From the Rabbi

Happy 75th Birthday, Israel!

On Tuesday evening, BMH-BJ and The Denver Kehillah celebrated Israel's 75th Yom Ha'atzmaut with a special service that featured robust singing of various psalms including selection from Hallel accompanied by keyboard and drums. TDK Rabbi Barry Gelman offered a beautiful personal reflection that put the evening into proper context. Among the words he shared was the following idea:

We are all familiar with the *Dayeinu* from the Passover Haggadah. It's a very popular song and almost everyone knows the one word chorus, "dayeinu – it would have been enough." You're probably singing it in your head right now.

But what does the song actually mean. From the perspective of history – and logic – the idea that it would have been enough to take us out of Egypt but not split the sea, to take us into the desert but not give us manna, to take us to Sinai but not give us the Torah, or not take us to Israel, is preposterous. It makes no sense. Unless, of course, we translate dayeinu as "it would have been reason enough for us to say thank you." As we have learned many times, Dayeinu is a lesson in gratitude. It is our way saying thank you to God for each step we took towards our freedom and nationhood – even incomplete, or troubling, steps. We recognize our debt and we say thank you.

This should be our attitude to Israel. Israel is far from perfect. Her leaders are far from perfect. From the moment she was created in 1948 til our own day, everything Israel does is uplifting and is depressing, is right and is wrong, is beautiful and is ugly, is brilliant and is confounding...depending on who's looking. Still, as the generation who has witnessed the re-establishment of our homeland after thousands of years of heartfelt prayer, we must be thankful for the imperfectly perfect Israel, and see it as a vital and positive part of our sacred history and a manifestation of Divine providence in our own day. With all of its flaws, Israel is still the historic homeland of the Jewish People and the one place that all Jews can call a home of their own.

May we see Israel celebrate many more years as an independent state. May we all continue to work together to improve whatever we feel might be wrong with Israel. May we all recognize that a world with an imperfect Israel is still far better than a world without it.

Thank you, thank you...Dayeinu...thank you! Am Yisrael Chai!
Rabbi Chaitovsky

FRIDAY AND SHABBAT:

APRIL 28-29 /IYAR 7-8 MIDRASHA/CONFIRMATION

END JEWISH HATE SHABBAT

Candle Lighting - 7:31 PM BMH-BJ / TDK Kabbalat Shabbat - 6:30 PM Shabbat Day Services: Chapel/Shaarei Simcha - 9:00 AM

Main Sanctuary - 9:45 AM

Torah portion-Acharei-Kedoshim 16:1-20:27 (AS 636) Haftarah- Amos 9:7-15 (AS 1173)

Kiddush co-sponsored by: Sara & Jason Cooper in honor of Leni's confirmation. Vicki & Rob Schwartz and Debbie & Larry Jacobs in honor of the "End Jewish Hatred" initiative.

BMH-BJ / TDK Mincha, Refreshments and Torah learning with Rabbi Chaitovsky in the Gallery - 7:20 PM

Shabbat ends/Havdalah - 8:34 PM

Minyan Next Week: April 30th- May 5th Sunday 8:30 AM Monday & Thursday 6:30 AM Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 6:45 AM







This pomegranate challah board is from the Michael Aram Pomegranate Collection takes its inspiration from one of the most universal and ancient symbols in the world.

The fruit has been prized across the globe, across cultures and across time as a representation of life, rebirth and renewal as well as fertility and union.

This item now available now Gift Shop Store Hours: Sunday-Friday 9:30 AM-1:00 PM

Dr. Herzl Melmed presents... topics of importance and controversy

Trouble in the Family: Israel and the American Jew Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Gallery. CLICK HERE to register

Greeters Needed

Although we are grateful for the volunteers we have, as well as uniformed armed security staff at our entrances, we need more volunteers on our BMH-BJ Greeter/Safety Team. the purpose of which is to greet and to keep watch for the unlikely possibility of a security event during worship, in a year when national Jewish security specialists are warning about those.

NEED WOMEN VOLUNTEERS, TOO, for an even more welcoming presence. If you can give an hour or two once every two months, it will make a HUGE difference in our capability. Contact Mark Samuelson to get on the list for our weekly sign up and for our next Situational Awareness Training with our Colorado security rep, former FBI agent Phil Niedringhaus.

Mark@MarkSamuelson.com, or 303.641.0196

BMH-BJ Annual Event

A Family Affair



Honoring The Entire Drucker Family

Sunday June 4, 2023 10:30 am Brunch Entertainment for all ages

Event Ticket- \$150/person Young Adults- Ages 20-30 \$125/person Teens- Ages 13-19 \$100/person Kids- Age 6-12 \$75/person Under 6- Free Casual Attire

RSVP

by calling (303) 388-4203 or by visiting bmh-bj.org/AnnualEvent2023 To access the Ad Journal form, Click Here This year's honorees include:
Angel and David Drucker;
Sara, Jason, Leni, Maeve and Gari Cooper;
Abraham Drucker,
Shabnam Malek, Ari, Darya and Herbie Malek-Drucker;
Natalie, Adam, Stella and Leo Boscoe;
Eric and Jackie Drucker.

Join us Shabbat April 29 for

BMH\$BJ

End Jewish Hatred Now

"End Jew Hatred" is an initiative spearheaded by our members Andrea Hyatt and Debbie Jacobs, as well as others, locally and nationally.

Its mission encompasses combating rising anti-semitism and developing Jewish Pride. It is a Shabbat not to be missed.

We will also will celebrate the Confirmation of Leni Cooper, daughter of Sara and Jason Cooper.

A delicious kiddush will follow the service.





Counting Down & Counting Up

Thursday, May 4 | 1:00 - 2:30pm at BMH-BJ

Cost: \$5

Includes time to schmooze & light refreshments

Between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot we count 50 days. What is the purpose and meaning of this count in light of the tradition of counting the days up (from 1 to 50)? Join David Sanders, Spiritual Director of Kabbalah Experience to explore why we count up the days and how we can use this time period to commit to changing ourselves.

Advanced registration & payment required

Visit: KavodSeniorLife.org/SignUp or contact Rebecca at 720.382.7848 or RGershten@KavodSeniorLife.org

MAY 2023

Kavod on the Road Programs Include:



The Book Club Play at the Arvada Center Wed., May 3 11:15am - 4:15pm

This program is full.



Incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII -A Survivor's Story Wed., May 10

10:30am - 12:00pm at Temple Emanuel | Cost: \$5



Senior Prom -Under the Sea Thurs., May 11 6:00 - 8:00pm at JCC Denver -No cost



Jewish Boxers of the Early 20th Century Wed., May 17 2:00 - 3:30pm at JCC Denver Cost: \$5



Jazz Standards with an Israeli Twist Tues., May 23 1:00 - 2:30pm at Hebrew Educational

Alliance Cost: \$5

Information & Registration: KavodSeniorLife.org/SignUp



Help support the JFS Resettlement Services program by ensuring that refugees' homes are set up and ready to welcome them upon arrival.

JFS is looking for volunteers to help support the Resettlement Services program by ensuring that refugees' homes are set up and ready to welcome them upon arrival. Responsibilities include moving furniture and other household items into an apartment or house and assembling items before the client arrives. For additional information and to sign up, please visit jewishfamilyservice.org/volunteer or email volunteer@jewishfamilyservice.org.

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