

# The Message

DECEMBER 2022

**RABBI SARAH FORT**

With December's longer nights and another light-happy holiday taking over, well, everything, Hanukkah seems well-placed in the holiday calendar. As the Jewish Festival of Lights, we celebrate the miracle of Jewish survival by lighting the *hanukkiyah*, the special Hanukkah menorah. "One for each night, they shed a sweet light..."

According to our ancient rabbis, this is the main *mitzvah*, or commandment, of the holiday: *pirsumei nisa*, the publicizing of the miracle. So they required that Jews light their *hanukkiyot* in a way that would be visible to all who passed by their homes. Outdoors, preferably, or in an open window. In modern-day Jerusalem, the streets fill with glass cases where apartment-dwellers may light their Hanukkah lights, visible yet safe from wind and rain.

But our ancient rabbis weren't unreasonable. They understood that, then as now, there will be times that it feels unsafe to publicize one's home as being a Jewish one. So what then was a Jew to do? Were they exempt from the *mitzvah*? Should they skip Hanukkah that year? In these cases the rabbis allowed that one may light near an open window, or really anywhere one feels comfortable doing so. The important thing is to light your Hanukkah candles or oil. And remember.

Remember that the *mitzvah* is in publicizing the miracle of Jewish survival and independence. To others, yes. But also to ourselves. Sometimes we Jews need the reminder that we are an ancient people, and a strong one. That life gets difficult for us—sometimes, it feels, more often than for others. Yet we must never forget that each of us is here today because of those who came before us—those who survived and thrived. Miraculous.

If we stifle our light—inner and outer—then our lives become darkness. We risk hopelessness. We risk gloom. Hanukkah's lights are meant to be a beacon against all that. A beacon of joy. Of love. That is what will strengthen us through tough times, and through the hatred of those who refuse to see our humanity. Recall the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

However you choose to light your Hanukkah menorah, I hope it brings you so much light. So much joy. So much hope. *Chag Urim Sameach*. — Have a happy Festival of Lights.

## Check out what's happening on and around campus!

Installation Concert of Cantor Rachel Goldman



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/1	9	Kelly & Jay Gerstenhaber
	37	Marlene & Daniel Siegman
12/2	21	Felicia & Steven Goldberg
12/3	17	Marsha Capen & Barry Kahan
12/5	54	Harriet & Taghi Hajizade
12/6	58	Marion & Dennis Schepps
12/8	26	Sharron & William Fisherman
12/9	10	Jennifer & Justin Davidoff
12/10	6	Deanne & Ian Falik
	27	Allison & Joel Goldberg
	46	Cathy & Earle Steinberg
12/11	47	Bracha & Mishaël Radom
12/12	10	Anat & Jay Zeidman
12/13	36	Joni & Randy Levy
	56	Dafran & Fred Provada
12/14	36	Shelly & Mark Grenader
12/15	59	Avril & Julius Danziger
12/17	6	Danielle & Casey Millman
	5	Dayna & Joshua Tillis
12/18	62	Shirley & Sheldon Arsham
	10	Devorah Beinart & David Quail
	34	Wendy & Howard Cohen
	23	Débora Levine & Giancarlo Romero
	45	Pearl & Meir Monk
	26	Estelle & Charles Racusin
	67	Janice & Earl Selzer
	23	Bianca & Matthew Wigder
12/19	57	Sharon & Richard Kammerman
	51	Elaine & Jerome Rose
	52	Hedy & Howard Spiegel
	30	Robin & Bradley Stein
	68	Barbara & Stanley Weinstein
12/20	35	Rae & Paul Engel
	32	Sandra Gojman-Vexsler & Pablo Vexsler
	34	Alice & Marc Levin
	25	Polina & Mark Strug
	14	Leslie & Samuel Sutin
12/21	53	Ell Jana & Jack Camhi
	20	Alexandra & Mark Katz
	42	Barbara & Martin Lindenberg
12/22	10	Lindsay & Tyler Brochstein
	20	Mara Gittess & Jeffrey Plastrik
	26	Irina & Alex Niemer
	48	Faye & Jerry Wender
12/23	32	Dana & Isaac Aboulafia
	22	Cathie & Neal Gittleman
	34	Leah & Paul Katz
	15	Stephanie & Howard Loeser

12/23	66	Marcia & Jerry Pappert
	44	Patricia & Dean Solomon
	50	Denise & Jerald Turboff
12/24	27	Karen & Michael Buxbaum
	34	Barbara & Dell Coleman
	47	Gila & Michael Kaufman
	53	Jan & Howard Stomel
	58	Dianne & Stanley Zweback
12/25	62	Beverly & David Sufian
	61	Myrna & Sheldon Zwickel
12/26	51	Marsha & Sidney Gerber
	52	Rebeca & Leon Halfon
	51	Maureen & Gary Tucker
12/27	36	Paula & Rodney Kapp
	30	Alissa & Michael Leightman
	42	Hope & Alan Malowitz
12/28	44	Eva & Vojtech Ackerman
	31	Lisa & Eric Hardee
	53	Diane & Stephen Kaminsky
	50	Olivia & Arnold Ostrin
	53	Carol & Louis Ringold
	54	Florence & Howard Shapiro
12/29	43	Judy & Kenneth Arfa
	4	Sara & Daniel Hurwitz
	48	Lesley & Jeffrey Katz
	48	Lesley & Eric Solomon
	49	Dolly & Glenn Stange
	59	Evelyn & Jerry Yellen
12/30	66	Rema & Lyusyen Berkovich
	49	Sharon & Daniel Brener
	15	Jackie & David Janco
	27	Janet & Daniel Kleban
	50	Sharon & Steven Lehrer
	16	Allison & Neville Leibman
	51	Sandra & Chris Rich
	50	Adriana & Steve Rosenbaum
	9	Marcy Lynn Rothman & Tammy Pye
	43	Wendy & Allen Shapiro
12/31	19	Syndy & Marc Gold
	55	Sharon Turboff Katz & Marvin Katz



We invite you to share with us your simchas - births, engagement, weddings, or award and recognitions. Fill out our Mazel Tov form with your information a picture and share your great news with the rest of the congregation.

**BETHYESHURUN.ORG/MAZELTOV**



## Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah!



**Asher Preston Burck (December 2-3)**  
son of Robyn & Adam Burck; brother of Riley and Corey Burck, grandson of Esther Burck and Jeff Burck<sup>z"l</sup>, Mark Silverberg & Julie Barry, and Sally Silverberg.



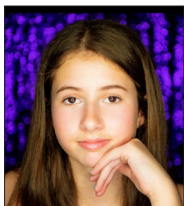
**Shira Blair Kagan (December 2-3)**  
daughter of Hydee & Ryan Kagan; sister of Eli and Lilah; granddaughter of Sharon & Arnie Kagan and Sandy & Ron Desadier.



**Aaron Alexander Peskin (December 16-17)** son of Melissa and Marty Peskin; brother of Sophie; grandson of Robin & Sammy Fleschler and Nancy Peskin & Arnie Peskin<sup>z"l</sup>.



**Savannah Hirsch Radoff (December 16-17)** daughter of Tanya & Cary Radoff; sister of Emerson and Charlotte; granddaughter of Elaine & Peter Hirsch and Henry & Sue Radoff; great-granddaughter of Naomi Zulberg, Ulli & Minda Hirsch<sup>z"l</sup>, Bernard Zulberg, JP & Jenny Radoff, and Milton & Marcelle Levine<sup>z"l</sup>.



**Laine Spector (December 16-17)** daughter of Shelley & Matthew Spector; sister of Lindsey Spector; granddaughter of Helen & Andrew Spector and Hava & Eric Copans.

The  
Breakfast  
Club

Join us for Morning Minyan...  
*stay and learn Torah with Clergy!*

## Condolences

*The congregation extends its  
sincerest condolences to the families of:*

Lawrence "Mike" Cohen, Nancy Melnick Dziengel,  
Barbara L. Myers, and Shirley Sechler

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

### A Notice About Bereavement Communications

Bereavement notices for our synagogue family are distributed with the permission of the deceased's family, and the timing of these notices is dictated by the family's request. Of course, each family grieves in its own way, and we are grateful for our congregation's patience and understanding with different families' preferences about how their loss is publicized.

## Worship Schedule

### FRIDAY EVENINGS

**December 2, 2022**

**Parashat Vayetzei | CL 5:05PM**

5:00 PM - Tot Shabbat!

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

**December 9, 2022**

**Parashat Vayishlach | CL 5:06PM**

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

5:30 PM - Moment at the Ark: Prayers for Healing

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

**December 16, 2022**

**Parashat Vayeshev | Shabbat Mevarchim | CL 5:08PM**

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

**December 23, 2022**

**Chanukah | Rosh Chodesh Tevet | CL 5:11PM**

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

**December 30, 2022**

**Parashat Vayishlach | CL 5:15PM**

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

**January 6, 2023**

**Parashat Vayishlach | CL 5:20PM**

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

### SATURDAY MORNING

8:30 AM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

9:15 AM - Museum Minyan Service

9:30 AM - Main Sanctuary Service

11:30 AM - Torah Study

### SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES

**December 3, 2022 | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel**

**December 10, 2022 | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel**

**December 17, 2022 | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel**

**December 24, 2022 | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel**

**December 31, 2022 | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel**

**January 7, 2022 | 5:15 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel**

### WEEKDAY CHAPEL SERVICES

Mornings: Sun 8:00AM, Mon-Fri 7:00AM

Afternoon/Evenings: Sun-Thu 5:00PM

Visit [BETHYESHURUN.ORG/CHAPEL](http://BETHYESHURUN.ORG/CHAPEL) to view the complete  
schedule for Daily Chapel Service.

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Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm; Friday  
10am-2:30pm; Sunday 10am-1:00pm; Closed  
Saturday & Monday.

Call them at 713.255.8021 or  
email [GIFTSHOP@BETHYESHURUN.ORG](mailto:GIFTSHOP@BETHYESHURUN.ORG)

## It's a Mitzvah!

Interested in making a donation towards the Chapel Minyan weekday breakfast, or a Chapel or Museum Minyan Shabbat Kiddush in memory of your loved one or in honor of a simcha? Please contact Marco Alvarado at **MALVARADO@BETHYESHURUN.ORG** or 713.666.1881 x368.

### IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF

**Burt Skolnik** by His Family

### IN MEMORY OF

**Florence Zuber** by Merryl & Gordon Zuber

**Philip Zuber** by Merryl & Gordon Zuber

## Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest member to our congregational family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to new comers as they become a part of our community.

**Hailey & Megan Arnold, Isabella and Luke**

**Adam Finkelman**

**Misty & Stas Grinberg, Charles, Cecilia, and Eithan**

**Bebby & Arthur Marlin**

**Lisa Schwarz & Daniel Braun, James, Hazel, and Zinnia**

**Myles Shaw**

Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town? Looking to connect with us?

Contact Mindi Stern at **MSTERN@BETHYESHURUN.ORG** or 713.666.1881 x 360.



**Mollie & Louis Kaplan Museum 2022 Speaker**

**Bill Meek**

ARTIST

Bill Meek is the artist behind many of the beautiful glass works throughout our synagogue. Meet Bill and hear about the pieces that he has created. Reception will follow.

Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 4:00pm

Jewish Learning Project  
Guest Speaker

**DR. ELIZABETH BRYANT DENHAM**

4-PART SERIES ON THE HOLOCAUST

#### December 4: Background to the Holocaust

We look at what occurred in Europe in the aftermath of World War I and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

#### December 11: The Holocaust

Explore how and why Hitler became so focused on eradicating Europe's Jewish population.

#### December 18: The United States and World War II

We will look at the US during the Second World War, moving from the isolationist mentality of the 1930s to becoming involved in the war following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

#### January 8: US Responses to the Holocaust

The response of the US to the Holocaust, focusing on when governmental and Jewish leaders knew about the atrocities and what actions were and were not taken and explore why these choices were made.



## *Celebrate Hanukkah with Beth Yeshurun!*

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** Hanukkah Bingo for Middle & High Schoolers

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** Young Professionals Hanukkah Event

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** Sensory-Sensitive Hanukkah Event  
Light Up the Night - Congregational Event

**December 19<sup>th</sup>** Virtual Candlelighting with Cantor Goldman

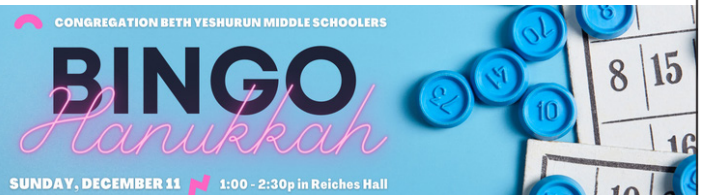
**December 20<sup>th</sup>** Virtual Candlelighting with Rabbi Strauss

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** Virtual Candlelighting with Rabbi Morgen

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>** Virtual Candlelighting with Rabbi Fort

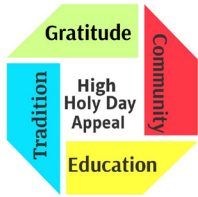
**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Virtual Candlelighting with Rabbi Rosen

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** Virtual Candlelighting with Rabbi Segal



For more information and to register for any of the Hanukkah Events at Beth Yeshurun visit **BETHYESHURUN.ORG/CHAG\_PROGRAMS**





We are so grateful to our High Holy Day Appeal supporters! Thank you for your meaningful donation which allows us to continue to offer valuable programs to all of our members. We could not do this without you! We are especially grateful to the Tzedakah Society, a group of members listed below in bold, who are standing together to double the impact of your donation by matching Appeal pledges and contributions dollar for dollar.

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## ANNOUNCING THE 2022-2023 SEASON

### HAZAPREP HOUSTON

Conducted by Rachel Lootens

### WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Sundays | 1:00-2:00 PM

JCC Houston

For Singers Entering Grades 6-8

For more information, contact [HaZaPrepHouston@gmail.com](mailto:HaZaPrepHouston@gmail.com)

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



## Mind the Museum



This modestly designed, yet valuable, pewter Hanukiah is from The Netherlands, 1759. It can be seen currently in our Kaplan Museum along with a variety of other Hanukah menorahs from all around the world.

### Family member or friend in the hospital or nursing care?

The CBY Clergy and/or Hospital Visiting Group members are happy to reach out to them with spiritual comfort.

Please contact Lisa Unsell at [LUNSELL@BETHYESHURUN.ORG](mailto:LUNSELL@BETHYESHURUN.ORG)

or 713.255.8017 to request a phone call

(or visit in person, if possible) for your loved one.



# Kaplan Sinus Relief

Breathe Well. Live Well.

**Michael Kaplan, M.D. is proud to sponsor "The Message"**

Beth Yeshurun is a synagogue with a vital mission: to offer spiritual experiences that inspire and uplift all ages, to educate children and adults, and to provide a setting in which Judaism can be joyously lived and experienced.

*At Kaplan Sinus Relief, we want everyone to  
Breathe Well...and Live Well*

**KAPLANSINUSRELIEF.COM | 713.588.9987**

## Upcoming Events

- 12/2** Tot Shabbat
- 12/4** Dr. Elizabeth Bryant Denham: 4-Part Series  
Pickleball for Jewish Singles over 50  
Mollie & Louis Kaplan Museum 2022 Speaker
- 12/6** JFS Houston Shalom Bayit Domestic Abuse  
Community Awareness Training Event
- 12/9** Moment at the Ark: Prayers for Healing
- 12/11** Dr. Elizabeth Bryant Denham: 4-Part Series  
Beth Yeshurun Teen Bingo: Hanukkah Edition
- 12/15** Kids Meals/SEARCH Bags Assembly  
The Gathering Place  
Young Professionals Hanukkah
- 12/18** Dr. Elizabeth Bryant Denham: 4-Part Series  
Sensory-Sensitive Hanukkah Event  
Beth Yeshurun Hanukkah: Light Up the Night!
- 12/18** Bethel Volunteer Opportunity
- 12/25** Better Together: Hanukkah Festivus For The  
Rest of Us
- 12/26** Administrative Offices Closed
- 1/2** Administrative Offices Closed
- 1/8** Dr. Elizabeth Bryant Denham: 4-Part Series
- 1/11** 100 Jewish Men: Michael Wiesenthal: "My  
Journey with Mental Illness"
- 1/13** Tot Shabbat  
Moment at the Ark: Prayers for Healing

*Ongoing: Breakfast Club - Morning Torah Study with  
Clergy; Wednesdays: Jewish Meditation*

**For information about these dates and more visit  
BETHYESHURUN.ORG/CALENDAR  
also make sure you are receiving our weekly emails!**

## PLAY PICKLEBALL

**9am - 12pm | Most Sundays**

You can register as a single, double, or foursome. Note that if you register as a single there is no guarantee there will be players to pair up with. We have limited supplies, so players, please bring your own paddles if you have them.

To register visit: **BETHYESHURUN.ORG/CALENDAR**

*Time sensitive material - please deliver promptly!*

## Contact Us

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