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Vol. 5781 No. 5

BSBI'S Chai Lights

January 2021



BSBI COMEDY NIGHT SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH AT 7:30 PM



Rhonda Corey



Andy Beningo



June Colson



Mike James



Bill Boronkay



Brian Kohatsu

\$20 PER HOUSEHOLD REGISTER ONLINE AT MYSHUL.ORG/EVENT/RHONDA.COREY

TEMPLE TOPICS

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Beth Sholom B'nai Israel, 400 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040 (860)643-9563 www.myshul.org

BETH SHOLOM B'NAI ISRAEL

400 Middle Turnpike East, Manchester, CT 06040 (860) 643-9563 www.myshul.org

Clergy

Rabbi: Randall J. Konigsburg Rabbi Emeritus: Richard J. Plavin

Staff

Office Manager: Judy Sawtelle
Marketing Coordinator: Tova Haley
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 & Merle Cohen
Vice President of Ritual: Steve Cohen

Vice President of Ritual: Steve Cohen
Co-Vice Presidents of Education: Rebecca Rumbo/Bea Brodie
Vice President of Fund Raising: Ken Wichman
Vice President of Administration: Ron Abrahams
Vice President of Buildings & Grounds: Ed Reilly
Vice President of Cemeteries: Liza Mandel
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Immediate Past President: Phil Margolis

Sisterhood Representative: Brina Abrahams Brotherhood Co-Representative: Manny Lerman Brotherhood Co-Representative: Glenn Blumenstein Board of Trustees Representative: Gordon Brodie Member At Large: Steve Cohen

Member At Large: Barry Baron Z"L

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 are virtual. Zoom information will be included in emails.

You may contact us via e-mail at:

Rabbi Konigsburg: rabbenu@myshul.org
Judy Sawtelle: admin@myshul.org
Tova Haley: programming@myshul.org
Shari Haley: accounting@myshul.org
Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz: RLWRSDirector@myshul.org

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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**

Upcoming Events!

Due to COVID-19, all events are subject to change.
Please visit www.myshul.org for all updates on upcoming events.
We appreciate your understanding during this unprecedented time.

Monday, January 4

7:30 pm: Sisterhood Haddassah Book Club

Tuesday, January 5

12:00 pm: Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm: Tuesday Night Academy

Sunday, January 10

9:30 am: Brotherhood Breakfast & Speaker

Monday, January 11

7:30 pm: Wisdom in Winter

Tuesday, January 12

12:00 pm: Lunch & Learn

7:30 pm: Tuesday Night Academy

Monday, January 18

7:00 pm: Sisterhood Service & Program

Tuesday, January 19

12:00 pm: Lunch & Learn

7:30 pm: Tuesday Night Academy

Wednesday, January 20

7:30 pm: BSBI Board Meeting

Friday, January 22

6:00 pm: Zoom Family Shabbat Service

Sunday, January 24

7:30 pm: Comedy Night Monday, January 25

7:30 pm: Wisdom in Winter

Tuesday, January 26

12:00 pm: Lunch & Learn

7:30 pm: Tuesday Night Academy

Sunday, January 31

11:30 am: Sisterhood Adventure Walk

Condolences to:

- Dr. Samuel & Janet Foster on the death of his mother, Dorothy Foster
- Elise & Richard Carlton on the death of her mother, Muriel Kravetz

Faith, Hope & Prayer



"Where are we going? I'm not certain, where are we heading? I can't say. I only know that I am on my way." This is the opening verse of the theme song from the old movie, "Paint Your Wagon." It is an appropriate song to start the year 2021. If we look back, the last year was a mess. It is hard to imagine a more difficult year. A pandemic, a

messy election, fires in the west, multiple hurricanes in the east. Wars that still drag on and on. Shortages of the most common items in the store. Quarantine and isolation, limits on travel, masks and social distancing. Do I really need to expound on all that went wrong last year? To everyone's surprise, the world did not end when toilet paper was in short supply.

Yet, here we are, still on our journey. There is no point in looking back, except maybe to learn some lessons for the future. I always say that there is a reason that the windshield is so big, and the rear-view mirror is so small. So, what is ahead of us? What should we look forward to? The short answer: I have no idea what the future holds. I had no idea last January that there would be a pandemic that would change the world, that there would be a president who would not admit defeat, that we would be afraid to go to the movies or out to eat, that the stock market would break 30,000. What would make me think that I have any better notion about what this year will bring? The Hasidic Rabbi, Nachman of Brazlav, would say, "The world is a narrow bridge, what is essential is that we not be afraid."

There is a reason we don't know what the future holds. It is because the future depends on what we do today. The decisions we make, the choices we make, the things we do today are the materials from which tomorrow is constructed. There are things that we cannot predict, but even there, the effect of the unexpected in our lives depends very much on how we react to those surprises. Our reactions in the future depend on what we can rely on, our faith, our hopes and prayer. Judaism has long dealt with the changes in life, and it always shows us a path forward. Hope is our mission statement. It reflects what we want to see at the end of the journey. Even Google can't give us directions if we don't know where we are going. Prayer reminds us that there are some places where we don't want to go and that there are people and ideas that can help us on the way. Prayer gives us the strength to keep going through the darkness and the storm.

Faith, Hope and Prayer got us through the last year. With Faith, Hope and Prayer, we are ready for whatever 2021 throws at us. What is essential is that we not be afraid.

Rabbi Randall Konigsburg

Words from the Co-Presidents



Many people greet the secular new year with resolutions to change some aspect of their lives. We recently came across a study suggesting that this approach to self-improvement is not particularly successful. Fewer than 25% of people stay committed to their resolutions after just 30 days, and only 8% accomplish them. Some might conclude that we should not even

bother trying.

That is not the message we choose to take from these statistics. What we learn is that if we want to do something different in the coming year, good intentions alone may not be enough to make it happen. Instead, we have to find a way to break ourselves out of our usual patterns, so that we can establish better ones.

The changes imposed on us by recent events demonstrate that we can behave differently if we have to. Where generalized desire may fail, specific rules and a disciplined approach might succeed. But we do not have to wait for a pandemic to impose new patterns on our lives. Just as we do not have to wait for a health crisis to convince us that we should live healthier, and we do not have to wait for a chance of loss to realize we should appreciate the people in our lives. All we need is the introspection to recognize there is something we can do better, and a concrete plan to accomplish a specific goal.

Although some find it hard to break old patterns, the introspection part can be just as difficult. The BSBI community presents a solution to both challenges. As the old saying goes, if you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got. But BSBI gives us the opportunity to get outside our comfort zone. One of the great benefits we have experienced as your presidents this year is the opportunity to meet people we would not otherwise have met, see things we would not otherwise have seen, and do things we would not otherwise have done. Each experience brings with it a chance to consider how we live and to decide if it is time for a change. You can have the same benefit, by selecting some of the religious, educational or social programming and volunteer work available through BSBI, both within our own shul and in the greater Jewish community. There is no better way to learn and grow than in a caring and supportive family.

We hope we can build on the new friendships we have made and the deeper relationships we have achieved with existing friends. We know we have learned much and will work to figure out how to use what we have learned to better our lives and, hopefully, the lives of those around us. Changes do not have to be big to have a positive effect. If we all take even a small step, imagine the good we can accomplish! We wish you all the best in the coming year.

Jack & Dawn Steigelfest, Co-Presidents

And the state of t

"I did it, I can read Hebrew!"

Remember the first time you did something, either with help or by yourself? Learning to walk, learning to ride a bike, tying your shoes, getting your driver's license, first job, or any landmark accomplishment—especially, learning how to read Hebrew.

We have reason to celebrate three of our students in the grades 3-4 class who have just completed their Hebrew Primer and can now read our holy language. It may be slow at first, but with daily study, they will reach fluency. This class was able to *read* the Hanukkah blessings instead of chanting them by

And this we experienced as the school lit the first candle of Hanukkah on December 10, with the grades 3-4 class leading.

These children earned a "Mazel tov" by achieving this important goal in their Jewish education; they serve as an inspiration to those who do not read Hebrew. To maintain Jewish identity and continuity, it is incumbent upon every Jew to know the Hebrew Aleph-bet, to acquire confidence and comfort with the Siddur.

As a teacher, I am always gratified to hear students read Hebrew for the first time. They will be able to read the Four Questions for Passover; that, I guarantee.

Shana tova ezrachi, Happy Secular New Year, may this be a kinder, healthier year for all of us.

Shalom,

RLWRS Education Director

Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz

This Month in Jewish History By Rabbi Konigsburg 17 Tevet – 18 Shevat

24 Tevet – Yahrzeit of Isaac Klein, U.S. rabbi who wrote an easy to understand guidebook for Jewish practice.

- 1 Shevat The minutes of congregation Magen Avraham in Recife, Brazil, begin with this date in 1649. It is one of the two oldest congregations in the Americas. The Jews of Recife came with the conquest of the city by the Dutch in 1631, and while the Calvinist Church shut down the synagogues in 1638, there were so many Jews in the city that they compelled the Dutch government to reopen them in 1642, and brought the first Dutch rabbi that same year. In 1654 the Portuguese conquered the city and expelled the Jews. Remnants of this community moved to New Amsterdam and founded what would become the Jewish Community of New York City.
- **8 Shevat** The first Rabbi to give the opening invocation to the U.S. Congress, Rabbi Morris J. Raphall, delivered his address on this date in 1860.
- **12 Shevat** *Yahrzeit* of Joseph Hertz- member of the first graduating class of the Jewish Theological Seminary who edited the "Hertz Humash" used in synagogues world-wide for two generations and who became Chief Rabbi of the British Empire.

To the BSBI Family:

Thank you everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness, your phone calls and all your cards. Barry and I always felt welcome and at home at the synagogue.

Sincerely, Joan Baron, Eric Baron, Elaine & Brett Garber, Debbie & Jeremy Baron and grandchildren

Mazel tov to BSBI member, Prof. Arnie Dashefsky, recipient of the 2020 Marshall Sklare Award. Every year, the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry presents the Marshall Sklare Award to recognize a senior scholar who has

made a significant contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry.



Social Action Committee Update

Thank you to all who have participated in our fall activities. We contributed to MACC and HVCC for Thanksgiving and the Kosher Food Pantry for Hanukah. Please watch for information on a joint program on Jan 18, 2021 which is being jointly hosted by Sisterhood and the Social Action Committee. There will be a Maariv service and a speaker, Susan Stoppelman, who will be speaking about her activities with the Manchester Peace and Justice Committee. We hope that you will be able to attend this interesting program. If you are involved in volunteer activities in our communities and would like to share information about them, please contact Carol Hatch at cadahat@comcast.net.

Thanks,

Carol Hatch Chair, Social Action

Rabbi Richard Plavin Library Dave Alter, Librarian

Looking for good books to read while sheltering in place during the pandemic? Look no further. Check out the Library. We have a plethora of subjects to choose from: Mysteries (murder and mayhem), Historical drama, Holiday Cook books, Biographies of famous Jewish personalities such as Harry Houdini, Theology, and Authors such as Faye Kellerman, Daniel Silva, Herman Wouk, books about Israel.





Now it is easier to access the library catalogue. There is a new link to the library on the Myshul home page. The link is located on the right-hand side under the *Upcoming Programs & Events* category.

When you find a book you want to borrow, just contact me, and I will arrange time for a curb-side pickup. Please use the following email to contact me Library@myshul.org or call me at 860-729-6803



https://www.facebook.com/myshul/

EVER COOL Campaign Success Moves Along to Phase Two!

I am writing to you on the eighth day of Hanukkah to say Mazel Tov! Thanks to so many in our congregation, we have reached \$525,000 in pledges of which \$412,000 has been paid. I have worked on many campaigns throughout my life, and hands down, this campaign wins "BEST IN SHOW." You showed up to contribute, and you showed up and paid and you showed up in a timely manner to fulfill this very important need in our synagogue. An outsider may ask Why? At first glance it may seem obvious that our building needs heat and cool air, but the truth is it goes deeper...you care about each other, and you care about our synagogue from the inside out... you care about Judaism. Our Spirit Shines just like the eight candles of our menorahs we are celebrating! May we all be warmed by the light in each other!

Phase Two:

The Building Upkeep and Maintenance (BUM) fund will kick off with \$150,000 and will continue to grow. There are members who have the intention to commit to this campaign and secondly, an Alumni Campaign will launch in January. This fund will hopefully allow us to avoid future emergency campaigns. Marshall Grodofsky, chair, will be joined by a second team of volunteer campaigners with a focus on those who have a strong tie to BSBI but no longer live in this area. Steven Hirth, an alumni member, is offering a matching gift to those who contribute to our BUM Fund or an Education Fund and will volunteer alongside Laurie and Aaron Bayer and Liza Mandel and Jeff Lassow.

Many Many Thanks:

I am thankful to all the campaign volunteers, who include: Jay Bigman, Risa and Roy Filkoff, Marshall Grodofsky, Jack and Dawn Steigelfest, Victor Bernstein, Carl Mandell, Phil Margolis, and Jeff Wasser.

Member Family who surprised us with a Havanagilah Gift! This gift propelled our campaign, and we will always be grateful.

Trustees, who are supporting us with a \$100 K match to payments and \$50K. Due to our well-paced success, these dollars will kick off our new Building, Upkeep and Maintenance Fund.



Judy, our office manager, for coordinating all the office mechanics. The Rabbi for his outreach efforts to designated members and Tova, for her flexibility and talent on submissions.

Russ Benblatt along with a photograph from Ira Fink for our Ever Cool Design Logo!

Ed Riley and Judy for their work with Eversource on a pending grant along with many hours of Ed's time gathering information in order to present the best HVAC options to the board.

Warmly, Risa Filkoff, Campaign Chair



Sisterhood Speaks

Mimi Kalman, Editor



What's Ahead for Sisterhood?

Monday, January 4, 7:30 pm

Hadassah/Sisterhood Book Group, Zoom

Monday, January 18, 7:00 pm Alternate Sisterhood Shabbat, Please note new day!

<u>Tuesday. January 26, 7:30 pm</u> Sisterhood Zoom Board meeting

Sunday, January 31, 11:30 am
Socially distanced Adventure Walk,
Please note the new time!

Anytime: Yoga with Adriene on YouTube.

Hadassah/Sisterhood Book Group

Greetings, Fellow Readers!

Our next discussion date has been changed to January 4 at 7:30. We'll send a zoom link a few days before our meeting.

We will read FLORENCE ADLER SWIMS FOREVER by Rachel Beanland. Books will be placed on reserve for the BSBI Book Group at the Mary Cheney Library reference desk.

Happy Hanukkah!

Maxine Lerman and Myrna Spector

Adventure Walk

We are changing the time of our Sunday, January 31, Adventure Walk, to 11:30 am, weather permitting. We decided to give the sun a little time to warm us up. As before, we must stay socially distanced and wear masks.

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 11:30 am, we will decide where we are going, and off we will go!

Margie Partney

Sisterhood Shabbat - Moved!

Monday, January 18, 7:00 pm

Because we hope to have more of you join us and realize that some of you do not wish to use your computers on Shabbat, we have moved our annual Shabbat Service to Monday evening. We will have a special minyan service and then our program with our special guest speaker Susan Stoppelman. Join us on Monday, January 18, at 7:00 pm.

In recognition of Martin Luther King Day, on January 18, former Sisterhood President Susan Stoppelman will talk about her volunteer work with the Greater Manchester Peace and Justice Committee (GMPJ) and other opportunities we all have locally to act in support of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. GMPJ has set homelessness, immigrant rights, the opioid crisis, and human trafficking as its priorities. In recent years, Susan has volunteered in support of justice for immigrants, protections for homeless people, and productive lives for those with visual impairments or loss. As many of our congregants know, there is no shortage of opportunities to be of service.

These are the people who do the legwork to make our Sisterhood function. We are publishing their names here prior to our virtual Sisterhood service on January 18.

2020-21 Sisterhood Board of Directors:

President:

Judy Meyer

Representative to BSBI Board:

Brina Abrahams

Liaison, North Atlantic Region of Women's League:

Judy Meyer

VP Fellowship:

Stacey Poutre

Financial Secretary:

Diane Keyser

Treasurer:

Lieba Bernstein

Recording Secretary:

Paula Finkelstein

Co-VPs of Programming:

Brina Abrahams, Sue Margolis

Co-VPs of Membership:

Rachel Reindel and Sally Ivaldi

2019-2021 Elected Directors:

Mimi Kalman, Maxine Lerman

2020-2022 Elected Directors:

Brina Abrahams, Harriet Beede, Lynn Cohen, Sally Ivaldi, Barbara Leshin, Becky Murray, Ilene

O'Neil, Rima Riedel, Maddy Turk

Ex Officio Directors (ongoing):

Michelle Konigsburg, Lisa Plavin

Trustee:

Dorothy Foster (in Florida) Z"L

Sisterhood Speaks Continued

Pesach Project Kicking off for a Sixth Year!

Pesach Project will launch at the beginning of February 2021. Last year with your generous support we were able to collect \$9,600 while we greeted one another with sweet Pesach wishes. We will be asking you to continue this tradition and next month will solicit your participation online and via mail. Once again all the details will be provided to make this a meaningful way to help those in need and send Pesach wishes to our Synagogue family.

Your donation is more important than ever this year, with the effects of the Pandemic being felt economically globally. Last year on your behalf we were able to fulfill the mitzvah of the feeding the hungry with $^{1}/_{3}$ of the contributions going to Mazon, a national advocacy organization working to end hunger here in the United States, and another $^{1}/_{3}$ to Leket, the National Food Bank in Israel. The remaining third went to our Sisterhood to further the good work we do for our congregation.

We hope that if you have participated in the past, you will continue that wonderful tradition and perhaps add a few more names to your list. If you have not yet participated please consider joining this very worthwhile initiative. Stay tuned for more information in next month's bulletin!

Becky Murray, Chair

Knit & Kvetch

To our Knit and Kvetch group, please continue to work from home on hats, mittens and afghans. If you need yarn, get in touch with me, as I have some at my house, and we can make arrangements for pick up. If anyone would like to start knitting or crocheting for us, please do. It's a mitzvah!

When we can safely meet in person for our monthly meetings, we will be in touch.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 860-649-6551 or email me at Irannefink@gmail.com.Remember we can always use yarn or monetary donations to continue our mitzvah. It doesn't have to be a huge amount, \$5.00 goes a long way towards buying yarn. We do appreciate all donations of yarn, however please no wool. Our items need to be machine washable, so we can only accept 100% acrylic. Please make sure that all donation checks are made out to BSBI Sisterhood and marked "Knit and Kvetch" on the memo line. If they are be left in the BSBI office please ask them to put the checks in the Sisterhood box.

Any questions, call me at 860-649-6551 or at IRANNEFINK@AOL.COM.

Torah Fund Cards

Condolence card to Mark Ross and family in memory of Mark's wife, Helen, Get well to Ron Abrahams and Mazel tov to Stacey Poutre in honor of the marriage of her daughter Rachel to Michael Blackmer from Mimi Kalman. Condolence card to Joan Baron in memory of her husband, Barry, from Cal and Elaine Vinick.

Condolence card to Joan Baron in memory of her husband, Barry, condolence card to Marilyn Lassow in memory of her daughter-in-law, Laura, and condolence card to Merle Lassow in memory of her niece, Laura, from Paula Finkelstein.

To order cards for all occasions contact our Torah Fund Card Chairperson

Lynn Cohen at (860-298-0457) or cohenlynn334@gmail.com

Anne Fink

Sisterhood Gift Shop - Your Source for All Your Simchot Important Gift Shop Update: Change of venue

Thanks to the uptick in COVID related cases, our BSBI Sisterhood Gift Shop has been obliged to pull up stakes and relocate temporarily.

It has literally been transferred to my home until further notice.

For immediate needs such as Havdalah candles, *yahrzeit* candles, and neronim, you can make an appointment to pick them up at my home--yes we have the equivalent of curb-side service--it's called, my porch.

Best of all, you can pick up a Havdalah candle and join us every Saturday evening as Rabbi Konigsburg and Michelle lead us in a short and meaningful service as we bid Shabbat farewell. Your gift shop also has havdalah sets and spice boxes of all sizes and shapes.



We are taking orders by phone or email.

Shoot me an email or give me a call! Wishing you and your families a Very Happy, Healthy, SAFE, 2021!

Rima 860 649 8507 rimarainbow@cox.net

Brotherhood Corner

Russ Benblatt. Executive Vice President

Free Time

So...here we are...it's January again. Much as it happens every year, I'm sure that many of us have heard others saying (or said it ourselves) "I can't believe it's already the new year". To be perfectly honest, I never say this. Why? Because I can believe that it's the new year. It happens every 12 months, so I'm never shocked or surprised...I never strike up conversations about "where did the time go?", or "It seems like just yesterday...". To me, dwelling on the passage of time has always seemed a poor substitute for *experiencing* the time as it passes, and taking those memories into the future.

What's Coming Up

January 10th – Brotherhood Breakfast with Special Guest Speaker – Linda Carlson: Jewish Genealogy

February 7th – World Wide Wrap

Stay tuned for more information!

But this year it's a little different.

Yes, I am thinking back over the last year and what we've all experienced, but when I think back to January 2020 and how none of us really knew what was in store for the world, I don't think about how quickly the time went...instead, I think of what I did with this last year and all the new "free time" we had while not being able to do many of our normal day-to-day routines.

Did I use this free time to call a friend that I haven't spoken to in a while?

Did I use this free time to get closer to my children or spouse?

Did I use this free time to check in on someone in the congregation that I know lives alone?

Did I use this free time for things I can be proud of?

I know that many of us are excited about the news of the vaccines that are making their way into distribution, and that we can finally see a light at the end of the tunnel. But even this is going to take time. By the best estimates, its going to be the middle of the year before enough of us have received the vaccine and we can start getting back to "life as we knew it". So I ask you this...

With the time we have left when social distancing is a necessity, and that we'll all still have to remain physically separated from each other...

...what are **YOU** going to do with the rest of this free time?

Embracing Judaism

Always been curious about Judaism?

Never paid attention in Hebrew school?

Thinking about (or is someone you love thinking about) officially joining the Tribe?

The Embracing Judaism program is geared towards both Jews and non-Jews who want to learn more. Bring your questions and explore the wisdom, depth and joy of Jewish living. Please visit the website: http://www.ibjewish.org/

The Embracing Judaism program will begin this year on January 7, 2021 and will meet via Zoom. For more information about why this may be an excellent program for you, or to learn about the pandemic-

reduced registration fee call Rabbi Richard Plavin 860-573-4503 or email riplavin@gmail.com



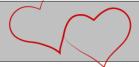
Birthdays

Kevin Cyr-1/1
Linda Bernstein-1/1
Bonnie Norman-1/1
Carol Goldstein-1/1
Annemarie Miller-1/5
Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz-1/5
Ruth Miller-1/6
Greg Kupfer-1/6
Marna Kaye-1/8
Allyson Benblatt-1/8
Sharon Reichlin-1/8

Jacob Bundy-1/11
Florence Kovensky-1/11
Daniel Levine-1/12
Paul Rubin-1/12
Jennifer Bundy-1/15
Stacey Poutre-1/15
Sharon Hartstein-1/15
Robert Hughes-1/20
Wesley Videll-1/21
Joyce Borgida-1/22
Ben Pitler-1/22



Ruth Zackin-1/23 Troy Videll-1/25 Joanne Donn-1/26 Harold Bernstein-1/26 Barbara Zupnik-1/27 Deanna Katz-1/28 Holly Raymond-1/28 Rachel Reindel-1/30 Julian Stoppelman-1/31



Anniversaries

Alan & Lea Schmerler-1/5
Robert & Annmarie Hughes-1/13
Steven & Judith Eckhouse-1/19
Robert & Susan Mendelsohn-1/27



Have a simcha you want to share with the congregation?

Make sure to notify Tova at programming myshul.org

so she can include it in the bulletin!



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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.



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.

<u>Donation of "Qualified Charitable Distributions" (QCD)</u> 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 <u>BSBIEndowment@myshul.org</u> 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.

Legacy

For more information, please email: BSBIEndowment@myshul.org

Endowment Foundation

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

For information

about establishing an Endowment Fund or leaving a bequest, contact Dr. Jeffrey Wasser 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.

ANNE & LEON KRAMER FUND

In memory of Malcolm Clare, beloved uncle, and Maxwell Kramer, beloved uncle, from Carol & Paul Leiman & Family

In memory of Maxwell Kramer, brother of my father Leon Kramer, and the uncle of Marshall Kramer and Carol Leiman, from Marshall & Hannah Kramer

BAYER/DAVISON FUND

In memory of Laura Lassow from Barbara & Bill Bayer

BERDINE SPECTOR STOLTZ FUND

In loving memory of "Diney" on the anniversary of her *yahrzeit* from Kenneth & Myrna Spector

EDITH GOTTLIEB FUND

In loving memory of Alan Fineberg, on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Lori Gottlieb

EILEEN AND FRED STERN FAMILY FUND

In memory of Belle Kaplan on the occasion of her *yahrzeit* from Eileen Stern

GENERAL FUND

Congratulations on Wedding of Rachel Poutre from Michael & Madeline Turk

Get Well, Maddy Turk and Lew Segal from Steven & Elly Cohen In honor of Ron & Brina Abrahams on Joe Davis Award from Sally Ivaldi

In memory of Barry Baron; in memory of Laura Lassow; in memory of Ruth Jacobs from Bea and Gordon Brodie

In memory of Barry Baron from Blanche Ross

In memory of Laura Lassow from Brent & Paul

In memory of Barnet B. Baron, DMD from Carol Kozak and Seth Ward

In memory of Barnet Baron who was a mensch and a beloved member of our congregation, from David & Carol Hatch In memory of Barry Baron from Diane & Mitchell Wurmbrand In memory of Barry Baron from Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus

In memory of Dr. Walter Heiman from Eastern Connecticut Health Network ECHN

In memory of Laura Lassow, beloved wife of Michael Lassow, from Florence Cole

In memory of Jennifer Hollbrook, beloved sister of Teri Norman, from Florence Cole

In memory of Dan Cole from Hanna Marcus

In memory of Barry Baron, from the Block Family

In memory of Barry Baron from Ira & Anne Fink

In memory of Laura Lassow, daughter in law of Marilyn Lassow from Irma Menschell

In memory of Walter Heimann, MD. He was an esteemed colleague and member of our community from Jeff and Diane Wasser

In memory of Jerome (Jerry) Levine from Jeff and Diane Wasser In memory of Barry Baron, a strong supporter of BSBI and the entire community. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family from Jeffrey & Diane Wasser

In memory of Jennifer Burnett Holbrook, sister of Teri Norman from Lewis & Shirley Segal

In memory of Laura Lassow from Manuel & Maxine Lerman In memory of my parents; in memory of Laura Lassow from Merle Lassow

In memory of Laura Lassow from Michael & Madeline Turk In memory of Herman Sholovitz on the occasion of his yahrzeit from Mr. William Gamzon

In memory of Rhona Kristan from Norman & Corinne Fisher In memory of Helen Ross from Rahim & Sherry Shamash So sorry to hear of Barry's Passing- our deepest sympathies, from Richard & Phyllis Levy

In memory of Michael Norman, husband of Bonnie and father to Sam & Larry; in memory of Jenny Holbrook; in memory of Laura Lassow, daughter in law of Marilyn Lassow; in memory of Jerry Levine; in memory of Michele Pilver, friend and Mah Jongg player; in memory of Daniel Cole, husband of Florence from Sally Ivaldi

In memory of Rhona Kristan from Thomas & Ona Mastronarde Mazel tov on birth of Carol & David Hatch's grandson Simon from Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus

Thank you to Rabbi Konigsburg for your guidance and support throughout Nathaniel's bar mitzvah process from Jennifer Bundy

Thank you to the BSBI Family for your caring & thoughtfulness from Merle Lassow

In memory of my father, Walter D Ludlum, Jr. on his 50th *yahrzeit* from Cathy Ludlum

In memory of Samuel Wurmbrand and Anna Goober on the occasion of their *yahrzeits* from Diane & Mitchell Wurmbrand In memory of Howard Nitzberg on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus

In memory of Robert Brodie on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Gordon & Beatrice Brodie

In memory of Abe Meyer, Pearl Ginsburg and Rose Miner on the occasion of their *yahrzeits* from Harold & Judy Meyer In memory of William Kronick on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Helen Kotler

In memory of Tillie Moses and Louis Moses on the occasion of their *yahrzeits* from Merle Lassow

In memory of beloved mother Pauline Cutler on the occasion of her *yahrzeit* from Milly Malkin

In memory of Jeanette Bennett on the occasion of her *yahrzeit* from Monroe Moses

In memory of Samuel Greenwald on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Mrs. Marilyn Greenwald

In memory of Samuel Fisher on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Norman & Corinne Fisher

In memory of Edward Altman on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Steven & Elly Cohen

Dedications continued on next page

GORDON BARSHAY LASSOW & JAY JOSHUA LASSOW FUND

In memory of Laura Lassow, daughter-in-law of Marilyn Lassow, from Alan & Lea Schmerler

In memory of Laura Lassow from Arnold & Diane Keyser In memory of Laura Lassow from Calvin & Elaine Vinick

In memory of Laura Lassow from Herb & Ellie Flink

In memory of Laura Lassow, beloved daughter-in-law of Marilyn Lassow, from Mimi Kalman

In memory of Laura Lassow from Mrs. Gail Freedman In memory of Laura Lassow from Mrs. Sharon Chesler In loving memory of my husband, Philip Freedman, on the occasion of his *yahrzeit*, from Mrs. Gail Freedman

JOE DAVIS FUND

In memory of Joe's dear brother Bernard Davis on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Mrs. Audrey Davis

JOSEPH KOPMAN FUND

In memory of Joseph Kopman on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Judy Kopman-Fried

KAHN-LERMAN TRUST FUND

In memory of Jennifer Holbrook; in memory of Helen Ross from Manuel & Maxine Lerman

LAURIE MARGOLIS FUND

In memory of Barry Baron - We are so saddened by Barry's passing. May his memory be a blessing. from Philip & Susan Margolis

LEONARD SEADER FUND

Welcome home to Elizabeth Pullman; Happy Anniversary to Mike and Laura Seader; in memory of Daniel Cole; in memory of Laura Lassow; in memory of Dr. Benjamin Cohen on the occasion of his *yahrzeit* from Sissy Seader

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of our parents, Sadie & Saul Cohen and Lillian and Ira Flink on the occasion of their *yahrzeits* from Herb & Ellie Flink

NATHAN CHESLER FUND

In memory of grandmother, Sadie Chesler, from Holly Gwyn Zabitz

In memory of Sadie Chesler on the occasion of her *yahrzeit* from Mrs. Sharon Chesler

NICHUM AVAYLIM FUND

In memory of Jennifer Holbrook, sister of Teri Norman, from Alan & Lea Schmerler

In memory of Laura Lassow from Beatrice and Gordon Brodie In memory of Barry Baron from Jay and Susan Stoppelman In memory of Barry Baron from Steven & Elly Cohen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Laura Lassow from Mrs. Susan Goodwin
In memory of Laura Lassow. Our sincerest condolences to
Michael, Avital, Benjamin and Aaron, her mother Marilyn and
the extended family. May her soul rest in peace, from Steven
Hirth

Thank you for your guidance and support throughout Nathaniel's bar mitzvah process from Jennifer Bundy Thank you, Rabbi, for helping us through such a difficult time. from Mr. Mark Ross

RITA & DAVID SCHMERLER FUND

In memory of Daniel Cole, beloved husband of Florence; in memory of Dr. Walter Heimann; in memory of Michael Norman, beloved husband of Bonnie, dear father of Sam & Teri & Larry and family, dear brother of Paul, from Alan & Lea Schmerler

SECURITY FUND

In memory of Barry Baron from Robert Parnes

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

With wishes to Maddy Turk for a complete and swift return to good health; Mazel tov on the birth of your first grandchild to Carol & David Hatch from Jay and Susan Stoppelman In memory of Helen Ross, beloved wife of Mark from Alan & Lea Schmerler

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

In memory of Barry Baron from Frank Keshtgar and Karen Grando



Donation Submission Guidelines

Clearly print or type the following information and enclose it when you send in your donation payment:

Your name and address as you want it to be printed

Which fund(s) you would like your donation applied to

The purpose of the donation, including the full name of the person you are honoring and your relation to them (parents, siblings, etc.), if applicable

The name and address of who you would like to receive the acknowledgement

Please note: If you are including multiple dedications on one check, each dedication should be at least a minimum of \$10, and please specify how much you would like to go to each fund.

All checks should be made out to BSBI and sent to the synagogue at 400 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040. If you are donating to an Endowment fund, note the name of the fund on the memo line. Please allow some time for the donations to be processed and receipts sent out. If you have any questions regarding donations, please contact Judy Sawtelle at admin@myshul.org.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

1 (17 Tevet) New Year's Day 110:00a Shabbat Services Coom Services 10:00a Shabbat	Manage Man	Might have a been been been per total of the bill-	NAMES AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER, NAMES AND ADDRESS OF THE OWNER	2012 - CL SL - THE SL - SL	many less units made an larger gar-	יו שינה מצילים יעל יחים אות פרילת וליי	NO ALSO GATA GALA GALA SERVICE
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	31 (18 Shevat)					Sunset: 5:01p	Sunset: 5:03p

31 (18 Shevat)

9:30a Hebrew school K-7 9:30a RLWRS Tu B'Shevat Seder 11:30a Sisterhood Adventure Walk

Minyan Calendar Update:

We encourage everyone to continue to attend the daily virtual minyans.

The Jewry duty calendar will be re-evaluated when we are able to once again hold in-person services.

Please note that calendar times are listed as posted in the office as of the date *Chai Lights* goes to print. Any schedule changes after this time will be posted on the online calendar at myshul.org and included in the bi-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

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

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,

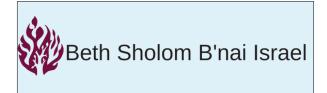


they are available for inspection at the synagogue.

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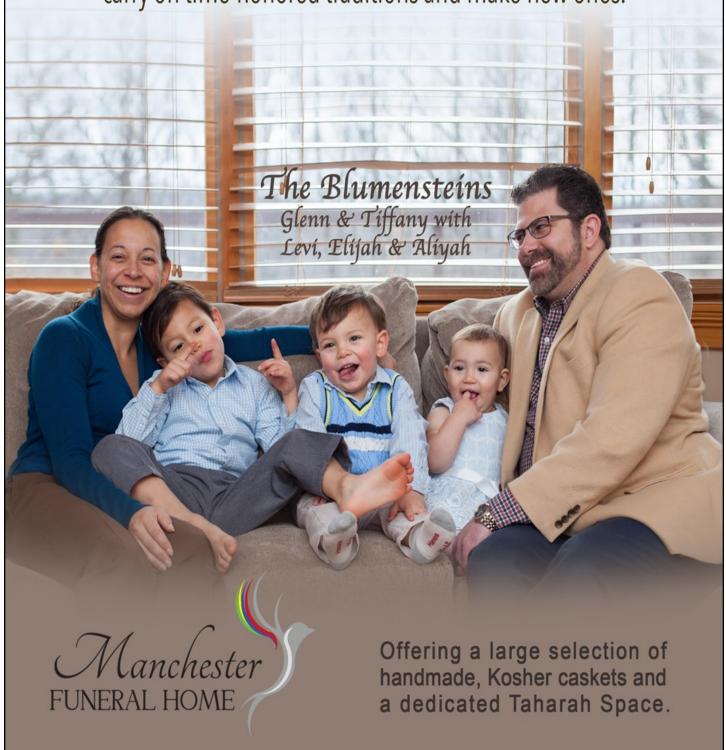
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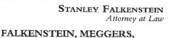
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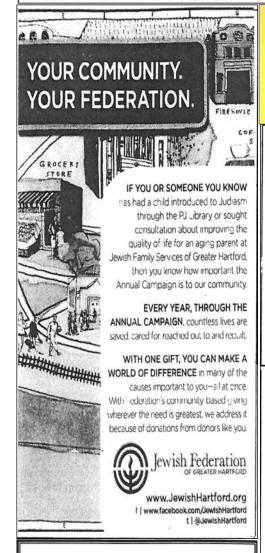
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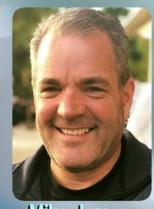
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