

# The BuzZ at BZ

News From B'nai Zion Congregation in Shreveport, LA

☆ January 2019 / Tevet ~ Sh'vat 5779 ☆



## From Rabbi Jana

### *It's About Time*

These are difficult times - that is what the t-shirt design says, and it makes me smile - and cringe - every time I see it. I smile, because I think it is really funny - it is a joke about counting beats and squeezing notes into those beats, and the numbers don't work well together - which is why I cringe when I imagine trying to make it work.



January is a month when we think about time, music and more. Most people start new calendars, or turn over a new leaf in their calendar, as the year of the common era goes from 2018 to 2019. Almost everyone has moments this month when it takes a little extra effort to write the correct year for a date. I realized long ago that I look at my watch as least as often to find the date as I do the time. My current watch even tells me the year.

January also represents two Jewish things that only happen once a year: we celebrate the “birthday of the trees” and we have a musical Shabbat.

The Jewish celebration of trees is not just a day of appreciation for trees and all of the ways we benefit from trees, including food, shelter, clean air, soil structure, and so much more. In the Torah and the Talmud we learn that trees represent our introduction to, awareness of, and responsibility for the world around us. There is a commandment that we do not eat from a tree until after the tree is 3 years old. Speaking of “difficult times” - it seems like trying to determine the actual birth date of a tree can be a difficult time to establish. Having a holiday like Tu BiSh'vat allows us to recognize that there were trees before that date, and they can be distinguished from trees after that date (this year Tu BiSh'vat falls on January 21), so figuring out the date for a tree's birthday is no longer a “difficult time” to determine. I appreciate that Tu BiSh'vat reminds us to plant trees in Israel, which is going through difficult times. This year we remember the fires in Israel and the fires in this country that burned miles of trees - and homes, and more. We can help plant more trees to try to recover from those difficult times.

Having a holiday with a name that sounds like “two” but really means “fifteen” (Tu BiSh'vat really means the fifteenth of the month of Sh'vat) feels like one of those musical difficult times mentioned above where numbers are confusing. The Shabbat before Tu BiSh'vat ties in with the musical aspect of this month. It is the Shabbat when the Torah portion includes the oldest known song - which is the “Song of the Sea.” It is the song that we sang right after crossing on dry land through the Sea of Reeds, and finding ourselves in the Wilderness - and we were finally free. It could be argued that we went from one type of difficult time, slavery and oppression, to another, wandering, hungry, thirsty and in the wilderness. That transition is something like the musical transition shown in the joke above: if you can count as high as the higher number in the fraction, then you can potentially work it out. Hopefully you have a maestro to help show you the way, and when we were in the Wilderness we had the ultimate leaders.

We have musical leaders at B'nai Zion that will make Shabbat Shirah at B'nai Zion an inspiring and enjoyable experience. This year Adam Philley is working with me (and we may have other special musical guests as well) to lead the congregation in a Shabbat experience that should be a great time for everyone who joins us at service January 18.

When times are difficult, we have many things that can help - from music, to nature, to our congregation, and our connection to our people. I am grateful that when we turn the leaves on a new calendar, we share the wonderful times and help each other through the difficult times.

Bivrakha (with blessing),

*Rabbi Dr. Jana L. De Benedetti*

## From our President, Jon Black



I have completed my first 7 months as your President and I can truthfully say this is a job I highly recommend. I have enjoyed getting to know more of our congregants, and I especially enjoy seeing the children in services too.

Thanks to the Board and all the people who keep the “wheels on the bus,” from the Office to the Oneg and everything in between.

We had a nice afternoon with Helaine’s family and many old friends just after Thanksgiving. As you know we have established the Helaine Nierman Braunig L’dor Vador Fund and we’ve had a great response in honor of her 38 years of service to our Religious School.

Jerie and I attended the Jewish Community Hanukkah Party. Barbara Joseph and her helpers did a great job and everyone had a good time. There was lots of good food and many activities. Thanks to the Federation for hosting the Hanukkah parties.

I want to thank all of you who braved the weather and brought your menorahs, and everyone who brought children for the traditional lighting ceremony for Shabbat Hanukkah. Also I want to thank everyone who helped with the Potluck Dinner following services. The food was great, especially the latkes - and I snagged a doughnut before they were all gone.

Lastly, Rabbi, we are so very fortunate to have you as our Spiritual Leader-and thank you for being a strong voice with a soft touch in our community.

I am sending my best to you and yours for a happy and safe holiday season and looking forward to a terrific 2019.

Warmest regards

*Jon Black*

### **B’nai Zion Board of Trustees** **2018 - 2019**

President	Jon Black
Vice President	Kathy Plante
Treasurer	Rick Murov
Secretary	Rachel Robichaux
Past President	Gary Abrams
Brotherhood	David Brainis
Sisterhood	Bethany Sorkey
	Sharon Goldman
	Randy Greengus
	David Kaufman
	Charlton Meyer, III
	Adam Miller
	Herb Miller
	Tim Mills
	Anna Myers
	Sue Rubenstein
	Rachel Stuart-Haas

*Next Board meeting is 6 PM January 15*

## Mazel Tov!

- ☆ **Reed Turner** competed in the Fitness Challenge at University Elementary and won 2nd Place. He will now compete in the Regional finals in the spring. His parents are **Amy & Brent Turner**, and his grandparents are **Sharon & Elliott Goldman**
- ☆ Matthew Browning graduated Cum Laude from Southern Illinois University. His grandparents are **Sharon & Elliott Goldman**, his mom is Leslie Browning, his dad is Brian Browning and his brother is Will.



## From our Education Director, Barbara Joseph

Happy 2019! I hope families enjoy a safe Winter Break. I look forward to seeing Religious School and Hebrew school students when we resume Religious School and Hebrew classes on Sunday, January 13.

With the month of Sh'vat comes Tu BiSh'vat, a day that has often been interpreted as the "Birthday of the Trees." The fires that have destroyed so many trees in California recently remind us how precious our trees truly are. This year Tu BiSh'vat coincides with Martin Luther King Day, so themes of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and social responsibility can be tied to observances of both. Since we will not have Religious School the weekend of January 20, classes will observe some Tu BiSh'vat traditions on January 13, when we return from Winter Break.

Watch your email and the website for more information about the next ISJL weekend, which will be January 25 – 27. Our fellow, Kesler Friedman, will return from Jackson, MS, with programs, stories and enthusiasm to share with the entire community.

*Barbara Joseph*



We proudly  
use the  
ISJL  
Curriculum

GOLDRING  
WODENBERG  
INSTITUTE OF  
SOUTHERN  
JEWISH LIFE

## Religious School News

Please note the following dates for the Alef and Bet Hebrew classes in January: Sunday the 13th and Sunday the 27th, Wednesdays the 16th, 23rd and 30th. **Pickup time for Hebrew students on Sundays is changing to 1:30 PM**, with Wednesday lesson remaining the same: 4:00 to 5:00 with an option for early drop off.

ISJL Education Fellow visit weekend will be January 25 – 27.

## Learn Hebrew with Rabbi Jana

**Decoding Hebrew:** Learn to read the Hebrew of the Hebrew Scriptures. Students will be introduced to the grammar, syntax and vocabulary necessary to read and translate the Hebrew Bible. The class will begin with a brief introduction/review of the Aleph-Bet. The class will also compare Biblical Hebrew with Liturgical and Modern Hebrew. This class is intended for students with little or no Biblical Hebrew background, but intermediate or advanced students also benefit from the lessons.

**Instructor:** Rabbi Dr. Jana L. De Benedetti

**When:** 6-7:30 Thursday evenings First Class is Thursday, January 10, 2019 (Note: Not Wednesdays)

**Location:** B'nai Zion

**Tuition (2 months):** \$54 members of B'nai Zion \$72 non-members

**Text:** The First Hebrew Primer (EKS Publishing - Students registered for this class are eligible for a 20% discount on all learning materials.)

Go to <https://www.hebrewdoc.com/BibHeb.html> for information and to register or contact Rabbi Jana  
The Hebrew lessons from before Shabbat services in December:

All of the letters to be able to read the first six words of blessings, and the first sentence of the Sh'ma:  
The new letters are

ברוך אתה ה'  
Ba-rukh A-tah A-do-nai  
Praised are You A-do-nai  
אלהינו מלך העולם  
E-lo-hei-nu Me-lekh Ha-o-lam  
Our G-d Ruler of Israel

שמע ישראל  
Sh'ma Yis-ra-el  
Listen Israel  
ה' אלהינו ה' אחד  
A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu A-do-nai E-had  
A-do-nai our G-d A-do-nai is ONE

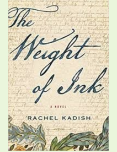
Dalet, Het,  
Final Khaf, Final Mem  
Ayin, Sin  
The details about the letters are  
at [www.HebrewDoc.com](http://www.HebrewDoc.com)

## Events in January



Simcha Shabbat to celebrate and honor people with birthdays or anniversaries in January is 6 PM January 4. Special Oneg Shabbat following service.

The People of the Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, January 8 to discuss the book *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 to discuss Geraldine Brooks' *The Secret Chord*



Adult Hebrew: Rabbi Jana will be teaching Biblical Hebrew beginning January 10. Classes will continue to meet weekly from 6-7:30. Tuition is \$54 for two months for B'nai Zion members and \$72 for Non-Members. For more information or to register contact Rabbi Jana or go to [www.HebrewDoc.com](http://www.HebrewDoc.com).

Shabbat Shirah is the Sabbath of Song. We will have a mostly musical service at 6 PM. There will be special musical guests helping to make this a wonderful experience.



January 21 is Tu BiSh'vat - when we celebrate the birthday of the trees.



Barbara Joseph will lead services during the ISJL visit weekend January 25 through 27.

World Religion Day will be January 27 from 1-5 at the Highland Center. There will be booths, panel discussions and music representing many faiths that are found in the Shreveport / Bossier City area. If you can help sit at the Judaism booth for part of the day, please contact the Jewish Federation.



What Would You Do? Ethical Dilemmas from a Jewish Perspective. Join the discussion led by Rabbi Jana at the Tower at the Oaks January 30 from 2-3 PM

## Candle and Kiddush Blessers

JANUARY	4	Dorothy & Bernard Lobel
	11	Renee Katz & Sandy Katz
	18	Kathy Plante & Sidney Kent
	25	Milena & Rick Murov



## B'nai Zion Schedules

### Shabbat Schedule

Friday Evening Service - 6:00 PM  
Saturday Torah Study - 9:45 AM  
Saturday Morning Service - 11:00 AM



### Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9 AM-2 PM  
No Business on Shabbat or Holidays  
Call for an appointment to meet with the Rabbi



## Tributes: Donations Were Made...

### GENERAL FUND

#### *In Honor of*

B'nai Zion from **Marci Howard**  
 Bertha Feldman from **Larry Feldman Jr.**  
 Sidney Kent from **Steven & Laurie Levine**  
 The 95th Birthday of Ruth Lewis from **Carolyn Murov**  
 Mandel Selber, Jr. from **Suzanne Miller**

#### *In Memory of*

Larry Feldman from **Larry Feldman Jr.**  
 Peggy & Aaron Selber, Jr. from **their daughters and family**  
 Helen Weisman from **Carolyn Murov**  
 Helen M. Weisman from **Carrolyn Fleishman**  
 Helen Weisman from **Ellen & George McGovern**  
 Helen Weisman from **Helen Lansburgh**  
 Helen Weisman from **Iris Morris**  
 Helen Weisman from **Melvin & Jacqueline Gold**

### L'DOR VADOR

#### HELAINE NIERMAN BRAUNIG FUND

#### *In Honor of*

Helaine Nierman Braunig from **Harriette Glazer**  
 Helaine Braunig from **Jack & Stephanie Rubin**  
 Helaine Nierman Braunig from **Ralph Zatzkis**  
 & **Peggy Papert**

Helaine Nierman Braunig from **Steven & Laurie Levine**

#### *In Memory of*

Gertrude Siegel Scheinberg from **Mimi Meriam**



### MUSIC FUND

#### *In Memory of*

Peter Haas from **Ellen & George McGovern**  
 Peter Haas from **Ike & Berte Muslow**  
 Helen Weisman from **Ike & Berte Muslow**  
 Peter Haas from **Jerald & Francine Perlman**  
 Peter Haas from **Jerie, Jon, Martin & Palmer Black**  
 Peter Haas from **Steven & Laurie Levine**

### ONEG SHABBAT

#### *In Memory of*

Helen Weisman from **Harriette Glazer**

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### *In Honor of*

Rabbi and Red River Radio Backpack Project  
 from **Angie Noelani**

Rabbi Jana from **Bruce & Melissa Simon**

#### *In Memory of*

Ross Stuart Aufrichtig from **Abraham & Cathy**

#### **Aufrichtig**

Karol Birchfield from **Cliff Birchfield**

### SHFTY DONATIONS

#### *In Honor of the Birthday of*

Ruth Lewis from **Mark Kaplan & Betsy Kaplan Beall**

*While care was taken to compile these lists, errors may have occurred. If you notice any omissions, misspellings, or names in the incorrect category, please accept our apologies and notify the office so that we may correct our records. Please note that donations made after the bulletin deadline will appear in the next month's bulletin.*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

4 Michael Stahl  
 5 Natalya Murov  
 5 Sharon Goldman  
 5 ♥ Jennifer & Brian Boyter  
 8 Perry Hyman  
 10 Diane Dufilho  
 11 Melanie Smet

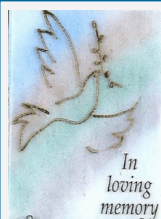
14 Asher Nierman  
 15 Sheila Lawrence  
 16 Dr. Glen Watkins  
 19 Ardis Robison II  
 20 Dr. Carl Goodman  
 23 Grant Nuckolls  
 26 Donna Greengus



26 Kathleen Somer  
 27 Max De Benedetti  
 27 Rachel Holman  
 29 Joe Badt Jr.  
 31 Rachel Robichaux  
 31 Gabrielle Miller

*We give thanks for life, for health, for all that sustains us, and for this joyous day.*

## We Offer Our Condolences to :



**Ellen (née Lewis) and George McGovern, III** on the passing of his mother,  
**Dorothy Yearwood McGovern**

*May her memory be a blessing. May her family be consoled*

# Yahrzeits: May Remembering Them Be A Blessing

## January 4-5

Bill Mantinband  
Horace Simon Sr.  
Hyman Schuster  
Sarah Schuster  
Bertha H. Cheatham 21-21  
Dr. Norman N. Fein  
Rabbi Ronald Myron Goldstein  
Jack Katzenstein  
Gwen Murov 44-03  
Bobby Redstone  
Alexander Rifkin  
Ann Evensky  
Arnold Hermer 24-24  
Mr. Fred S. Holman  
Mrs. Hilda Levi  
Joseph S. Murov 13-18  
Mr. Harold Murov 31-06  
Stella Phillips 11-09  
Etta Freyer  
Sylvian W. Gamm 11-20  
Lazar Murov 23-25  
Naomi Murov  
Lillian Strug Rambach  
Mrs. Lucille Stern  
Jacob Barron M07  
Mrs. Bertha Gold

## January 11-12

Theresa M. Arrant M11  
Harold B Baron  
Paul Brainis  
Mrs. Bella Gold  
Israel Kosovitz  
Nathan Kranson  
Gershon Marcus 32-12  
Mrs. Bernice Herman  
Mrs. Frances Selber 12-08  
Della Goldstein Weis  
Mrs. Hazel Weisman  
Margaret Golden Rifkin 42-23  
Mr. Alvin Willer  
Newman Zelinsky  
Lucile Bodenheimer  
Lee Edward Dreyfuss  
Henry Sour Katzenstein  
Mr David Levy 22-16  
Mr. Robert E. Redstone, Sr.  
E. Bernard Weiss 13-09  
Jane Blumenthal Steiner 22-12  
Lou P. Ellison 24-05  
Joseph Slaughter Frankel 14-03



## January 18-19

Martin Feldman  
Robert David Pesses 34-17  
Everett Rubenstein 31-21  
Elsa K. Kent 25-12  
Mrs. Fannie Klumok  
Albert Elmer  
Kenneth Gompertz 33-15  
Hubert L. Joyner  
Mr. Irwin Muslow 25-19  
Debra W. Richardson 44-23  
Morris Schuster 14-14  
Margarethe Grete Louise Braun  
Adeline M. Hermer 21-07  
Rose Seligman  
Alan Sugar  
Zelda Finkelstein  
Mrs June Herold  
Stella Loeb 13-22  
Ben Blumberg 34-21  
Burnhardt W. Fane 13-16  
Sophie Meisel 15-05  
Sam Zadeck 12-15

## January 25 -26

Larry Abrams  
Dr. William G. Fellman 34-12  
Ruth Goldsholl  
Mrs. Sydney Willer  
George Abrams  
Mrs. Herbert Loeb  
Hannah Marx M04  
Micah Ross Newstadt 25-20  
Henry E. Cahn 43-03  
Mrs. Harriet Goldsmith  
Vera Miller  
Mr. Louis Schwartz  
Mrs. Genevieve Cowan  
Harry Ehrlich M14  
Isaac Muslow M10  
Lee Ellen Oglethorpe  
Mr. Morris J. Weiss  
Shirley Freyer 33-17  
Isabel Goldman  
Mrs. Felice Flaxman Harris  
Marvin Muslow 32-08  
Jacob Novek  
Josephine B. Cohen  
Paul Gardsbane  
Esther A. Kaufman M15  
Sophie Ruben  
Thelma Winkler

## February 1-2

Jake Cullick  
Benjamin B. Eltis  
Goldie Williams Heine  
Millie Hyman  
Joe Kahn  
Max Morris  
Hyman Muslow 13-02  
Dr. Melvin Steiner 22-11  
Sadie L. Kuperman 15-02  
Morris Ruben  
Ruby S. Blumenthal  
Cecile Lemle Childs  
Carol L. Gamm 24-25  
Mrs. Lillian A. Mandel  
Mr. Armand Roos, Jr. 31-24  
Mrs. Serretta Krom  
Miriam Levine  
Jack Ruben 23-05  
Lewis Feinberg  
Samuel Atkins  
Cerf Hirsch  
Morris Hirsh  
Mrs. Sol Kaplan  
Shirl S. Morris

Dates show the Shabbat when Kaddish will be said for the people shown.

Numbers following a name in the above list denotes Memorial Plaque Location :

For example 13-06 is found on:

*Board 1 (near sanctuary)*











*Column 3 (from left)*

*Row 6 (from top)*

Board M is the large Marble stone near the stairs

B'nai Zion tradition is to read the Yahrzeit names during Shabbat services at the end of the week that included the anniversary of the death.

**JANUARY 2019 • TEVET / SH'VAT 5779**

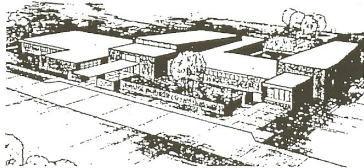
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>30</b> Tevet 22	<b>31</b> Tevet 23 New Year's Eve: Office is Closed	<b>1</b> Tevet 24 New Year's Day Office is Closed	<b>2</b> Tevet 25	<b>3</b> Tevet 26	<b>4</b> Tevet 27 5:05p  6:00p Friday Evening Shabbat Service	<b>5</b> Tevet 28 Va-eira 9:45a Torah Study 11:00a Service 6:14p 
<b>6</b> Tevet 29	<b>7</b> Sh'vat 1	<b>8</b> Sh'vat 2	<b>9</b> Sh'vat 3	<b>10</b> Sh'vat 4 6:00p Adult Hebrew	<b>11</b> Sh'vat 5 5:11p  6:00p Friday Evening Shabbat Service	<b>12</b> Sh'vat 6 Bo 9:45a Torah Study 11:00a Service 6:20p 
<b>13</b> Sh'vat 7 9:30a Religious School Resumes 12:00p Hebrew Classes Resume	<b>14</b> Sh'vat 8	<b>15</b> Sh'vat 9 6 PM BZ Board MTG  People of the Book Club 7 PM	<b>16</b> Sh'vat 10	<b>17</b> Sh'vat 11 6:00p Adult Hebrew	<b>18</b> Sh'vat 12 5:17p  6:00p Shabbat Shirah - The Sabbath of Song	<b>19</b> Sh'vat 13 B'shalach 9:45a Torah Study 11:00a Service 6:26p 
<b>20</b> Sh'vat 14 No Classes	<b>21</b> Sh'vat 15 Tu BiSh'vat MLK Day	<b>22</b> Sh'vat 16	<b>23</b> Sh'vat 17	<b>24</b> Sh'vat 18	<b>25</b> Sh'vat 19 5:23p  ISJL Visit 6:00p Barbara Joseph Leads Shabbat Evening Service	<b>26</b> Sh'vat 20 Yitro ISJL Visit 9:45a Torah Study 11:00a Service 6:32p 
<b>27</b> Sh'vat 21  ISJL Visit 1-5p World Religion Day	<b>28</b> Sh'vat 22	<b>29</b> Sh'vat 23	<b>30</b> Sh'vat 24  Ethical Dilmmas discussion with Rabbi Jana at the tower of the Oaks 2-3 PM	<b>31</b> Sh'vat 25 6:00p Adult Hebrew	<b>1</b> Sh'vat 26 5:30p  6:00p Friday Evening Shabbat Service	<b>2</b> Sh'vat 27 Mishpatim 9:45a Torah Study 11:00a Service 6:39p 

## So Much More Online

Go to [www.BnaiZionCongregation.org](http://www.BnaiZionCongregation.org) for more calendar details, a Directory of all members, a list of all of the Yahrzeits for your family, upcoming events, take control of your payments, make donations, and more.



B'nai Zion Congregation  
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www.bnaizioncongregation.org  
Rabbi Dr. Jana L. De Benedetti  
Jon Black, President  
Barbara Joseph, Education Director



A Proud Member of the URJ

#### B'nai Zion History:

- 📖 Charter Obtained 1866
- 📖 Joined UAHC (now URJ) 1908
- 🏠 First Building Erected 1870
- 🏠 Second Building Dedicated 1914
- 🏠 Present Building Dedicated 1956
- B'nai Zion Cemeteries:
  - ✳ Hebrew Rest I (Oaklawn): 1858
  - ✳ Hebrew Rest II (Texas Av): 1886
  - ✳ Hebrew Rest III (Greenwood): 1933

## Hanukkah 2018 / 5779



Thank you to everyone who made the Hanukkah celebrations such wonderful successes!

