# The Message

DECEMBER 2023



#### HANUKKAH, OH HANUKKAH COME LIGHT THE MENORAH! BY RABBI STEVEN MORGEN

Hanukkah starts Thursday night, December 7. And in my opinion, it is a welcome holiday – especially this year.

Hanukkah reminds us of God's presence in our people's history. It commemorates a time when things seemed really dark and depressing. The Syrian Greeks had put a statue (that is, an idol) of Zeus in OUR Temple in Jerusalem. What's more, they sacrificed pigs to this idol. Two big no-no's in our religion. They tried to force us to abandon our faith and traditions.

But a rag tag group of rebels – the Hasmonean family of Priests, otherwise known as the Maccabees – rose up to fight the Greeks. And, over the course a few years were miraculously successful in capturing the Temple, destroying the idol of Zeus and purifying and rededicating the Temple to the worship of God.

We no longer had the Ark of the Covenant from the time of Moses. So, the Holy of Holies – the inner room of the Temple – was empty. We do not believe God has a shape or form, and the Second Commandment prohibited us from pretending we could have such a form. So the room remained empty in Second Temple times.

Instead, the ritual object that came to symbolize God's presence in the Temple, was the seven-branched lamp made all of gold. The Maccabees lit that lamp to symbolize that God's presence had returned to the Temple and celebrated a new holiday for eight days. We tell the story that it is eight days because the one jar of oil lasted for eight days when it would ordinarily only last for one.

But the real reason it is eight days is because it symbolized Sukkot – the Feast of Booths – that the Maccabees were unable to celebrate in the Temple a few months earlier because they had not yet forced the Greeks out. They wanted to celebrate Sukkot because that is the festival on which King Solomon had dedicated the First Temple. So, it would be most appropriate to rededicate the Temple on that holiday. Since they were only a few months late, they called this new holiday "Sukkot of Kislev" (i.e. December).

But for our purposes today, the lighting of the lamp which we now do to commemorate this victory brings light into our lives. The light of God's presence. The light of wisdom. The light of spiritual renewal. And we increase the amount of light each night to a crescendo of illumination that brings us comfort during winter time when the darkness of night lasts longer.

And this year, as we express our solidarity with Israel in its mission to be free from the terrorist tyranny of Hamas and to return the hostages home to their families, this light gives us hope. God was with us 2,200 years ago in the fight against the tyranny of the Greeks. And we pray that God will give us the strength to free ourselves from the tyrants of today. So, come light the menorah with its promise of peace and security, freedom and prosperity for all.

# **Check out what's happening on and around campus!**IAC Empty Shabbat Table, Sunshine Art Tween Event, D.C. Rally

















#### Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah!



**Zoe Erin Brounes (December 1-2)** daughter of Barbara & Ron Brounes; sister of Emmy; granddaughter of Helen Brounes and Pincus Brounes<sup>z\*L</sup> and Libby and Walter Hachenburg<sup>z\*L</sup>.



**Lyla Mina Wolf (December 1-2)** daughter of Annat & David Wolf; sister of Steven and Sara; granddaughter of Ester Husid and Dr. Raul Husid<sup>2\*L</sup> and Gary Wolf and Susan Wolf<sup>2\*L</sup>.



**Sophia Quinn Bush (December 15-16)** daughter of Joanne & Grayson Bush; sister of Siena; granddaughter of Abby & Garrett Hulett, Pam & Bruce Schleifman, Louise Bush <sup>27L</sup>, and Ronald Bush; great-granddaughter of Bernice Bush

#### 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 MEMORY OF**

**Stephen Paul Blend** by Sharon & Dan Brener and Family **Zoe Hess** by Carol & John Hess

Olga Mordo by Mireille & Harvey Katz

Solomon L. Wisenberg by Evelyn R. Wisenberg & Family

# Condolences

The congregation extends its sincerest condolences to the families of:

Ida Arbital, M<mark>elvin</mark> Abbe Dow, and Marilyn Kirshenbaum Muhlbauer

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.

#### Welcome New Staff



Enthusiastically joining the Congregation Beth Yeshurun family, **Meredith Segal** embraces her role as the new Director of Development with anticipation and dedication. A Massachusetts native, Meredith's journey includes attending Yeshiva Academy and staying connected through Hebrew school during her

middle and high school years.

Her involvement in BBYO, where she transitioned from a member to president, shaped Meredith's path, leading her to Texas in the mid-nineties to serve as the Assistant Director of the Lonestar BBYO region. Over 25 years of commitment to nonprofit work reflect her passion, particularly in the realm of Jewish communal service. Notable roles include Director of Women's Philanthropy for the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces.

Meredith extended her dedication beyond the professional sphere, volunteering for ERJCC Meals on Wheels and Second Servings. Additionally, her previous involvement as a board and gala committee member for Ben Gurion University, Southwest Region, as well as at her synagogue, Brith Shalom, showcase her commitment to community service.

In her leisure time, Meredith finds joy in travel, reading, and treasuring moments with her husband, Brad, daughter, Zoe, and their furry family, which includes two dogs, three cats, and their newest addition, a bunny (the household's pet limit has been officially reached!).

Meredith can be reached by phone at **713.255.8008** or via email at **MSEGAL@BETHYESHURUN.ORG**.



Excited to join Beth Yeshurun Religious School as the new Administrative Assistant, **Salina Chapa** brings over 20 years of administrative experience, with a notable 12-year stint at Fort Bend ISD. Passionate about education, she values the opportunity to positively impact both students and staff.

Married for 23 years and a proud mother of three adult children, Salina feels fortunate to work in the Jewish community and at her grandparents' synagogue. Childhood memories of attending services with her family fuel her enthusiasm for this new role.

Beyond work, she enjoys family time, travel, and exploring new restaurants. Grateful for this chapter, she looks forward to contributing to the vibrant community she now calls home.

Salina can be reached by phone at **713.255.8034** or via email at **SCHAPA@BETHYESHURUN.ORG**.

# WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

		WEDDINGAN			
12/1	10	Kelly & Jay Gerstenhaber	12/24		Gila & Michael Kaufman
10/0	38	Marlene & Daniel Siegman		54 59	Jan & Howard Stomel Dianne & Stanley Zweback
12/2	22	Felicia & Steven Goldberg	12/25		Beverly & David Sufian
12/3	18	Marsha Capen & Barry Kahan	12/25	62	Myrna & Sheldon Zwickel
12/6	59	Marion & Dennis Schepps	12/26		Marsha & Sidney Gerber
12/8	27	Sharron & William Fisherman	12,20	53	Rebeca & Leon Halfon
12/9	11	Jennifer & Justin Davidoff		52	Maureen & Gary Tucker
12/10		Allison & Joel Goldberg	12/27	37	Paula & Rodney Kapp
10/11	47	Cathy & Earle Steinberg		31	Alissa & Michael Leightman
12/11		Bracha & Mishael Radom	4.0.00	43	Hope & Alan Malowitz
12/12		Anat & Jay Zeidman	12/28	45 32	Eva & Vojtech Ackerman Lisa & Eric Hardee
12/13	37 57	Joni & Randy Levy Dafran & Fred Provada		52 54	Diane & Stephen Kaminsky
12/14				51	Olivia & Arnold Ostrin
		Shelly & Mark Grenader		54	Carol & Louis Ringold
12/15		Avril & Julius Danziger		55	Florence & Howard Shapiro
12/17	6	Danielle & Casey Millman Dayna & Joshua Tillis	12/29		Judy & Kenneth Arfa
12/18		Shirley & Sheldon Arsham		5	Sara & Daniel Hurwitz
12/ 10	11	Devorah & David Quail		49 49	Lesley & Jeffrey Katz Lesley & Eric Solomon
	35	Wendy & Howard Cohen		50	Dolly & Glenn Stange
	24	Debora Levine & Giancarlo Romero		60	Evelyn & Jerry Yellen
	46	Pearl & Meir Monk	12/30	67	Rema & Lyusyen Berkovich
	27 24	Estelle & Charles Racusin Bianca & Matthew Wigder		50	Sharon & Daniel Brener
12/19		Sharon & Richard Kammerman		16	Jackie & David Janco
12/ 13	53	Hedy & Howard Spiegel		28 51	Janet & Daniel Kleban Sharon & Steven Lehrer
	31	Robin & Bradley Stein		17	Allison & Neville Leibman
	69	Barbara & Stanley Weinstein		52	Sandra & Chris Rich
12/20		Rae & Paul Engel		51	Adriana & Steve Rosenbaum
	33	Sandra Goijman-Vexsler & Pablo Vexsler		10	Marcy Lynn Rothman & Tammy Pye
	35 26	Alice & Marc Levin Polina & Mark Strug	40/04	44	Wendy & Allen Shapiro
	15	Leslie & Samuel Sutin	12/31	56	Syndy & Marc Gold Sharon Turboff Katz & Marvin Katz
12/21		Ell Jana & Jack Camhi	1/1	12	Emily & Joseph Spinner
,	21	Alexandra & Mark Katz	/	74	Leslie & Scott Stange
	43	Barbara & Martin Lindenberg	1/2	25	Lisa & Rabbi Brian Strauss
12/22		Lindsay & Tyler Brochstein	_/	36	Jackie & Vincent Wedelich
	21	Mara Gittess & Jeffrey Plastrik	1/3	43	Deborah & Joseph Freilich
	27 49	Irina & Alex Niemer	,	43	Claudia & Sergio Soroka
10/02		Faye & Jerry Wender Dana & Isaac Aboulafia	1/4	10	Marisa & Jonathan Nowitz
12/23	23	Cathie & Neal Gittleman		43	Linda & Jay Rosen
	35	Leah & Paul Katz	1/5	16	Taryn & Dan Braun
	16	Stephanie & Howard Loeser		5	Emily Caulfield & Lance Morton
	67	Marcia & Jerry Pappert		22 5	Amy & Daniel Ferber Yarden & Robert Finder
	45 51	Patricia & Dean Solomon Denise & Jerald Turboff	1/5	16	Lauren & Joshua Vogel
10/04			1/3	44	Dory & Nestor Yudelevich
12/24	28 35	Karen & Michael Buxbaum Barbara & Dell Coleman	1/6	11	Jennifer & Joel LeVine
	33	Daruara α Deli Coleman	1/0		Johnner & Joer Featille

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES						
1/6	33	Lisa & Robert Suvalsky				
1/7	31	Juliana & Stephen Tew				
1/8	46	Ellen & Barry Croft				
	20	Julie & Michael Kaplan				
	2 18	Laura & Noah Meicler Dorian & Jason Taibel				
1/10	20	Ginger & Grant Marblestone				
1/10	4	Julie Getz-Flores & Eduardo Flores				
1/12	11	Stacey & Gil Beer				
1/12	16	Nicole & Jeff Dobbs				
	44	Amy & Michael Merkin				
	38	Julie & Steven Scheinthal				
	21	Andrea & Yosef Winard				
1/13	39	Jan & Michael Pappert				
1/14	34	Judy & David Bell				
	45 40	Sherry & Lenny Dubin				
	40 35	Tyann & Marc Nathan Linda & Bruce Ruzinsky				
1/15	43	Fortuna & Rafael Esquenazi				
_,	46	Susan & Michael Klaiman				
	40	Elyse & Howard Schultz				
	12	Rina & Leon Trakhtenberg				
1/16	19	Amira & Bradley Staller				
4 (47	30	Paula & Nathan Ticatch				
1/17	20 14	Randee & Howard Berman Sharon & Jonathan Levy				
	54	Norma & Saul Szub				
1/18	20	Rona Milbauer & Gerald Levit				
,	26	Laurie & Jeffrey Rosenberg				
1/21	29	Lisa & Cory Birenbaum				
	12	Julie & Evan Davis				
1/22	24	Staci & Jason Beinart				
	41	Reina & Scott McMillian				
1/24	53	Joan & Blaine Land				
1/25	17	Bonnie & Steven Schultz				
1/27	11	Allison & Michael Burger				
4 (00	17	Melanie & Elan Levy				
1/30	49	Margot & Michael Barnard				
1/31	15	Jessica & Joshua Samet				



Your Sisterhood Giftshop is here for all your Judaica needs! Whether you're looking for a meaningful gift or a cherished addition to your home, our carefully curated selection awaits you. Shop with purpose, shop with heart, shop Sisterhood the Sisterhood Judaic Gift Shop today. Call them at 713.255.8021 or email GIFTSHOP@

#### **BETHYESHURUN.ORG**

Open Tuesday-Thursday 10a-4p; Friday 10a-2p; Sunday 10a-1p; Closed Saturday & Monday.

## Worship Schedule

#### **FRIDAY EVENINGS**

**December 1, 2023** 

### Vayishlach | CL 5:05pm

5:00 PM - Tot Shabbat!

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal: Social Action Shabbat

#### **December 8, 2023**

#### Vayeshev | Shabbat Mevarchim | CL 5:05PM

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal: SIR, Joel Chasnoff

#### **December 15, 2023**

#### Miketz | CL 5:07pm

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel 6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

#### **December 22, 2023**

#### Vayigash | CL 5:10pm

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel 5:15 PM - Fourth Friday Happy Hour

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

#### **December 29, 2023**

#### Vayechi | Shabbat Mevarchim | CL 5:14PM

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel 6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

#### January 5, 2024

#### Toldot | CL 5:20pm

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel 6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

#### **January 12, 2024**

#### Vaera | CL 5:25<sub>PM</sub>

5:00 PM - Tot Shabbat

5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

#### **SATURDAY MORNING**

8:30 AM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

9:30 AM - Main Sanctuary Service

9:30 AM - Museum Minyan Service

11:30 AM - Torah Study

#### **SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES**

**December 2, 2023 |** 4:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

**December 9, 2023 |** 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

**December 16, 2023** | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

December 23, 2023 | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

December 30, 2023 | 5:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

January 6, 2024 | 5:15 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

**January 13, 2024** | 5:15 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

**WEEKDAY CHAPEL SERVICES** 

Mornings: Sun 8:00AM, Mon-Fri 7:00AM\* Afternoon/Evenings: Sun-Thu 5:00PM

\* Rosh Chodesh Tevet, December 13<sup>TH</sup> 6:45AM; Christmas Day, December 25<sup>™</sup> & New Year's Day, January 1<sup>ST</sup> 8:00<sub>AM</sub>

Visit **BETHYESHURUN.ORG/CHAPEL** to view the complete schedule for Daily Chapel Service.

# Happy Hanukkah



#### Sunday, December 10<sup>™</sup> from 5:00 - 6:30<sub>P</sub>

Join us for the fifth night of Hanukkah as we Light Up the Night! We will have dinner, including traditional Hanukkah treats, as well as crafts and SURPRISES for all ages We'll light the candles for Hanukkah before we head out to the parking lot for a real fireworks show!

\$8 Preschoolers \$10 Elementary Kids \$12 Middle/High School & Adults

Visit: **BETHYESHURUN.ORG/EVENT/LIGHTUPTHENIGHT2023** by Thursday, December 7<sup>™</sup> to register



#### Sunday, December 10<sup>™</sup> from 2:00 - 3:30<sub>P</sub>

Join us for a Hanukkah event for congregants of all ages with visual, auditory, or social sensitivities or disabilities. We will have latkes, cookie decorating, crafts, and a Hanukkah photo booth, all in a sensory-sensitive environment.

To register visit:

**BETHYESHURUN.ORG/EVENT/SENSORYSENSITIVEHANUKKAH2023**Suggested donation - \$10 per person or \$18 per family



For the last three years, we have collected at least one new toy for every child at our partner school, Reynolds Elementary. Let's do it again this year!

Our Toy Drive kicks off December 10<sup>™</sup> and runs through Friday, December 17<sup>™</sup>. Unwrapped toys can be left in the Bender Levy and Administrative Lobbies.



## JOEL CHASNOFF

Author and Comedian

This year, for our Fall Scholar-in-Residence, we welcome author and comedian Joel Chasnoff. We hope you will join us for one of the sessions that we have planned!

Thursday, December 7<sup>™</sup> at 6:30p in Stein Hall for \$18 per person Join 100 Jewish Men and Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood for dinner and an evening of stories, reflections, and conversation about our magical connection with Israel, with comedian and Israel 201 author Joel Chasnoff

Friday, December 8™ at 8:00A during the J.B. Greenfield Chapel Breakfast in Stein Hall Purity of Arms: An interactive program where we will wrestle with the question, "Is there such a thing as ethical warfare, and if so, does the Jewish state have a higher standard than other countries?"

Friday, December 8<sup>™</sup> during Shabbat Renewal at 6:00P in the Freedman Levit Sanctuary Meet Joel Chasnoff and hear an introduction to his talk at Shabbat Kiddush

Saturday, December 9<sup>™</sup> at the Kiddush Lunch in Stein Hall Update on Israel from the Israeli Perspective, with Q&A

For more information and to register for any of these events visit:

#### BETHYESHURUN.ORG/EVENT/JOELCHASNOFF2023

#### Joel Chasnoff is not your grandfather's Jewish comedian!

A Chicago native and former Lone Soldier in the IDF, Joel has performed his unique brand of clean, Israel-positive comedy for more than 1,000 Jewish communities in ten countries. He is the author of four books, including the bestselling memoir The 188th Crybaby Brigade, about his experience as a Lone Soldier in the Israeli Army and Israel 201 (see ISRAEL201.COM).

In Israel 201, Joel and his co-author Benji Lovitt pull back the curtain to unveil a more complete and comprehensive portrait of Israel that extends beyond the typical Israel narrative. In the words of former prime minister Ehud Barak, whose effusive blurb appears on the back cover: "This wonderful book will show you the Israel you didn't know you didn't know." The book has received advanced praise from some of the biggest names in the Jewish world, including front- and back-cover blurbs from Mayim Bialik, Yossi Klein Halevi, and David Broza.

Joel currently lives in Ra'anana, Israel, with his Israeli wife and their four kids. Video clips and more about Joel at **JOELCHASNOFF.COM**.



#### **CEMETERY LOT PRICE INCREASE**

The Beth Yeshurun Cemetery Association maintains two cemeteries – the Allen Parkway Cemetery location and the Post Oak Cemetery location. While both cemeteries are steeped in the historic tradition of our Congregation the Post Oak location has recently been enlarged and we have added our beautiful Sophia and Jack Bender Memorial Chapel. The Allen Parkway location currently has a very limited selection of available gravesites while our Post Oak Cemetery offers a wide selection of gravesites.

Buying a cemetery plot is never an easy decision and taking that step does inspire procrastination in many of us. There is, however, a certain piece of mind in making that decision now and not leaving the stress and anguish to other family members in time of need. We suggest you plan ahead and make this decision when your loved ones are not in crisis.

Beth Yeshurun Cemetery gravesite prices have remained constant since March 1, 2016. Due to increasing costs the Cemetery Association has voted to increase prices effective January 1, 2024. Current buyers will have the existing price protected if the sale is complete by December 31, 2023. The new schedule of prices follows:

<u>Members</u>	<b>Current Price</b>	New Price
Pre-Need	\$3500	\$4200
At Need	\$4000	\$4800

For more information or to schedule an appointment to select your location at one of our cemeteries, please contact:

Larry Caulfield at (713) 255-8076 or (281) 728-3293

or

Marilyn Ozaroff at (713) 255-8075 or (713)502-8228



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** 

#### **SECURITY CARD ACCESS**

This is a two step process. You must download the ACT ID App and then fully complete and submit form to register card. Once submitted, this can take 1-2 Business days to gain full access





#### VEHICLE DECAL

Complete the online form. Decals are mailed within 1-2 business days unless pickup is requested. Decal are only provided to Beth Yeshurun members.





The Breakfast Club Join us for Morning Minyan... stay and learn Torah with our Clergy!

Tuesdays: Wisdom of Torah with Rabbi Strauss

Held in memory of Steve Rudoff<sup>z</sup>. Breakfast is sponsored by: Larry Finder, Stephen Tew, Gordon Zuber, & Jack Uzick

Wednesdays: Voices of Torah with Rabbi Morgen

Breakfast is sponsored by: Trudi & Max Esses, Larry Finder, Barbara & Dell Coleman, and Rachel & Andrew Toubin

Thursdays: Looking at Torah with Rabbi Fort & Guests
Breakfast is sponsored by: Anonymous and
Courtney Zubowski-Haas & Eric Haas

**Saturdays: Weekly Torah Portion with Rabbi Horwitz** 



# WE STAND WITH ISRAEL

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston has established a Support for Israel Fund following multi-front attacks on Israel during Shabbat and the Sukkot/Simchat Torah holiday. They are in close contact with overseas partners, and anticipate an unprecedented need to assist victims of terror and their families. Now, more than ever, they need your support. Israel will prevail and the Jewish people will stand together as we always do. Am Yisrael Chai.

Thank you to the Barg Family who were the third family to generously match all gifts made to the Israel Emergency Fund last month up to \$1 million.

100% of the funds will be distributed to support victims of terror for:

- Basic Needs: Food and financial assistance for impacted families
- Housing: Support for communities under fire and for new olim
- Support for Victims of Terror: Immediate cash grants for post-trauma care
- Support for Soldiers: Supplies and medical care
- **Emergency Medical Services:** Supplies and equipment for first responders and hospitals
- Accurate Media Reporting: Combat prejudice and anti-Israel bias in the media
- Trauma Relief and Psychological Care: Wide-scale support for those struggling to cope

If you would like to support the fund through your donor-advised fund, please contact your fund administrator or learn more through **HJCF.ORG**. If you have any issues with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houstons of website, **HOUSTONJEWISH.ORG/SUPPORT-FOR-ISRAEL**, please call 713-729-7000.

For more resources and thoughts from our Clergy about the the current environment in Israel visit:

BETHYESHURUN.ORG/STANDWITHISRAEL

#### **Welcome New Members**

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

Jacqueline & Lawrence Blumenthal
Sue Ann & Samuel Haber
Jessica Cassorla & Daniel Huvard

Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town? Looking to connect? Contact Mindi Stern at MSTERN@BETHYESHURUN.ORG or 713.666.1881.



Voted one of the top 10 comedians in New York City by The Hollywood Reporter, Modi is one of the comedy circuit's most sought after performers. Featured on HBO, CBS, NBC, ABC, Comedy Central, Howard Stern, and E! Entertainment, Modi has received rave reviews in The New York Times, Time Out NY and The New York Post.

Born in Tel Aviv, Israel, Modi emigrated with his family to the United States at the age of seven and was raised on Long Island. After graduating from Boston University, he worked as an investment banker until his first openmic night made him realize that stand-up was his true calling. Equipped with a sharp wit and a knack for reading an audience, Modi has gone on to become a successful fixture in New York's vibrant comedy scene, often doing bits that incorporate his heritage, and he is a hit with diverse Jewish audiences as well as fans of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Now a regular performer at the New York and Los Angeles comedy clubs, Modi also headlines around the country and across the globe. He is a co-founder of *The Chosen Comedy Festival*, a celebration of Jewish humor that was launched 2022. The festival features diverse comedy acts and has brought laughter to thousands of people in NYC, Miami, Los Angeles, and more.

Modi has played himself on HBO's *Crashing* and *Netflix's When Jews Were Funny*. He's also appeared in several feature films and played leading roles in two: *Waiting for Woody Allen*, which won the LA Film Festival, and *Stand Up*, a feature-length film. In 2018, Mayor Bill De Blasio declared June 26th '*Mordechi Modi Rosenfeld Day*' in the city of New York for his accomplishments and contributions to the artistic community.



**12/1** Tot Shabbat! Social Action Shabbat

**12/2** MvShabbat

12/3 Jewish Learning Project (JLP)
Religious School/Sulam

Kids' Meals Teen and Tween Event

12/7 Scholar in Residence: Joel Chasnoff

**12/8** Better Together Singles 50+ Shabbat in the Park Scholar in Residence: Joel Chasnoff

12/9 Scholar in Residence: Joel Chasnoff

**12/10** Jewish Learning Project (JLP)
Religious School/Sulam
Sensory-Sensitive Hanukkah Event
Light Up the Night! A Hanukkah Celebration

12/13 Jewish Practice and Mitzvot with Rabbi Strauss

**12/16** MyShabbat

**12/17** Jewish Learning Project (JLP) Rosh Chodesh Program

**12/21** Kid's Meals/Search Bags Gathering Place

12/22 Fourth Friday Happy Hour!

**12/25** Christmas Day - Admin Offices Closed **1/1** New Year's Day - Admin Offices Closed

1/7 Jewish Learning Project (JLP)

Rosh Chodesh Program

1/10 Jewish Practice and Mitzvot with Rabbi Strauss 10JM: Mister McKinney's Historic Houston Tour

1/12 Tot Shabbat!

**1/14** Jewish Learning Project (JLP)
Mitzvah Day

**1/17** YES Lunch

**1/18** Kid's Meals/Search Bags

**1/21** Jewish Learning Project (JLP)

**1/25** Gathering Place 4525 Live!

Ongoing: Breakfast Torah Club 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!

# 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 or 713.255.8017 to request a phone call (or visit in person, if possible) for your loved one. Time sensitive material - please deliver promptly!

#### **Contact Us**

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#### **WILLIAM S. MALEV RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS**

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#### **BETH YESHURUN DAY SCHOOL**

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