

Volume 5784.4

BSBI'S CHAI LIGHTS

December 2023



Latkes and Lights

5:00pm on Sunday, December 10th, 2023



Celebrate lighting our outdoor menorah, sing festive Hanukkah songs, enjoy a delicious latke nosh and spin the dreidel!

Free and open to the public; registration is required. Security will be provided at this event.
For further information or to register, go to: www.myshul.org

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BETH SHOLOM B'NAI ISRAEL
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BSBI Board of Directors

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Co-Vice Presidents of Finance: Alan & Hope Igdalsky

Co-Vice Presidents of Membership: Judy Meyer / Ilene O'Neil

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Brotherhood Representative: Dave Alter

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Member At Large: Jay Bigman

Member At Large: Spin Zucker

Chair, Personnel: Mike Turk

Co-Chairs, Social Action: Deb Carlson / Susan Mendelsohn

Chair, Adult Programming: Gayle Block

Legal Counsel: Bruce Beck

Services

Monday - 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 our services.

**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

Shabbat, December 2 (Kislev 19)

7:00pm Jazz Fest

**Thursday, December 7: Erev Hanukkah
(Kislev 24)**

6:30pm 1st Candle Lighting - Social Action
7:00pm Micha Biton

**Erev Shabbat, December 8: Hanukkah
(Kislev 25)**

3:45pm 2nd Candle Lighting - Early Bird

**Shabbat, December 9: Hanukkah, Shabbat
Mevarchim (Kislev 26)**

6:30pm 3rd Candle Lighting - Adult Education

Sunday, December 10: Hanukkah (Kislev 27)

9:00am Brotherhood Breakfast & Speaker
5:00pm Latkes & Lights Hanukkah Celebration
5:00pm 4th Candle Lighting - RLWRS

Monday, December 11: Hanukkah (Kislev 28)

6:30pm 5th Candle Lighting - Brotherhood
7:30pm Sisterhood/Hadassah Book Club

Tuesday, December 12: Hanukkah (Kislev 29)

1:30pm Knit & Kvetch
6:30pm 6th Candle Lighting - Sisterhood

**Wednesday, December 13: Hanukkah,
Rosh Chodesh Tevet (Tevet 1)**

6:30pm 7th Candle Lighting - Board of Directors

Thursday, December 14: Hanukkah (Tevet 2)

6:30pm 8th Candle Lighting - Congregation

Shabbat, December 16 (Tevet 4)

11:00am Junior Congregation
12:30pm Shabbat Luncheon

Wednesday, December 20 (Tevet 8)

7:30pm BOD Board Meeting

Monday, December 25 (Tevet 13) Office Closed

5:00pm Chinese Dinner

Tuesday, December 26 (Tevet 14)

7:30pm Sisterhood Board Meeting

Sunday, December 31 (Tevet 19)

10:00am Sisterhood Adventure Walk

Condolences to:

Son Jeff (Susan Ades), daughter Amy Stone, and brother-in-law Neil Ellis on the loss of Blanche Stone.

David Norman, Tommy Norman, and Emily Bernard and their families on the loss of their father, Paul Norman

Sister Florence Cole, children Barbara (Harvey) Feldman, Martin (Susan) Squire and their families on the loss of Jerome (Jerry) Squire

Faith, Hope, and Prayer

We all know the story of Hanukkah; where a little jar of oil, the last of the pure oil certified by the priesthood that was only supposed to be enough to burn for one day, instead stayed lit for an entire eight days, for the entire rededication of the Temple until more pure oil could be produced. It may be, in the wider scheme of things, only a small miracle, but it made a big difference to those who had fought to reclaim the Temple from the Greeks who had defiled it.

Hanukkah also has a different story of a miracle: the Hasmonean victory over the better equipped and larger Syrian-Greek army. It also was a small miracle in the grand scheme of things. It was a series of small victories that led to the defeat of the enemy. That too is a miracle that we celebrate on Hanukkah.

But, there is a third story of how Hanukkah came to be, one that is much older than the two stories we know so well. It is about Adam, the first human being. Adam noticed that the days were getting shorter, the sun was shining less and less each day. The world was getting colder, and he began to fear that the world was coming to an end. Without the warmth of the sun, the world would return to chaos; everything and everyone would die. So, he began to gather wood and set it on fire to keep the light going longer, hoping that it would hold back the long nights. After eight nights of lighting fires, Adam noticed that the days were slowly getting longer. He realized that the times of daylight and nighttime would change but the world would go on. But just in case, he continued to light fires on the longest nights of the year to remind the daylight to return.

It is in these dark days of December that we learn to appreciate the light that makes everything possible. It is not warm, nor is it long, but we still get a sunrise and a sunset each day (unless we live above the Arctic circle). No matter how long the night, eventually the light will return. So, we celebrate the light with the candles that we display on Hanukkah.

We are living in some really dark days this year. With war in Gaza, with hostages having an uncertain future, with rising antisemitism, with danger lurking all about us, these are dark days indeed. But we can use light to push back the darkness. Our candles may be small, but the light they give has great power over the darkness. If we can bring light into the world, not just with our candles, but with our actions that spread kindness and compassion, then the world will remember how important the lights of wisdom, gratitude, and peace can be. Slowly the days will get longer, the hatred will grow less, and there will be a new dawn where people will understand and see each other as human beings, worthy of our kindness and love.

It is important to remember that spring will come and bring with it hope for Jews, for Israel, and for humanity. Our duty is to do what we can to bring hope and light to the world each day, to remind all of us of the coming dawn.

Rabbi Randall J. Konigsburg

A Word From Our President

By the time you read this article, our Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be a couple of weeks in the past. If you didn't attend, let me share with you what you didn't get to experience.

Approximately 120 people from all denominations filled our sanctuary, and even before the service began, there was an atmosphere of warmth and unity. Lutheran, Unity, Catholic, Muslim, Christian, Jewish... it didn't seem to matter. We were all there for a single purpose – to share our message of peace in these troubled times.

With a smile on his face wider than I've seen in a long time, and in broken English that was clearly a struggle, the local Imam spoke about all the things that united us, regardless of faith – the most important, a desire for peace and happiness.

Jay Moran, Mayor of Manchester CT ignored any prepared speech and spoke from the heart about how important this annual service was for the community, and for him personally.

Priest, pastor, clergy of all denominations shared passages of scripture that while they may have had a few different words or phrases...was familiar to all.

There was song, there were smiles, there was a feeling that the chaos in the world outside wasn't as insurmountable as it may seem at times.

Without question, this is my favorite service of the year. For all the reasons I mentioned above, for sure, but also because it gives me hope. Due to the nature of my "day job" I'm often immersed in the war and the tragedy unfolding in Israel, and to be perfectly honest...it's emotionally exhausting and makes it difficult to see the potential for peace and love in the world. But even our little service, in our little corner of the world, has done more to uplift my spirits than all the therapy in the world could hope to accomplish.

Why...because it was real. It wasn't about carefully scripted speeches with edits to make sure the right message was delivered...it was about people speaking from the heart. It was about people not caring about our differences, but embracing all those things that we have in common.

As we move from Thanksgiving into Hanukkah, I have one request of you all. Take a moment to think about one single light. Just as we use one candle to light the others on our hanukkiah, think about how you can use your light to ignite moments that dispel the terrible darkness in Israel, and for Jews worldwide.

Oseh shalom bimromav
Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu
V'al kol Yisrael
V'imru Amen.

With love and peace,
Russ Benblatt, President – BSBI

Hanukkah Lighting Schedule

December 7, 2023 – December 14, 2023

We will have the Hanukkah Lighting outside on the front lawn.
These groups are hosting the lighting: everyone is welcome to attend.

HANUKKIAH LIGHTING

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1ST NIGHT Thursday, December 7	6:30pm Social Action – Micha Biton
2ND NIGHT Friday, December 8	3:45pm Early Bird*
3RD NIGHT Saturday, December 9	6:30pm Adult Education
4TH NIGHT Sunday, December 10	5:00pm Latkes & Lights RLWRS*
5TH NIGHT Monday, December 11	6:30pm Brotherhood
6TH NIGHT Tuesday, December 12	6:30pm Sisterhood
7TH NIGHT Wednesday, December 13	6:30pm Board of Directors
8TH NIGHT Thursday, December 14	6:30pm BSBI Congregation

*please note the earlier time



The Children's Library has several new additions, biographies and fiction. However, this month, I will highlight one of the books that is applicable to the situation in Israel today. Although the book is fiction and the time period different, the events are the same.

It's Yom Kippur Eve in 1973, and twelve-year-old Beni thinks his biggest problem is settling in at his new school in the Golan, where his family moved at the end of the Six-Day War.

But on Yom Kippur, shocking news comes over the radio: a stunning strike on Israel has begun, led by a coalition of Arab states. In the blink of an eye, Beni's older brother Motti is off to war, leaving Beni behind with his mother and father.

As bombs drop around Beni and his family, they flee to safety, every day hoping for news of Motti and the developments of the war. Beni must find a way to aid the war effort in his own way, proving that he too can be a hero, even as he learns that there is dignity in every person, including the people he considers the enemy.

Beni's war has great characters and shows how life is for kids during a war.



Micha Biton: CONCERT CANCELED

Check our website and the weekly email for the most up-to-date information.



Chinese Dinner

Monday, December 25th at 5:00pm

Registration for the Chinese Dinner is open until Friday, December 15th! Dinner is \$25 per Adult and \$8 for children under 13.

Menu: egg rolls, beef teriyaki, pineapple chicken, General Tso's cauliflower, vegetable fried rice, cold sesame noodles, fortune cookies.

We'll play word games; bring your dictionary!



Save the Date: March 29th, Sharing Shabbat

This year we are hosting our own version of Shabbat Across America. We hope it will be scheduled late enough that snow will not cause worry, so we can do candle-lighting in the synagogue as part of celebrating Shabbat.

Rabbi Leon Wind Religious School Update

School News

We are happy to announce that JTeen Connect will now offer a program for students East of the River, in conjunction with BSBI, Temple Beth Hillel, and Congregation Kol Haverim. This initial class offering will guide students through the Jewish mitzvah of tzedakah: how to select an appropriate charity to receive donations, how to raise funds to donate, and how to implement grants to selected organizations. For students in grades 8-12, the class will meet one Sunday a month, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. (dinner included) and will alternate among the three co-sponsoring synagogues.

Visit JT Connect's website: <https://jtconnect.org/>

As our school continues to grow, we are delighted to welcome Becky Murray to our teaching staff. She has already started the school year off with joy and enthusiasm for our students.

Rabbi Alan is changing the timing for his Junior Congregation on days when the synagogue is sponsoring a luncheon, in order to encourage families to remain for part of the regular service. The next junior congregation is on December 16th.

LATKES & LIGHTS returns on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10!** Put the date on your calendars for our annual Hanukkah celebration with school families and the entire congregation. Menorah lighting is at 5:00; the latke "nosh" begins at 5:30. More information will be coming to you soon.

A Teaching Moment with Rabbi Alan

Over the years there have been many books and articles speaking about the December Dilemma. For me, there is no December dilemma; however, for many families, the occasional clash of holidays proves difficult to navigate. How do non-Jews honor Hanukkah? And how can Jews respect Christmas?

The problem lies in this: most people, Jews and non-Jews, have no idea what either Christmas or Hanukkah is about. Christmas is not a secular holiday, but the second most important religious observance for Christians, marking the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, through whom, they believe, the saving presence of God came directly and immediately into the world.

The true meaning of Christmas has nothing to do with overweight bringers of gifts, shiny-nosed reindeer, or electrically lit evergreens. Treating such a solemn holiday in these pop-culture terms trivializes and demeans a serious and influential religious celebration.

Hanukkah, on the other hand, celebrates the military victory of Jews over Syrian Greeks in the year 167 BCE. This victory established the concept of religious freedom, a right guaranteed by most civilized countries. The freedom to choose what to believe, and how to pray, is fundamental to Jewish culture, and has spread across the world. Of course, there are even today groups who want to force others to follow their religious beliefs. In 2001 in New York, and in Israel this very year, we have seen violence enacted by such misguided fanatics. Sadly, it appears that the battle won by the Maccabees must be fought again and again.

In Jewish tradition, we have downplayed the military victory of old by creating the legend of the Temple oil. Miraculously, although there was only enough consecrated oil in the Temple to burn for one day, the lights of the Menorah burned for eight days.

What is the Jewish requirement to celebrate Hanukkah? We light candles for eight nights to commemorate the miracle of the lights. This is the essence, the spirit, and the law of Hanukkah.

The Jewish approach to Christmas is clear. Let me draw an analogy: When a child has a birthday party, the cake and gifts are all for the birthday child. If we are invited to a birthday party, we bring gifts for the child who is celebrating—not for ourselves. When our Christian friends celebrate the birthday of Jesus, we respect their celebration—but it is not our celebration. To appreciate the aesthetic beauty of religious art or music, to wish our Christian friends well in their celebration, is one thing; to make their observance our own is quite another. Even in an interfaith family, if the child is being raised as a Jew, parents can explain that visiting non-Jewish relatives is helping them to celebrate their holiday.

Rabbi Leon Wind Religious School Update

A Teaching Moment with Rabbi Alan (Cont.)

Helping our children cope with the deluge of Christmas pageantry and the overbearing media blitz to buy, buy, buy, is part of child-raising. From the toddler years on, we teach children the fundamental difference between “mine” and “not mine.” The first category is easily learned; the second one takes years of practice and persuasion. For the Jewish child, Christmas falls into the category of “not mine.” In life, many attractive things are beyond our grasp because they belong to somebody else, or are beyond our means. It is important to learn this basic truth; if we don’t teach it to our children, we set them up for a lifetime of continual frustration.

The challenge for the Jewish parent is to show children that our own traditions, observances, and celebrations contain more than enough beauty, enjoyment, satisfaction, and meaning. The more children are immersed in Jewish learning and observance, both at home and in the synagogue, the less they will be attracted to other observances. We decorate the Sukkah, wear costumes at Purim, eat special cookies (hamantashen), and sing lots of great songs, especially in our services.

If children beg to participate in Christmas festivities, we should understand that something is missing in their own spiritual life. This is a sign that the parents need to create fun Jewish holiday experiences, tell exciting Jewish stories, and engage with their child in our own traditional celebrations.

We wish you all the best for a Happy and Healthy Hanukkah, and a good and prosperous secular New Year!

Please join us for our school Hanukkah celebration on Sunday December 10 at 5:00 p.m. for Latkes and Lights! After we light the Hanukkiah we’ll go indoors for latkes and cookies. Our students have been working very hard to prepare songs and skits for the congregation.

Rabbi Alan

Update from the Rabbi Search Committee

Dear Congregants,

There is not much to tell you; this appears to be a very slow-starting job search season. However, we have gleaned some information from our contact at United Synagogue. The few Conservative congregations—only 14 in all—who posted job openings for rabbi candidates did so at the same time we did, around mid-October. Of these, only three other congregations of about our size are currently seeking rabbis.

Not surprisingly, given the onset of the war with Hamas, very few rabbis have submitted applications so far; only five candidates have applied for any jobs (none, so far, to BSBI). If we continue to have a poor response to our questionnaire, we will of course submit the waiver form that will permit us to search for candidates outside of the Rabbinical Assembly. But no such waivers will be granted until December 8. For now, we wait, and hope to receive some desirable applications.

The Rabbi Search Committee



Celebration Dates

Happy Birthday to:

Jeffrey Tardif 12/1	Richard Schiller 12/14	Rachel Partney 12/22
Craig Banks 12/2	Richard Carlton 12/16	Judith Eckhouse 12/22
Ellen Neuhaus 12/2	Carol Hatch 12/17	Blanche Stone 12/22
Eleanor Lipton 12/3	Lauren Bula 12/18	Sandi Garfield 12/23
Harvey Kahaner 12/6	Jeffrey Lassow 12/18	Richard Ketai 12/24
Glenn Hauer 12/7	Sue Pitler 12/20	Dylan Maynard 12/25
Susan Luxemburg 12/7	Alfred Stern 12/20	Risa Filkoff 12/26
Rochelle Levine 12/10	Richard Berkman 12/20	Loren Reichlin 12/28
Laura Levine 12/10	Gillian Cohen 12/20	
Carol Goldstein 12/11	Judy Meyer 12/22	

Happy Anniversary to:

Mr. Saul Nesselroth & Mrs. Carol Lewis 12/30



Have a simcha you want to share with the congregation? Make sure to notify Allison at programming@myshul.org so she can include it in the bulletin!

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 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.

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

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.

What's Ahead for Sisterhood

Monday, December 11
Sisterhood/Hadassah Book Group, 7:45 pm
Zoom

Tuesday, December 12
Knit and Kvetch, 1:30 pm

Tuesday, December 26
Sisterhood Board Meeting, 7:30 pm on Zoom

Sunday, December 31
Sisterhood Adventure Walk, 10:00 am

Share an Oneg

The pulpit flowers on November 10 and 11, Torah Study Shabbat were sponsored by Sisterhood.

Call or email me if you would like to enhance your simcha with pulpit flowers.

Mimi Kalman, Pulpit Flower Chair,
mimrk524@gmail.com, 860-649-3890

Adventure Walk

We will be walking as a group on December 31. Let's end our year doing something healthy.

We will meet at the BSBI parking at 10:00 am, decide where we will go, then off we will go and come back refreshed and ready for the New Year!



Margie Partney

Torah Fund Cards

Get well to Sissy Seader from Steve and Barbara Leshin.

Condolences to Judy Sawtelle and family in memory of Judy's father, Raymond Johnson from Cal and Elaine Vinick.

Mazel Tov to Doctor Michelle Konigsburg on receiving her Doctorate from JTS from Lynn and Jack Cohen.

Mazel Tov to Doctor Michelle Konigsburg on receiving her Doctorate from JTS from Mimi Kalman.

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

Sisterhood/Hadassah Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 11 at 7:45 pm on Zoom. If you want to catch up with other members you can log on at 7:30 pm.

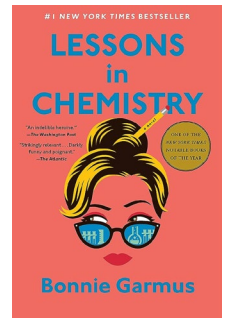
For December, we will read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

We will meet on the 8th in January. We plan to read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. The Mary Cheney Research librarian has ordered books and will be holding copies of both books for the BSBI Book Group.

The zoom link for our meetings will be posted closer to the meeting date.

The book group really enjoyed visiting with Hanna Pearlstein Marcus and listening to the unique story of her life. If you are not part of our group and would like to hear her in person, she will be talking at Whiton Library in Manchester on November 30.

Maxine Lerman and Becky Murray



Knit & Kvetch

On Tuesday, November 14th we had our annual distribution. This year we were able to give to the following: Hartford Health, John A. DeQuattro Cancer Center, HVCC, MARC inc., Second Congregational Church, Cornerstone, and the Rabbi for a total of **471 items**.

I would like to thank Susan Stoppelman, Cruz Mandell, Carol Alter, Sandy Phair, Anne Herman, Leslie Abrahams, Irene Harrison, Susan Gross, Lynn Cohen, and Barbara Zupnik for taking the time to knit or crochet the items for our donations.



We are starting our 18th year (Chai !) I hope we can make it a great one.

If you have any questions, you can email me at Irannefink@gmail.com or call me at 860-649-6551.

Anne Fink

Sisterhood Gift Shop: Your Source for all Your Smachot

Hanukkah is practically on our doorsteps (December 7th). We would just like to remind you that we have a nice assortment of Hanukkah menorahs, candles, and "gold" coins to help play the dreidel game. And of course we have dreidels and lots of objects for gift giving too!

If you don't see what you want, please give either Harriet Beede (860-305-8711) or Brenda Lerner (860-643-9700) a call and we'll be happy to meet with you or order something special.

Harriet Beede, hmbeede@gmail.com
Brenda Lerner, brenler@cox.net

Brotherhood Corner

A Word From Our Brotherhood President

Hello BSBI!

November was a great month! We had a wonderful speaker, Anna MacDonald, from Jewish Family Services. Ms. MacDonald spoke about the many programs that JFS has to offer our community as well as some of their great accomplishments. In honor of her presentation, our chapter voted to donate \$300 to JFS. Given what Anna told us, I am sure the money will be put to good use.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, December 10, so as not to conflict with the Jazz Festival's weekend. The meeting will begin with Shacharit at 9:00 am. Our guest speaker for December will be Edina Oestricher, Executive Director of UConn Hillel (bio below). She will talk to us about Jewish life on campus and the many programs they offer.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. Remember, if you haven't already done so, please pay your \$36.00 dues to Ari (mail to him or bring to the next meeting).

Glenn Hauer
Brotherhood President

Edina Oestricher, Executive Director of UConn Hillel



Edina comes to UConn Hillel with over 20 years of experience serving in a variety of student affairs capacities. Passionate about engaging the Jewish community, she serves as a contracted trainer for the Anti-Defamation League where she facilitates workshops on antisemitism, bias, and discrimination to youth and adults throughout Connecticut. She also served on the board of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, Connecticut for over 10 years in a variety of capacities including Sisterhood Co-President and Chair of the Jewish Life and Adult Education Committees.

Ms. Oestricher loves working with students to help them succeed and reach their potential. She enjoys working collaboratively with students, families, faculty, staff, and the greater Storrs community to create a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive Hillel. She met her husband, David, at UConn. They live in Orange and have two daughters. In her spare time, she loves to hike, kayak, bicycle, travel, and play golf.

Our November Speaker

The BSBI Brotherhood held its annual meeting on November 5th. Their guest speaker was Anna MacDonald, LMSW. She joined the Jewish Family Services in March 2023 as the Community Mental Health Liaison.

Ms. MacDonald leads the organization's outreach efforts to improve youth mental health and support. Other programs she discussed were counseling services, temporary assistance for needy families, and tech support for older adults.

Photographer: Harold A. Bernstein



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 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

Endowment Foundation

Scholarships	Rabbi Leon Wind Religious School	Adult Education	Community	General Endowment Fund	<p style="text-align: center;">The Time is Now, The Need is Great!</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Endowment Foundation</i></p> <p><small>*These funds can also be used in Rabbi Leon Wind Religious School</small></p>
Gloria Byk Fund	Bayer/Davison Fund	Sylvia A. Cheikin Fund	Berkman Family Fund	Israel and Lillian Abramovitz Fund	
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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 Jeshaja 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	
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			Program Enhancement	Marcus Family and Bula Family Fund	
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Howard Gold Fund	Nellie Katz Cohen Fund	Elaine and Leo Charendoff Fund	Congregation B'nai Israel Memorial Park Fund	Rita Oshinsky Fund	
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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 or Rabbi Konigsburg 860-643-9563 x101.

Contributions from Thoughtful People

ANNE & LEON KRAMER FUND

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

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Coats For Israeli children from Alan and Lea Schmerler

Given with love from Sandi Phair

Coats for Israel from Beatrice and Gordon Brodie

Lisa Plavin-Thank you for organizing the Coats for Israel project! from Becky Murray

In Honor of Hanna Marcus and appreciation of her being the guest speaker to discuss her newest book at Sisterhood Book Club from Becky Murray

Coats for Israel from Dr. & Mrs. William Spector

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Coats for Israel from Jeffrey & Sue Pitler

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Stay warm from Shirley Segal

Coats for Israel from Susan & Bill Breslau

Coats for Israel from Diane Keyser

STAND WITH ISRAEL from Richard Berkman

Stay warm from Emily Buch

Coats for Israeli children from Laura Ellen Levine

In appreciation of our Rabbi, you will be missed from An Labb

In honor of Lew and Shirley Segal from Karen Segal Rookwood

In honor of Barry and Morene Axler from Phillip & Elaine Axler

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. Psalms 41 from Tanya Macher

On behalf of the displaced children in Israel from Lynn Cohen

On behalf of Coats for Israel from Susan Scherick

CONTINUING EDUCATION

In honor of my dear friend Mrs. Barbara Pershan from Michael & Betty Seidman

EDITH GOTTLIEB FUND

In memory of Alan Fineberg on his yahrzeit from Lori Gottlieb

FAY & BENJAMIN LEVY-MAX MANDEL FUND

In memory of Bernard Weinberg from Phyllis & Richard Levy

GENERAL FUND

In appreciation of our Rosh Hashanah Aliyah from Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus

In honor of Sandi Phair & Ken Wichman being our Chattan & Kallat Torah from Debbie & Craig Cinquemani

In honor of Ken Wichman and Sandi Phair. Mazel Tov on your well-deserved honors from Harold & Judy Meyer

In memory of Dr. Paul Norman, condolences to his family from Alan and Lea Schmerler

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Anne and Ira Fink

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Arnold & Diane Keyser

In memory of Dorothy Buch from Arnold & Sandy Dashefsky

In memory of Sandra Levy from Barbara & Steve Leshin

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Debbi & Craig Cinquemani

In memory of Barry Haight from Diane and Mitchell Wurmbrand

In memory of Diane Wasser from Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus

In memory of Leonard Engelson from Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Drs. David & Ellen Neuhaus

In memory of Jerry Squire from Harold & Judy Meyer

In memory of Florence Cole's brother from Harvey & Elaine Kahaner

In memory of Paul Norman from Harvey & Elaine Kahaner

In memory of Sandra Judith Levy from Harvey & Roberta Weiner

In memory of Janet Koenig, beloved Wife, Mother, and Grandma from Jeff and Barb Koenig

In memory of Paul Norman from Jeffrey Wasser

In memory of Jerry Squire from Jeffrey Wasser

In memory of Sandra Judith Levy from Jeffrey Wasser

In memory of Sandra Judith Levy from Joyce Peck

In memory of Arnold Bogatz from Judy Bogatz

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Liza Mandel & Jeffrey Lassow

In memory of Dorothy Buch from Liza Mandel & Jeffrey Lassow

In memory of Judy's father, Raymond Johnson from Lynn and Jack Cohen

In memory of Lynn Cohen's sister from Merle Lassow

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Michael & Madeline Turk

In memory of Sandra Judith Levy from Michael & Madeline Turk

In memory of Raymond Johnson, father of Judy Sawtelle from Myrna Spector

In memory of Dorothy Buch from Rahim & Sherry Shamash

In memory of Diane Wasser from Rahim & Sherry Shamash

In memory of Barry Haight from Randall & Elaine Nelson

In memory of Raymond Johnson, may his memory be a blessing from Renee Shifrin

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Richard Berkman

In memory of Lynn Cohen's sister from Rima Riedel

In memory of Ray Johnson, Judy Sawtelle's father from Rima Riedel

In memory of Stanley Levett from Stanley Israel

In memory of Paul Norman from Steven H. Hirth & Nino Zaridze.

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Stuart & Jenny Rabinowitz

In memory of Raymond Johnson from Sylvia Cheerman

In memory of Raymond Johnson; my condolences from Tanya Macher

Contributions from Thoughtful People

In memory of Herman Sholovitz on the occasion of his
yahrzeit from William Gamzon
Yahrzeit of Philip & Dorothy Menchel from Arnold Menchel
Yahrzeit of Dr. David Elkin, Donna's father from David &
Donna Plen
Yahrzeit of Howard Nitzberg from Drs. David & Ellen
Neuhaus
Yahrzeit of my Aunt Dorothy & Uncle Philip Menchel from
Frances Licht
Yahrzeit of Robert Brodie from Gordon & Beatrice Brodie
Yahrzeit of Rose & Max Miner from Harold & Judy Meyer
Yahrzeit of Louis & Tillie Moses from Merle Lassow
Yahrzeit of Jeanette Bennett from Monroe Moses
Yahrzeit of Tillie Moses from Mr. & Mrs. John E. Slattery
Yahrzeit of Pearl Searle from Mr. Jonas Searle
Yahrzeit of Samuel Greenwald from Mrs. Marilyn Greenwald
Yahrzeit of Anthony Hans Baum from Neil & Jackie Somberg

LEONARD SEADER FUND

Happy Anniversary to Paula & James Thomas from Sissy
Seader
Happy Anniversary to Steve & Nancy Slovkin from Sissy
Seader
Happy Anniversary to Richard & Lisa Plepler from Sissy
Seader
Happy Birthday to Andrea Seader from Sissy Seader
In memory of Cliff Rundell from Sissy Seader
In memory of Raymond Johnson from Sissy Seader
Yahrzeit of my father, Dr. A Benjamin Cohen from Sissy
Seader

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Jerry Squire, brother of Florence Cole from
Calvin & Elaine Vinick
In memory of our parents on the occasion of their yahrzeits:
Lillian Flink, Ira Flink, Sadie Cohen, Saul Cohen from Herb
and Elie Flink

NATHAN CHESLER FUND

In memory of Barry Haight from Mrs. Sharon Chesler
In memory of my grandmother, Sadie Chesler from Holly
Gwyn Zabitz
Yahrzeit of Sadie Chesler from Mrs. Sharon Chesler

NICHUM AVAYLIM FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Konigsburg throughout the difficult
period in our lives and for the support given before and after
the passing away of Lynn's sister, Sandra Levy. In appreciation
for the beautiful Shabbat dinner from BSBI to be shared with
family in memory of Sandra from Lynn and Jack Cohen
In memory of Dorothy Buch from Gordon & Beatrice Brodie

In memory of Sandra Judith Levy from Harold & Judy Meyer
In memory of Dorothy Buch from Harold & Judy Meyer
In memory of Dorothy Buch from Michael & Madeline Turk
In memory of your wonderful mother, Dorothy Buch from
Philip & Susan Margolis
Yahrzeit of Rebecca Levy, Abe Meyer, Pearl Ginsburg from
Harold & Judy Meyer

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

In memory of Sandra Judith Levy from Philip & Susan
Margolis

RABBI EMERITUS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Provide meals to Israeli Families from Anonymous
Provide meals to Israeli Families from Carl and Cruz Mandell
For Arielle Dubrowin from Jennifer Newman
For Ariella Dubrowin's meal program from Rabbi Jonathan
and Beverly Schnitzer
To Colleen and Joe, who asked us to do this for them. We all
need good neighbors right now, they are good neighbors, from
Ronnie Dubrowin
In appreciation of The Neve Daniel community providing
meals to families with members serving in the IDF from
Melissa Friedman
In honor of IDF soldiers and their families from Rachel and
Stephen Donnell

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Diane Wasser from Gloria Naftali
In memory of Raymond Johnson, father of Judy Sawtelle from
Susan and Ron Scherick
Yahrzeit of Oded Naftali and Mina Weiss from Gloria Naftali
Yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Raquel Fialkoff from Pola
Fialkoff

RITA & DAVID SCHMERLER FUND

In memory of Sandra Levy, condolences to her sister Lynn
Cohen and her family from Alan and Lea Schmerler

SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND

In honor of Chattan and Kallat Torah, Sandy Phair and Kem
Wichman from Philip & Susan Margolis
In memory of Barry Haight from Elly and Steve Cohen
In memory of Raymond Johnson from Gordon & Beatrice
Brodie
In memory of Raymond Johnson from Jane Zimmerman
In memory of Diane Wasser from Philip & Susan Margolis
Yahrzeit of Edward Altman from Elly and Steve Cohen
Yahrzeit of my beloved father, Marvin Zimmerman from Jane
Zimmerman
In honor of Varda Lev from Heather Rossitto

Thank You From the Sawtelle Family

The Sawtelle family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, support, and sympathy during this difficult time.

December 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 (18 Kislev) 4:02pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services Sunset: 4:20pm	2 (19 Kislev) 10:00am Shabbat Services 5:05pm Havdalah 7:00pm Jazz Fest Sunset: 4:20pm
3 (20 Kislev) 9:00am Hebrew school K-7	4 (21 Kislev) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	5 (22 Kislev) 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u> 7:30pm BSBI Academy	6 (23 Kislev) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	7 (24 Kislev) Erev Hanukkah 4:30pm Hebrew school Gr 3-7 6:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u> 6:30pm 1st Candle Lighting - Social Action 7:00pm Micha Biton	8 (25 Kislev) Hanukkah 3:45pm 2nd Candle Lighting - Early Bird 4:01pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services Sunset: 4:19pm	9 (26 Kislev) Hanukkah Shabbat Mevarchim 10:00am Shabbat Services 5:04pm Havdalah 6:30pm 3rd Candle Lighting - Adult Education Sunset: 4:19pm
10 (27 Kislev) Hanukkah 9:00am Brotherhood Breakfast 9:00am Morning Minyan 9:00am Hebrew school K-7 5:00pm Latkes & Lights, 4th Candle Lighting - RLWRS	11 (28 Kislev) Hanukkah 6:30pm Hanukkah 5th Candle Lighting @ BSBI - Brotherhood 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u> 7:30pm Sisterhood/Hadasah Book Club	12 (29 Kislev) Hanukkah 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 1:30pm Knit & Kvetch 6:30pm 6th Candle Lighting - Sisterhood 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u> 7:30pm BSBI Academy	13 (1 Tevet) Hanukkah Rosh Chodesh Tevet 6:30pm 7th Candle Lighting - Board of Directors 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	14 (2 Tevet) Hanukkah 4:30pm Hebrew school Gr 3-7 6:30pm 8th Candle Lighting - Congregation 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	15 (3 Tevet) Hanukkah 4:02pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services Sunset: 4:20pm	16 (4 Tevet) 10:00am Shabbat Services 11:00am Junior Congregation Luncheon 12:30pm Shabbat Luncheon 5:05pm Havdalah Sunset: 4:20pm
17 (5 Tevet) 9:00am Hebrew school K-7	18 (6 Tevet) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	19 (7 Tevet) 12:00pm Lunch & Learn 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u> 7:30pm BSBI Academy	20 (8 Tevet) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u> 7:30pm BOD Board Meeting	21 (9 Tevet) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	22 (10 Tevet) Fast of Tevet 4:05pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services Sunset: 4:23pm	23 (11 Tevet) 10:00am Shabbat Services 5:08pm Havdalah Sunset: 4:23pm
24 (12 Tevet)	25 (13 Tevet) Christmas Day Office Closed 5:00pm Chinese Dinner	26 (14 Tevet) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u> 7:30pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	27 (15 Tevet) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	28 (16 Tevet) 7:00pm <u>Mincha/Maariv</u>	29 (17 Tevet) 4:09pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Friday Night Services Sunset: 4:27pm	30 (18 Tevet) 10:00am Shabbat Services 5:13pm Havdalah Sunset: 4:28pm
31 (19 Tevet) 10:00am Sisterhood Adventure Walk						

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 and included in the weekly announcements.

Evening Minyan Schedule

Please Note: Services will begin at 7:00 PM except where noted.

****Special credit to our twice a month (or more) Jewry Duty members***

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<u>First Monday</u> Maxine Jaffe* Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Stacey Poutre* Susan Scherick Ron Scherick Susan Stoppelman	<u>First Tuesday</u> Rick Berkman* Arnold Keyser* Manny Lerman Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Jane Zimmerman*	<u>First Wednesday</u> Brina Abrahams* Ron Abrahams* Linda Grad Carol Hatch Marilyn Lassow* Irene Milzoff Joel Milzoff Becky Murray	<u>First Thursday</u> Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Judy Meyer Harold Meyer Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Calvin Vinick
<u>Second Monday</u> Bruce Beck Hope Igdalsky Alan Igdalsky Maxine Jaffe* Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Rabbi Richard Plavin* Lisa Plavin* Stacey Poutre*	<u>Second Tuesday</u> Aaron Bayer Laurie Bayer Rick Berkman* Ellie Flink* Herb Flink* Arnold Keyser* Diane Keyser* Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Steve Wollins*	<u>Second Wednesday</u> Brina Abrahams* Ron Abrahams* Bea Brodie Gordon Brodie Debra Carlson Marilyn Lassow*	<u>Second Thursday</u> Paula Finkelstein Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Steve Leshin Barbara Leshin Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Barry Resnick Renny Resnick Ted Zupnik* Barbara Zupnik*
<u>Third Monday</u> Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Abe Linner Iris Linner Stacey Poutre*	<u>Third Tuesday</u> Rick Berkman* Arnold Keyser* Diane Keyser* Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Leslie Abrahams Richard Abrahams	<u>Third Wednesday</u> Ron Abrahams* Brina Abrahams* Steve Cohen* Elly Cohen* Maury Luxemburg Marilyn Lassow* Jeff Lassow Liza Mandel Stacey Poutre* Jack Steigelfest Dawn Steigelfest	<u>Third Thursday</u> Michelle Konigsburg* Neil Kovensky* Brenda Lerner* Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Jane Zimmerman*
<u>Fourth Monday</u> Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Phil Margolis Sue Margolis Rabbi Richard Plavin* Lisa Plavin* Stacey Poutre*	<u>Fourth Tuesday</u> Rick Berkman* Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Steve Wollins*	<u>Fourth Wednesday</u> Ron Abrahams* Brina Abrahams* Marilyn Lassow* Stacey Poutre* Mike Turk Maddy Turk	<u>Fourth Thursday</u> Stuart Rabinowitz Jenny Rabinowitz Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre*
<u>Fifth Monday</u> Michelle Konigsburg* Neil Kovensky* Brenda Lerner* Stacey Poutre*	<u>Fifth Tuesday</u> Rick Berkman* Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Ellie Flink* Herb Flink*	<u>Fifth Wednesday</u> Ron Abrahams* Brina Abrahams* Steve Cohen* Elly Cohen* Marilyn Lassow* Stacey Poutre*	<u>Fifth Thursday</u> Michelle Konigsburg* Brenda Lerner* Sarah Poutre* Stacey Poutre* Steve Wollins* Ted Zupnik* Barbara Zupnik*



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Please send all articles to : Programming@myshul.org



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January 22nd, January 29th, and February 5th

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Class 3: Cheirut

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