterhood - Hadassah Book Group

**Tuesday, December 14, 1:30 pm**  
Knit & Kvetch

**Tuesday, December 21, 7:30 pm**  
Sisterhood Zoom Board meeting

**Sunday, December 26, 10:00 am**  
Sisterhood Adventure Walk  
(socially distanced)

Anytime: Yoga with Adriene on YouTube.

### Sisterhood Hadassah Book Group



Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 13, at 7:30 pm. We will discuss *The Nature of Fragile Things* by Susan Meissner.

The Mary Cheney Library's reference desk is holding copies of the book for the BSBI Book Group. A Zoom link

will be posted closer to the meeting date.

Future meeting dates are January 10, February 7 or 14, March 14, April 4, May 9, and June 13.

**Maxine Lerman and Becky Murray**

### Knit & Kvetch

On Tuesday, November 9th we had our annual charity distributions.

This year we were able to distribute hats, afghans and mittens to the following: Cornerstone, Crestfield Nursing Home, DeQuattro Cancer Center, Kids Safe, HVCC, Headstart, MARC, Mutual Aid, IRIS, Hartford Health Care, Second Congregational Church, Warming Center, Waddell School, Verplank School, Power Up, and the Rabbi. We had a total of 800 items.

I would like to thank Carol Alter, Sandi Phair, Irma Carter, Anne Herman, Lynn Cohen, Lea Schmerler, Mimi Kalman, Susan Gross, Barbara Zupnik, Susan Stoppelman, and In Memory of Ellen Kloehn for their time and "stitching" to helping me make this another great year.

It's hard to believe, but we will be starting our 17th year.

Anyone interested in Knitting or Kvetching please join us at our next meeting, which will be on Tuesday, December 14th at 1:30 pm in the Temple, or you can work from home.

This coming year we will be in need of afghans, hats, mittens, and we will be adding scarves.

Any questions? Call me at 860-649-6551 or email me at [Irannefink@gmail.com](mailto:Irannefink@gmail.com).

**Anne Fink**



### Torah Fund Cards

Condolences to Myrna Spector and family in memory of Myrna's husband, Ken, from Sylvia Cheerman.

Mazel tov to Stacey and Sarah Poutre on becoming bubbie and aunt with the birth of Mason Blackmer; mazel tov to Rachel and Michael Blackmer on the birth of their son, Mason; condolences to Myrna Spector in memory of her husband, Ken; condolences to Bill Spector on the loss of his brother, Ken; condolences to Rachel Spector on the loss of her mother, Patricia Marks Stewart; mazel tov to Rima Riedel on the publication of her book, *Shimmy, Shimmy Homicide*; and mazel tov to Lily O'Neil and family in honor of Lily's bat mitzvah, from Judy and Harold Meyer.

Condolences to Michael and Barbara Brezel in memory of Michael's mother, Frida, from Mimi Kalman.

To order cards for all occasions contact our Torah Fund Card Chairperson Lynn Cohen at 860-298-0457 or [cohenlynn334@gmail.com](mailto:cohenlynn334@gmail.com)

### Sisterhood Gift Shop Your Source for all Your Simchot

There's still time to do some Hanukkah shopping at our Gift Shop! We have many wonderful items to select from, so please stop by and see us!

Please don't hesitate to call Harriet Beede, and she'll arrange to meet you at the Gift Shop! If you don't find what you want, we can always do special orders from our catalogs. We look forward to seeing you then.

Call us, we will be happy to help you!

**Harriet Beede**

hmbeede@gmail.com 860-305-8711

**Brenda Lerner**

brenler@cox.net 860-643-9700



## Sisterhood Speaks Continued

### Adventure Walk



Hi Walkers, we'll be walking again on Sunday, December 26, at 10:00 am. So come with us, wear a mask, we'll keep our distance, and we'll get some exercise. If it's chilly, walking will warm us up. We will see lovely scenery and enjoy being out in the fresh air!

Family members and spouses are welcome to join, socially distanced from those not in the family bubble.

So, meet us in BSBI's parking lot by 10:00 am. We will decide where we are going, and off we will go!

**Margie Partney**

### Yoga On Your Own

Yoga with "The Queen of Pandemic Yoga" Adriene (Mishlar)! So named by the *NY Times*, and she was featured on the TV program "Live With Kelly and Ryan." So now you not only have Margie's recommendation, but also the "Times" and Kelly and Ryan!

What: Yoga (no cost to you)

When: Any time

Where: In your home

Why: A 10-40 minute session can help with anxiety, calming, feeling rejuvenated

How:

-Access YouTube on your Computer, IPAD, Phone (you can also download the YouTube app to your phone\*)

-Search "Yoga" or "Yoga with Adriene" (I recommend that instructor)

- There will be a multitude of results to choose from:

Yoga for Stress Relief

Wake up Yoga

Flexibility

Yoga for Kids

- Have fun and relax!!

\*if you have a SMART TV, Google Chromecast can be used to display the YouTube Video from your phone to TV.

**Margie Partney**



# Brotherhood Corner

## Brotherhood's December Speaker

Marcella A. MacDonald, DPM

This is where I feel at home...

English Channel: The Mount Everest of Open Water Swims

9:30 am Sunday, December 12th

### Molokai Hawaiian Channel: Molokai' to O'ahu:

April 9-10, 2016

17 hours, 27 minutes, 20 seconds

### Loch Ness, Scotland: 23 miles

August 2, 2015

11 hours, 59 minutes

1st American & oldest individual to complete

### Manhattan Island Marathon Swim

1993, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2009

### Swim Across the Sound

Every year we try to get past swimmers involved, open water... caring and helping the community.

Solo: 2002, 2013 plus 6 relays

([www.swimacrossthesound.org](http://www.swimacrossthesound.org)):

### Mercer Island, Seattle, Washington

20K=12.4 miles

June 2018

6 hours, 19 minutes

### Round Jersey (UK) Swim: Solo

June 2010

9 hours, 59 minutes

### Maui Channel, Hawaii: Solo

September 2010

6 hours, 45 minutes

### Catalina Channel Crossing

June 25, 2013

12 hours, 09 minutes

### Ederle Swim, 17.5 miles

Manhattan to Sandy Hook, NJ

October 2007

### Lake Sunapee, NH

September 1993

10 hour qualifying swim, 60 degree water

### Overall American Record with 17 crossings:

1994, 1997, 2000, 2001 (double), 2003, 2004 (double), 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 (double), 2014, 2018, 2019



## Save the Date

BSBI at Yard Goats Faith and Family Day will be Sunday August 21, 2022.

More information will follow as details become available.



# BSBI Community

## Jessie's Garden

A huge Thank You to all planters, weeders, waterers, and our food distribution team. You are all awesome and so appreciated. Jessie's Garden has completed another year, and HVCC and MACC were so grateful for our donations. A Thank You to our wonderful team who met early Sunday morning, Oct. 24, to help put our garden to bed for another season. Cheers to Maxine and Manny Lerman, Margie Partney, and Ron Abrahams. Many hands make light work! Planning will begin again next March. If you are not already involved, please consider joining this very worthwhile endeavor. No experience is necessary.



**Brina Abrahams & Merle Cohen**

## A Note to Donors Sample QCD

Date:

To: IRA Custodian

From:

Please accept this letter as my request to make a direct charitable contribution from my Individual Retirement Account [IRA] #----- and direct payment to the following charitable organization.

**Beth Sholom B'nai Israel Endowment Foundation**

Tax ID: 05-0540805

I certify I am 70 1/2 years old or older and I am eligible to remit a Qualified Charitable Distribution [QCD] from my IRA.

Please mail the QCD to:

BSBI Endowment Foundation  
Attention: Judy Sawtelle  
400 Middle Turnpike East  
Manchester, CT 06040

If you are wiring funds to the BSBI Endowment, please use the following:

TD Ameritrade  
11 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
Title of Account: Beth Sholom B'nai Israel Endowment Fund  
Account Number: 76969477  
Tax ID: 05-0540805



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# Leave a Jewish Legacy



## IRA Assets and Qualified Charitable Distributions

BSBI would like to encourage charitable donations, to help our congregants optimize their charitable giving and to reach their charitable goals. On behalf of the Endowment Board of Trustees I would like to review some of the benefits of gifting Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) to the Endowment. The QCDs may also be used to pay Synagogue dues as well as contribute to the Hineni Society.

## Donation of "Qualified Charitable Distributions" (QCD)

In legislation at year end 2016, Congress made permanent qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from individual retirement accounts.

## What are QCDs?

A QCD permits direct transfers to a qualified charity (or charities) totaling up to \$100,000 annually of tax-deferred IRA savings. QCDs offer advantages over taking a taxable IRA distribution and then contributing the proceeds of that distribution to a charity. That's because taxable IRA distributions must be included in adjusted gross income. Importantly, QCDs automatically satisfy required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year when the QCD is made. That's a real advantage for a charitably minded IRA owner who doesn't depend on some or all of the RMD for living expenses.

## What are important things to know about QCDs?

Only individuals who've attained age 70 ½ or older on the date of distribution may make QCDs. The charitable organization must be an organization that qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction of an individual. The Beth Sholom B'nai Israel Synagogue and the BSBI Endowment qualify as such organizations. The BSBI Endowment and Synagogue will be required to provide the same contribution acknowledgement to the owner of the IRA required claiming a charitable tax deduction. Failure to obtain the acknowledgement will quash the QCD. QCDs may be made from any IRA or individual retirement annuity, but not from a simplified employee pension, a simple retirement account, or an inherited IRA. Among other benefits, the use of QCDs for charity may reduce taxable income, reduce state and federal tax, reduce taxation of social security, reduce supplemental IRMMA payments to Medicare parts B and D. Individuals and couples with low as well as high incomes may benefit by contributing QCDs to charity.

## Examples of using QCDs for charitable giving

There are several attractive options for the use of QCDs for charitable giving. For example one can use the QCD to pay Synagogue dues and contribute to Hineni. Another example of optimizing the use of QCD is to establish a **perpetual endowment** fund. By making a QCD donation to the Endowment of BSBI, the donor may create a \$25,000 endowment for BSBI. This endowment may be given over the course of a number of years to reach the level necessary to provide perpetual support of a \$1000 to **Hineni**. By adding to the donation annually the donor could reach a \$45,000 over a number of years. This amount would support a **perpetual Hineni donation at the \$1800** per year level. Details of further possibilities and arrangements for payment can be obtained from the Endowment members or via email noted below. Since the use of QCDs for charitable giving can have specific tax advantages the donor should consult their tax advisor prior to making a QCD contribution. Some plans require significant lead time to process the paper work, so advanced planning may be necessary.

For further information, contact a member of the Endowment Committee. You may reach out to the BSBI Endowment at [BSBIEndowment@myshul.org](mailto:BSBIEndowment@myshul.org) or directly to Roy Filkoff or Jeff Wasser. Remember to discuss this and all other tax matters with your tax advisor before taking any action.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Wasser, MD  
President of the BSBI Endowment

Will this be the year to leave YOUR Jewish legacy?



*Do you have a will?  
Have you considered a bequest to BSBI?*

Join those members of our Jewish community who have come together to build endowments and legacies to secure a bright Jewish future for BSBI.



For more information, please email:  
[BSBIEndowment@myshul.org](mailto:BSBIEndowment@myshul.org)

# Endowment Foundation

Scholarships	Rabbi Leon Wind Religious School	Adult Education	Community	General Endowment Fund	<b>The Time is Now, The Need is Great!</b>  Endowments are an opportunity for each of us to provide for our synagogue on a continuous basis by creating a permanent tribute to our values and principles.  Our synagogue is here for you as you experience life's greatest joys and greatest challenges.  <i>The Endowment Foundation</i>  *These funds can also be used in Rabbi Leon Wind Religious School
Gloria Byk Fund	Bayer/Davison Fund	Sylvia A. Cheikin Fund	Berkman Family Fund	Israel and Lillian Abramovitz Fund	
Ann and Emanuel Hirth Fund	David Sherman Foster Fund	Clare-Kramer Fund	Klemens-Wiener Fund	Sheldon and Doris Adler Fund	
Maxine & Efrem Jaffe Fund	Hochberg Family Fund	Ruth and Sidney Cohen Fund	Gordon Barshay Lassow and Jay Joshua Lassow Fund	Louis and Sadye Apter Family Fund	
Seymour B. Kaplan Fund	Jacobs Family Fund	Jack Goldberg Fund*	Esther Margulies Lessner and George C. Lessner Fund	Clare and Herbert Bernstein Fund	
Sonia and Max Karp and Anita Karp Treston Fund	Rose Jaffe Fund	F. Ruth and S. I. Kummer Fund	Jerome and Louise Nathan Fund	Raymond Bernstein Fund	
Joseph Kopman Fund	Katz-Robbins Fund	Fay and Benjamin Levy and Max Mandel Fund*	Ella and Herman Plavin Fund	Nathan Chesler Fund	
Anne and Leon Kramer Fund	Ruth Podrove Melton Fund	Aida S. Nesselroth Educational Enhancement Fund*	Plepler Family Fund	A. Elmer Diskan Fund	
Max Lundy Fund	Barney, Jean, Rachel, and Sarah Moses Education Fund	Saul and Carol Nesselroth Fund for Israel Advocacy	Jay E. Rubinow Fund	Ruben Fialkoff Fund	
Laurie Margolis Fund	Gertrude and Abraham Podrove Fund	George and Lillian Sandals Fund	Rita and David Schmerler Fund	Morris and Ann Firestone Fund	
Cantor Israel and Irene Tabatsky Fund	Podrove - Resnick Fund	Ruth and Jack Sandals Fund	Leonard Seader Fund	Rhoda Goldstein Fund	
Marsha and Samuel Yules Fund	Martin L. Rubin Fund	Rabbi Jeshai and Hilde Schnitzer Fund	Shapiro Family Fund	Edith Gottlieb Fund	
Pauline and Isadore Zackin Fund	Nat N. and Gertrude Sturm Schwedel Fund	Saul and Rebecca Silverstein Fund	Eileen & Fred Stern Family Fund	Leo and Shirley Juran Fund	
Diane and Jeffrey Wasser Ramah Scholarship Fund	Berdine Spector Stoltz Fund	Weil-Braunsberg Fund*	Blanche and Robert Stone Fund	Kahaner Family Fund	
		Elliott and Eveleen Zimmerman Library Fund	Continuity Fund	Ethel and Nathan Kasowitz Fund	
			Program Enhancement	Marcus Family and Bula Family Fund	
			Beth Sholom B'nai Israel Operating Fund	Irving and Ethel Mehlman Rose Fund	
Religious	Youth	Maintenance/Capital Improvements	Memorial Park		
Max and Sally Glaiber and Joseph and Gertrude Snider Fund	Anna Brita Chilberg Fund	Bayer-Marlow Fund	Temple Beth Sholom Memorial Park Fund	Irma and Merwin Meridy Fund	
Howard Gold Fund	Nellie Katz Cohen Fund	Elaine and Leo Charendoff Fund	Congregation B'nai Israel Memorial Park Fund	Rita Oshinsky Fund	
Bernard and May Kahn and Eli and Rose Lerman Fund	Murray H. and Celia D. Novins Fund	David S. and Norma C. Garber Fund		Phair Family Fund	
Rubinow-Schwolsky Fund		Miriam Barshay Lassow and Herman Lassow Fund		Reichlin Family Fund	
Rebecca Ann and Herman Seidman Fund		Capital Improvement Fund		Pauline and Nathan Rubin Fund	
Irene and Henry Springer Fund				Israel and Shirley Snyder Family Fund	
Diane and Barry Weinbaum Fund				Gloria and Robert Weiss Fund	
Rabbi Leon Wind Fund				Edythe and Abraham Zubrow Fund	
Irene and Abraham Zimmerman Fund				Max Zucker Fund	

For information about establishing an Endowment Fund or leaving a bequest, contact Dr. Jeffrey Wasser [BSBIEndowment@myshul.org](mailto:BSBIEndowment@myshul.org) or Rabbi Konigsburg 860-643-9563 x101.

# Contributions from Thoughtful People

Thank you to those who support BSBI by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones with generous contributions.

Donations appearing in the newsletter may not reflect all donations received prior to publication. Listings are as current as the newsletter deadline allows.

## BAYER/DAVISON FUND

In memory of Kenneth Spector from **Barbara & Bill Bayer**

## BERDINE SPECTOR STOLTZ FUND

In memory of Kenneth Spector from **Howard & Linda Grad**

In memory of Kenneth Spector from **Irma Menschell**

In memory of Michael Wichman from **Myrna Spector**

## DAVID SHERMAN FOSTER MEMORIAL FUND

In loving memory of Dorothy Foster from **Samuel & Janet Foster**

## EDITH GOTTLIEB FUND

*Yahrzeit* of Alan Fineberg from **Lori Gottlieb**

## GENERAL FUND

Praying for Fred's speedy recovery from **Arlene Bonilla**

Wishing a speedy recovery to Russ Benblatt from **Elly & Steve Cohen**

Get well to Tova Haley; In honor of the marriage of Rebecca Milzoff and Craig Silverstein from **Jay & Susan Stoppelman**

In honor of Russ Benblatt's high holiday honor; In honor of Ellen Neuhaus' high holiday honor; *Yahrzeit* of Abe Meyer; *Yahrzeit* of Pearl Ginsberg; *Yahrzeit* of Rachel Miner from **Harold & Judy Meyer**

In memory of my dear cousin, Kenneth Spector, from **Cheryl Mitnick**

In memory of our dear friend, Kenneth Spector, from **Diana & Jim Henkel**

In memory of Kenneth Spector from **Dr. Kenneth Wichman**

In memory of Kenneth Spector; In memory of Michael Wichman from **Hanna Marcus**

In memory of Kenneth Spector from **Kathleen Lindstrom**

In memory of Kenneth Spector from **Marc Needelman**

In memory of my beloved mother, Pauline Cutler, from **Milly Malkin**

In memory of Herman Sholovitz on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from **Mr. William Gamzon**

In memory of Michael Wichman; *Yahrzeit* of Samuel Fisher, beloved father of Norman Fisher from **Norman & Corinne Fisher**

In memory of Kenneth M. Spector from **Phyllis (Cort) Andrews**

In memory of Kenneth Spector from **Suzanne Wyman**  
*Yahrzeit* of Samuel Wurmbrand and Anna Goober from **Diane & Mitchell Wurmbrand**

*Yahrzeit* of Howard Nitzberg from **Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus**

*Yahrzeit* of Robert Brodie from **Gordon & Beatrice Brodie**

*Yahrzeit* of Joseph Kopman from **Judy Kopman-Fried**

*Yahrzeit* of Jeanette Bennett from **Monroe Moses**

*Yahrzeit* of Pearl P. Searle from **Mr. Jonas Searle**

*Yahrzeit* of Manning Fendell from **Rose Ulan**

*Yahrzeit* of Sylvia Haight, mother of Barry Haight, from **Sharon and Barry Haight**

*Yahrzeit* of Stanley Levett from **Stanley Israel**

*Yahrzeit* of Esther Horn Kaplan from **Stuart & Esther Horn**

## GORDON BARSHAY LASSOW & JAY JOSHUA LASSOW FUND

In memory of Marilyn Fried from **Marilyn Lassow**

## LAURIE MARGOLIS FUND

In memory of Ken Spector. We were saddened to hear about Ken's passing. May his memory be a blessing from **Phil and Sue Margolis**

## LEONARD SEADER FUND

Happy Anniversary, Margery & David Gussak; Happy Anniversary, Richard & Lisa Plepler; Happy Birthday to Andrea Seader; In memory of son-in-law Cliff Pullman, from **Sissy Seader**

## MARTIN L. RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

Get well to Joyce Epstein; Mazel tov to Julie Rubin and Larry Hoffman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Leor; Mazel tov to Donna Rubin on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Leor, from **Eveleen Zimmerman**

## NATHAN CHESLER FUND

*Yahrzeit* of my grandmother, Sadie Chesler from **Holly Gwyn Zabitz**

*Yahrzeit* of Sadie Chesler, from **Mrs. Sharon Chesler**

## NELLIE KATZ COHEN FUND

Wishing a speedy recovery of Neil Ellis; In memory of son-in-law Cliff Pullman; *Yahrzeit* of father, Dr. A. Benjamin Cohen, from **Sissy Seader**

## NICHUM AVAYLIM FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Plavin's kindness and support from **Myrna Spector**

In appreciation of meals provided to my family during our two recent losses from **William & Rachel Spector**

## PHAIR FAMILY FUND

In memory of Michael Wichman from **Arnold & Diane Keyser**

## RABBI LEON WIND RELIGIOUS SCHOOL-SPECIAL FUND FOR EDUCATION

*Yahrzeit* of beloved father, Marvin D. Zimmerman, from **Jane Zimmerman**

*Yahrzeit* of Neil Abrahams from **Richard & Leslie Abrahams**

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Konigsburg's kindness from **Howard & Linda Grad**

In appreciation of Rabbi Konigsburg's kindness and support from **Myrna Spector**

In honor of Rabbi Konigsburg from **Dorothy Buch**



# December 2021 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 (27 Kislev)</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 5:30pm Hanukkah 4th Candle Lighting @ BSBI - Board of Directors 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>2 (28 Kislev)</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 4:30pm Hebrew school Gr 3-7 5:30pm Latkes & Lights Hanukkah 5th Candle Light- ing @ BSBI - RLWRS 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>3 (29 Kislev)</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 3:45pm Hanukkah 6th Candle Light- ing @ BSBI - Early Bird 4:02pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services  Sunset: 4:20pm	<b>4 (30 Kislev)</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh</b> <b>Tevet</b> 10:00am Shabbat Services 5:05pm Havdalah 5:30pm Hanuk- kah 7th Candle Lighting @ BSBI - Congregation 7:00pm Jazz Fest  Sunset: 4:20pm
<b>5 (1 Tevet)</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh Te-                      vet</b> 9:00am Hebrew school K-7 12:00pm RLWRS Hanukkah Celebra- tion 5:30pm Hanukkah 8th Candle Lighting @ BSBI -Adult Edu- cation	<b>6 (2 Tevet)</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>7 (3 Tevet)</b> 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv 7:30pm BSBI Academy	<b>8 (4 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>9 (5 Tevet)</b> 4:30pm Hebrew school Gr 3-7 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>10 (6 Tevet)</b> 4:01pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services  Sunset: 4:19pm	<b>11 (7 Tevet)</b> 10:00am Shabbat Services 5:04pm Havdalah  Sunset: 4:19pm
<b>12 (8 Tevet)</b> 9:00am Hebrew school K-7 9:00am Morning Min- yan 9:30am Brotherhood Breakfast & Speaker	<b>13 (9 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv 7:30pm Sister- hood/Hadassah Book Club	<b>14 (10 Tevet)</b> <b>Fast of Tevet</b> 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 1:30pm Knit & Kvetch 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv 7:30pm BSBI Academy	<b>15 (11 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv 7:30pm BOD Board Meeting	<b>16 (12 Tevet)</b> 4:30pm Hebrew school Gr 3-7 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>17 (13 Tevet)</b> 4:03pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services  Sunset: 4:21pm	<b>18 (14 Tevet)</b> 10:00am Shabbat Services 10:00am Junior Congregation 5:06pm Havdalah  Sunset: 4:21pm
<b>19 (15 Tevet)</b> 9:00am Hebrew school K-7	<b>20 (16 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>21 (17 Tevet)</b> 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv 7:30pm Sister- hood Board Meet- ing	<b>22 (18 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>23 (19 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>24 (20 Tevet)</b> 4:06pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services  Sunset: 4:24pm	<b>25 (21 Tevet)</b> 10:00am Shabbat Services 5:10pm Havdalah  Sunset: 4:25pm
<b>26 (22 Tevet)</b> 11:30am Sisterhood Adventure Walk	<b>27 (23 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>28 (24 Tevet)</b> 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv 7:30pm BSBI Academy	<b>29 (25 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>30 (26 Tevet)</b> 7:00pm Mincha/ Maariv	<b>31 (27 Tevet)</b> 4:11pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services  Sunset: 4:29pm	

Please note that the *Chai Lights* calendar dates are as of the date of publishing. Any schedule changes after this time will be posted on the online calendar at [myshul.org](http://myshul.org) and included in the weekly announcements. These sources will have the most up to date information on events.



BSBI has been given the opportunity to accept donations of vehicles through a partnership with Vehicles For Charity to process donated

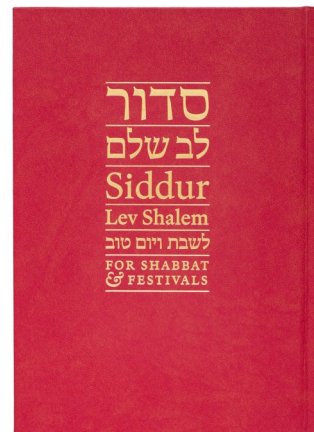
vehicles. Consider donating your unwanted vehicle in support of BSBI. It is easier and faster than selling it on your own, and you may qualify for a tax deduction! Donors say it is a satisfying way to make a larger donation than they normally could.

Vehicles accepted by this program include: unwanted car, truck, boat, motorcycle, RV or recreational vehicles.

For more information go to:

<https://www.vehiclesforcharity.org>

We have now made the switch to the new *Siddur Lev Shalem*! Similar to the *Machzor Lev Shalem* we use on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, *Siddur Lev Shalem* includes informational side notes and extra readings on each page to help everyone get more out of Shabbat *te-phillot* (prayer). We are now offering opportunities to dedicate these siddurim in honor of people or events in our lives or in memory of loved ones. A siddur can be dedicated for just \$50 a book. If you would like to see a copy of the new siddur, they are available for inspection at the synagogue.



#### Beth Olam Cemetery

The lock at Beth Olam has been replaced and now no key is required. The combination is 1818.

There is a reminder near the lock in case you have forgotten the combination.



Please follow the directions below to use the new lock:

- The lock is located under the black weatherproof cover
- Pull the lock over the black weatherproof cover
- Turn the number to 1818-line them up with the red line
- Lock will pull apart
- When done, reattach the cable to lock it
- Turn at least one number to secure lock
- Replace the lock under the black weatherproof cover

#### Don't Forget to Check Out MyShul.org!

Our website has all the latest information on upcoming events, class and event registration, secure online donations, and shopping opportunities that support BSBI!

If you would like to send in any pictures, videos, or upcoming event information, please email [programming@myshul.org](mailto:programming@myshul.org).



Beth Sholom B'nai Israel

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