The Message

JULY 2023



SAY "HELLO" AND SMILE
BY RABBI STEVEN MORGEN

Diane and I started taking walks in our neighborhood when COVID started. I'm not saying we have been doing it frequently or consistently. But it has been nice to walk around and see our neighbors strolling, cycling, or otherwise relaxing outdoors.

And, I know it may sound strange, but we like to say "hello" to our neighbors as we pass them by. No, we don't really know them. But they are our neighbors. And God did instruct us to "love our neighbors

as ourselves".

So, why not say "hello"? Most often they respond with "hello" to us.

I imagine some people might say that this is a peculiar thing to do. Many parents instruct their children not to talk to strangers. And, it's probably not a good idea for children to talk to strangers. They are more vulnerable to unscrupulous characters. But as adults we can more easily recognize potential dangers, and after all, the likelihood of someone we meet on the street doing something unpleasant is pretty negligible.

I also say hello to people in the supermarket. And, of course, I try to say hello to as many people as I can who come to Beth Yeshurun – for Shabbat services, or during the week.

While I am at it, I also try to smile. You know, many adults (including me) try to get infants to smile. How do we do that? By smiling at them. And when they finally smile back, it's like a special gift. Right? Well, that is a natural human thing. We get pleasure from seeing people smile. So, I try to remember to smile with adults, too.

The Chassidic Rabbi Nahman of Bratislav famously said: "It is a great mitzvah to be happy always." It is perhaps surprising to know, then, that he suffered from bouts of depression. Yet, I imagine that he must have smiled at the people he met, and no doubt his own disposition would have been lifted when someone smiled back at him.

You know how the song goes, "When you're smiling, the whole world smiles with you."

All of this may sound Pollyannish. And maybe it is. But I think we could all use a little more cheerfulness, friendliness, and optimism these days. And the best part is: it doesn't cost us anything.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

		WEDDING
7/1	44 39 22 39 28	Judy & Michael Feinstein Martha & Donald Freedman Rysse & Brian Goldfarb Gayle & Scott Hoffer Lauren & Ronald Karkowsky
7/2	28 46	Patricia & Jonathan Kagan Esther & Lynn Levine
7/3	12 35 9 15 18	Amy & Adam Mincberg Sylvia & Martin Mintzer Erica & Josh Riback Amanda & Jason Staller Stacey & Jeremy Wolfe
7/4	41 53 49 49	Cathy & Robert Binstock Deborah & Marvin Crane Linda & Zvi Schiffman Ilona & James Thomson
7/6	48 20	Sharon & Arnold Kagan Susan & Gary Whitman
7/7	23 66 55 11 32	Sabrina & John-Patrick Clubb Josie & Joseph Diamond Charlett & Marshall Frumin Carolyn Rubenstein & Greg Lerner Cynthia & Barry Weinberger
7/8	33 33 44	Donna Cohen & Mitch Sirotkin Linda & Alan Rosen Helen & Stanley Spinner
7/9	56	Helene & Steven Gould
7/10	18	Rachel & Jesse Teichman
7/11	8	Leslie & Cory Itkin
7/12	14 31	Sarah & Joshua Kailin Shannon & Danny Sheena
7/13	53 43	Sue & John Goott Cindy & Barry Weinstein

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

Lonnie's Bar Mitzvah by Marsha & Lonnie Schooler **IN MEMORY OF**

Alex Grosman & Ronald Bruce Grosman by Yetta Gilbert and Burt & Leenie Skolnik

Ivan Marine by Sheryl Levin & Family

Charles Naggar by Fifi Goodfellow and Family

Fanny Naggar by The Naggar Family

Anne Abovitz Rattner by Sharon Levit and Family & Stephen Rattner and Family

7/16	45 23	Louise & Charles Goldberg Ali & Jeff Kalina
7/17	18	Erin & Jeffrey Newman
7/18	31 30	Renata & Leon Nelkin Phyllis & Robert Nelson
7/19	53 53	Karen & Edwin Freedman Sheryl & Larry Smith
7/21	21 21	Melissa & Daniel Levin Sandra & Bernard Sugar
7/22	4	Julianne Levine & Shahar Sherman
7/24	29 40 30	Edie & David Amran Susan & Randal Farber Shara Fryer & Barry Silverman
7/25	15 41	Abigail & Joel Davis Carol & Leonard Hershkowitz
7/26	25	Madeline & Robert Bresalier
7/27	43 37	Rhonda & Ariel Bass Rodi & Robert Franco
7/28	55	Marsha & Martin Block
7/29	16 12	Ronna & Mandel Selber Deborah & Matthew Strauss
7/30	66 45 51 12	Larisa & Michael Kaliya Brena & Howard Moglovkin Rochelle & Irwin Novak Meghan & David Stein
7/31	47	Candace & Arnold Lipp
	1	

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.

Condolences

The congregation extends its sincerest condolences to the families of:

Oscar Hoffman, Naomi Metter, Francis Gilbert Spector, and Betty Weiner.

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.

HONEY SALES HAVE BEGUN!



Don't wait! Each year we have several folks who miss the ordering deadline and have to pay an additional \$7/jar for a late fee. Remember, the vendor sets the price and the deadline date.

A jar of Kosher honey makes an excellent High Holy Days greeting. Consider sending honey to family, friends, teachers, customers and

colleagues. Each package includes an 8 ounce jar of honey along with the appropriate prayers and a gift card from you. Honey will be delivered prior to Erev Rosh Hashanah.

All proceeds from this sale benefit the students of our Shul and School.

Just go to BETHYESHURUN.ORG/HONEY. Fill in the name and address and the greeting for each jar. All orders must be placed on the order-entry system. No paper orders will be accepted.

Cost \$14/jar includes shipping anywhere in the USA. There is an additional fee for international orders. Order by August 1^{st} to avoid a late fee.

Mind the Museum



Of course, you've seen this cute little engine every time you walk through the Museum! But look closely! It's a silver Havdalah spice box and candle holder. The body is open filigree, with 2 stacks, one at each end with one flared and open to hold a candle; the other top is rounded. The spokes of the wheels are made by 5-pointed stars. This locomotive shape commemorates the arrival of the railroad to Russia in the late 19th century.

The Museum is open 10:00am-2:00pm Monday through Thursday; guided tours by appointment. The collection is open to congregants whenever the building is open. For non-members an appointment is required. Various groups, both Jewish and non-Jewish, take advantage of the opportunity to visit the collection each year, and docents can be arranged for groups that wish to use them.

BETHYESHURUN.ORG/LEARN/MOLLIE-LOUIS-KAPLAN-MUSEUM-JUDAICA

Worship Schedule

FRIDAY EVENINGS

July 7, 2023

Parashat Pinchas | CL 8:08PM

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

6:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

July 14, 2023

Parashat Matot-Masei | Shabbat Mevarchim | CL 8:07PM

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

6:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

July 21, 2023

Parashat Devarim | Shabbat Hazon | CL 8:04PM

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

6:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

July 28, 2023

Parashat Vaetchanan | Shabbat Nachamu | CL 8:00pm

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

6:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

August 4, 2023

Parashat Eikev | CL 7:55pm

6:00 PM - Shabbat Renewal

6:30 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

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

July 1, 2023 | 8:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

July 8, 2023 | 8:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

July 15, 2023 | 8:00 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

July 22, 2023 | 7:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

July 29, 2023 | 7:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

August 5, 2023 | 7:45 PM - J.B. Greenfield Chapel

WEEKDAY CHAPEL SERVICES

Mornings: Sun 8:00AM, Mon-Fri 7:00AM* Afternoon/Evenings: Sun-Thu 7:30PM**

* Rosh Chodesh Av. July 19 at 6:45AM

** Tisha B'Av Mincha, July 27 at 2:00рм; Evening Services move to 6:30рм on July 30

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



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

2023 | 5783 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



I am honored and privileged to present the President's Annual Report for 2023.

What an incredible year it has been for Congregation Beth Yeshurun. I need to start by thanking Neal Taibel, who filled in admirably for us as an interim Cantor after Meir Finkelstein left for Florida. Neal, you have a very bright future ahead of you, and we know you

will be successful in your career. In July, our new Senior Cantor, Rachel Goldman, took over, and she hit the ground running. We had Bar and Bat Mitzvahs starting in August, and preparations began immediately for High Holidays. We did not know how many congregants would be on our campus for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Still, I am pleased to inform you that at our peak, we had about 2,500 people here between the Main Sanctuary Service, Chapel Service, Museum Minyan, and several family programs. Along with Cantor Goldman, we were lucky to have brought in Julie Sacks as our new accompanist. These two not only provided Beth Yeshurun with beautiful High Holiday Services but also re-energized our Shabbat services. Seeing many of you returning to the synagogue for Shabbat has been so wonderful.

Thanks again in large part to our incredible Program Director Jennifer Rosenzweig, we had another great year of events at Beth Yeshurun. First, we had an amazing installation concert for Cantor Goldman, featuring 10 of the best Cantors in the country, including Netanel Hershtik, Gideon Zelermyer, Roz Barak, Daniel Mendelson, and of course her fellow Shul Sisters Laurie Akers and Rachel Brook. This was followed up by another fantastic Hanukkah Light Up the Night celebration with great food, an interactive kids' dark room, and the fireworks show.



Also during Hanukkah, we were pleased to welcome Houston Astros 3rd baseman Alex Bregman and Channel 2 Sports Reporter Ari Alexander to Beth Yeshurun for a fun Q & A program. This

gained national publicity and we had about 900 people in attendance. This was all made possible by Lori Herzog and her persistence, which paid off in a big way for us. Thank you very much, Lori! Once the calendar turned to 2023, we had more successful events in the works. Cantor Goldman planned our very first Rock Shabbat and we had over 750 people here. What a fun night singing our Shabbat prayers to some of our favorite classic rock songs. That weekend, we also celebrated Purim with the Purim Fest, including the carnival and various other activities for all ages. Soon after, we had a beautiful and powerful tribute night for Rabbi Jack Segal and his wife,

Toby. This included an original hibachi-style dinner created by our talented Catering Director Marco Alvarado, and a concert featuring Cantor Goldman and the Shul Sisters. To wrap up this programming year, Rabbi Morgen and Rabbi Fort hosted a second night Passover Seder with over 125 people attending. Thank you to all who made these events and many more so successful.

Our Director of Development, Jennifer Sutton, was also busy again this year. Not only did she continue to raise money for our endowment, but she also had several successful fundraising projects. She collaborated with Sarah Braham, Andrea Stein, and Arlene Staller to design



brand-new Torah covers, which have all been dedicated. She also raised funds to replace the curtains in the Pulaski-Rauch Auditorium and the partition wall between the Barg Sanctuary and Pulaski-Rauch. In the meantime, she has had several more Museum Cases dedicated, and there are still more left if anyone here is interested.

Our commitment to excellence in education was also displayed this past year. I want to thank our head of the Religious School Sheryl Eskowitz, Education Committee Chair Bill Schwartz, and Beth Yeshurun Day School Head of School Jennifer LeVine, for maintaining the strong bond between the synagogue and educating our youth. Cantor Goldman and Julie Sacks lead our Day School kids in Shabbat Services every Friday morning, and Sheryl also planned excellent educational events for our religious school kids. For example, several weeks ago, she and her staff planned a unique ISRAEL-A-PALOOZA event celebrating Israel's 75th birthday.

I can't say enough about the beautiful job that our Inclusion Committee does. This past year was highlighted by their incredible Rosh Hashanah service, Hanukkah program, and a Sensory-Sensitive Mini-Carnival included with the Purim Fest. Thanks as always to Rabbi Sarah Fort, Jennifer Rosenzweig, Richard Kammerman, Judy Blake, and Amma Grodin for all your help in making these events possible.

The Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood also had fantastic events, including their Torah Fund Luncheon, which honored Linda Atzil, Sharon Segal, and Judy Yambra. In addition, I want

to thank Vicky Richker and Barbara Koslov for their many years of dedicated leadership to the Sisterhood. I would also like to congratulate Julie Kaplan and Jordana Roteman for being our new co-presidents. I know that the two of you will be successful.



2023 | 5783 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



I would also like to thank the leaders of our 100 Jewish Men program and the speakers they brought in this past year.

Rabbi Strauss and Steven Sheldon created a new program called 4525Live!, and so far, we have featured guests Ziggy Gruber and Dr. Garth Davis. Their next event is June 1st, featuring Nataly Marks, who will share her incredible success story.

Another exciting milestone was achieved by your synagogue this past year when we officially received our Historic Landmark Plaque. This has been several years in



the making, and I would like to thank Glen Rosenbaum, Gary Swartz, and Jerrad Bloome for making this all possible.

One topic that has been on many people's minds this year is security. Beth Yeshurun takes our security very seriously. We have partnered with the Day School to ensure that we now have two security guards

on our campus protecting our building, our congregants, and, most importantly, our children. We have also repaired some of our fencing around the school, upgraded our video surveillance and access control, and added pipe bollards in front of our building and school. I would like to personally thank Detective Sargeant Gil Macedo of the Bellaire Police Department and Jay Smith, who chairs our Security Committee.

And last but certainly not least, our new HVAC system has finally been completed. Once again, a big thank you to the chair of the Building Committee, Paul Metter, for overseeing this project.

This synagogue is blessed to have outstanding Clergy led by Senior Rabbi Brian Strauss, Associate Rabbis Steve Morgen and Sarah Fort, and Senior Cantor Rachel Goldman. However, I also want to recognize all our staff, starting at

the top with our extraordinarily talented and dedicated Executive Director Andy Burger. He works tirelessly to ensure your synagogue is at its best daily. I know I have mentioned some of these names before. Still, I want to recognize all of the incredible staff here at Beth Yeshurun: Programming Director Jennifer Rosenzweig, Development Director Jennifer Sutton, Membership Director Mindy Stern, Communications and Marketing Director Ashley Mills. Education Director Sheryl Eskowitz and her staff Shari Kammerman and Joanie Dillingham, Catering & Facilities Director Marco Alvarado and the Catering team, Building Operations Superintendent Bruce Jackson and Facilities team, Clergy Assistants Abby Rotenberg, Lisa Unsell, and Sara Kaiser, our accounting team Ellen Petras and Diane Gordon, and finally the first person you see when you walk into the offices, Gayle Schnurr.

It has indeed been an honor serving as the 40th President of Congregation Beth Yeshurun. I thank everyone for all you do for Congregation Beth Yeshurun, the most prominent Conservative Synagogue in the United States.

Respectfully Submitted, David Stein, President



Watch incoming President Lori Herzog's inspirational speech on her how, what, and why concerning her new leadership role here at Beth Yeshurun.

VISIT: BETHYESHURUN.ORG/ANNUALMEETING

See photos from the last year and read the full annual report with updates from Development, William S. Malev Religious Schools, Social Action, and more!



Sunday, August 13 | 12:00 PM

Teens and Tweens come join your friends to cheer on the Houston Astros! We have 20 tickets available for purchase in rows 3 & 4 of section 410 to enjoy a game together and watch our 2022 World Series Champs!!

We will be taking a bus from Beth Yeshurun to Minute Maid Park. Please arrive at 12:00pm in Zubowski A. We will return to Beth Yeshurun around 4:15pm.

Questions? Contact Rachel Hartman at 713.255.8029 or RHARTMAN@BETHYESHURUN.ORG or visit: BETHYESHURUN. ORG/EVENT/ASTROSYOUTH081323

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to medical appointments is now available for members in good standing who are in need of assistance. This includes rides to the doctor's office, dentist's office, hospital, or any medical office that provides health care services.

To request a ride, please complete the waiver and call 346-833-8371 at least two workdays before your appointment or scheduled activity and mention any unique needs including wheelchair, lift, or a walker.

346-833-8371 transportation@bethyeshurun.org



Rae & Buddy Gerson Chesed Fund

Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood Giftshop



Enjoy 30% off all Michael Aram products in our Sisterhood Gift Shop for the entire month of July. Forge new traditions with the Michael Aram Judaica Collections. Featuring elegant, handcrafted menorah, mezuzah, kiddush cups and seder plates.

Summer Hours

Open Tuesday-Friday 10am-1pm; Closed Saturday-Monday

Call them at 713.255.8021 or email **GIFTSHOP@BETHYESHURUN.ORG**



Second B'nai Mitzvah Saturday, July 22, 2023 | 9:30am

Our tradition teaches that at age 70, we "begin again," making 83 the new 13 (Psalms 90:10)! So we are celebrating the "Second B'nai Mitzvah" of all our members born in 1940 on Saturday, July 22, 2023, at 9:30AM.

All are invite to come to Shabbat morning services and stay afterward for a lovely kiddush lunch celebrating this special shabbat.

The **Gathering Place** provides a free of charge loving, safe and fun environment for care partners experiencing memory loss due to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, stroke or other forms of dementia. They meet once a month, at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, and a professional staff member attends providing expert support and assistance to the volunteers. The meetings combine physical movement, socialization, music, and other memory-stimulating activity in a safe and comfortable 2 hour time block. The Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood is a proud suporter of the Gathering Place. For more information please contact our coordinators: Lillie Hurwitz at LILLIEHUR@ GMAIL.COM and Hedy Spiegel at HEDY1234@AOL.COM





All Summer Long we are supporting Kids' Meals Houston's mission by participating in the 2023 Summer Juice Box Challenge. Our goal is to provide 2,000 juice boxes! We have met our goal the last 2 years! Help us get there again! You can participate online using their Juice Box Challenge website and an additional 5% of the retail value will go back to Kids' Meals Houston! You can also drop off juice boxes (100% Juice) in the Administrative Lobby or the Lobby by Freedman Levit Sanctuary through July 31. For more information visit:

BETHYESHURUN.ORG/EVENT/ 2023-SUMMER-JUICE-BOX-CHALLENGE

TEACHERS WANTED

We're looking for Religious School teachers and substitutes for the upcomming school year! The Religious School (Pre-K – 7th Grade) meets on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday afternoons. If you're interested in sharing your love of Judaism with our children and have time on Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday afternoons, this might be for you! To learn more about available positions, please contact Sheryl Eskowitz, Education Director, at 713-255-8040 or **SESKOWITZ@BETHYESHURUN.ORG**.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

All Religious School students and their parents were encouraged to participate in grade-level specific Family Engagement programs during the 2022 – 2023 school year. The interactive programs were created and led by Rabbi Sarah Fort and Education Director Sheryl Eskowitz. It was great to be able to offer all of these programs to the Religious School families for the first time in several years and have students and parents come together to learn!

Each grade level's program had a specific focus or theme:



Kaplan Sinus Relief

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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



7/4 Independence Day - Admin Offices Closed Better Together: Independence Day Celebration for Jewish Singles Over 50

7/20 The Gathering Place

7/22 Second B'nai Mitzvah Service

7/25 Sisterhood Honey Cakes

7/27 Tisha B'Av

Ongoing: Wednesdays: Jewish Meditation Breakfast Club - Morning Torah with Clergy returns in August

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

We would love to have you join us in Religious School, Sulam, or Kehillah High for the upcoming year!

Registration is completed online by logging in to your account through the membership portal.

Details about the program and online registration can be found on the Beth Yeshurun website,

BETHYESHURUN.ORG/REGISTRATION-INFORMATION

For more information, contact Education Director, Sheryl Eskowitz, at seskowitz@bethyeshurun.org or 713-255-8034

"Our kids always return from Religious School with a smile. They are singing songs and are eager to share what they learned. We love that our kids feel at home at Beth Yeshurun when partaking in Shabbat and other holidays, as they see their madrichim, staff, and clergy in both a setting for learning and in the setting of practicing Judaism.

- Alex and Stephanie Yudovich



Find all the information about our programs and how to register by using the QR code!

or visit <u>www.bethyeshurun.org</u> then hover on "Learning" and click "Religious School."



Time sensitive material - please deliver promptly!

Contact Us

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Read The Message online at BETHYESHURUN.ORG