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Adam Sadovsky
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Leon Barish
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Theresa Lyons
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Morton Kent
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William Moses*
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Phineas DeCordova*
Herman Hellman*
Jacob S. Davis*
Henry Hirschfeld*

*z”l/Of Blessed Memory
OUR MISSION

Congregation Beth Israel…

Instills and nourishes Jewish spirituality

Educates and enlightens intellects of all ages to the wisdom of Torah and the joy of Jewish learning

Nurtures members through life cycle events at all ages and stages

Enhances friendships in the spirit of communal warmth and sincerity by providing a wholesome and enjoyable social milieu for people of all ages – from cradle to old age

Offers comfort and care for the sick, needy, and those in trouble or transition

Embraces strangers and reaches out to interfaith families and the unaffiliated

Extends beyond the congregation to the Jewish community and Austin community at large in the spirit of cooperation for the greater good of the community

Welcomes members of all ages, marital status, sexual or gender identity, and social and economic walks of life

Builds leadership to perpetuate a strong congregation, devoted to the advancement of Judaism for generations to come
**CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL IS…**

**Joyful**
Our Shabbat services are full of joyful singing.

On Simchat Torah, we dance, we sing, and we celebrate starting the cycle anew.

Purim brings out our wilder side: We drown out Haman’s name with enough noise to raise the roof and our Purim Spiel puts the ancient story in a modern, musical context. And we may get just a bit silly.

CBI’s annual gala features great food, music, dancing, and more.

**Diverse**
Our members come from all walks of life: We are professors and electricians, teachers and dentists, full time moms and part time attorneys.

Everyone is welcome at CBI. We are proud of our long-time support for the LGBTQ+ community. And proud that some of our members’ families can be traced back to the crypto-Jews accompanying the early Spanish explorers of Mexico and Texas.

CBI treasures our Jews-by-Choice for the richness they bring to our congregation and to the Jewish people.

**Inclusive**
CBI offers programs for our very youngest members, our senior members, and everyone in-between.

Our religious school provides specially trained staff for students with special needs.

Our prayer books provide transliterations for those who do not read Hebrew, so everyone can participate.

We welcome interfaith families and encourage them to fully participate.
Executive Director Ken Davidson is a seasoned executive in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors with more than 15 years’ experience in synagogue management. Throughout his career as a mission-driven executive leader, he has developed a track record of transforming non-profits by modernizing operations, growing revenues, and elevating member experience. Ken is passionate about supporting Jewish organizations and helping members strengthen their connections to Judaism and the Jewish community. Personally, Ken has a reputation as a “servant leader” who focuses on building relationships within organizations in support of communal goals. He loves helping members and will always make time on his calendar for congregants who wish to visit or chat. Ken has served on the boards of numerous Jewish communal organizations and is a Senior Member of the National Association for Temple Administration. Raised on Long Island, Ken and his wife Susan have two adult children and two beautiful granddaughters who reside in North Carolina. Email: ken@bethisrael.org.

Director of Youth Education and Engagement Carly Cera grew up at CBI. Most recently, Carly was CBI’s Director of Community Engagement as well as our Youth Group Advisor. Carly has a master’s degree in education and has taught school in both Israel and the U.S. Email: ccera@bethisrael.org.

Director of Membership Services Pam Hanna loves that every day at CBI, she gets to assist members with whom she has formed friendships. Email: phanna@bethisrael.org.

Director of Community Engagement Harold Wilensky, a long-time member and volunteer, is the staff member who helps new members get involved with the community, manages the CBI website and congregational calendar, and does some event planning. Email: hwilensky@bethisrael.org.
OUR STAFF

Executive Assistant to the Clergy Trish Ivey and her husband, Logan, recently relocated from Santa Rosa, CA to the Great State of Texas. As “empty nesters”; they felt this was a good time to move and experience living in a different place. Trish has family here and has always felt like Texas was her home. Email: clergyoffice@bethisrael.org

Education Coordinator Sarah Jew became Bat Mitzvah and was confirmed at CBI. She taught religious school before moving into the Education office which she keeps well organized and ready for our young learners. Email: sjew@bethisrael.org.

Facilities Manager Dawn Forman joined CBI in June 2002. She teaches in our religious school, has served on many committees and boards as well as being a past Sisterhood President. As a handywoman and subcontractor, she enjoys using her skills to repair, build, paint, and create projects around CBI that include the memorial yahrzeit walls and the Confirmation photo display walls where she loves to point out her children Bair, Baxter, Bailey and Blaze. Email: dawn@bethisrael.org.

Senior Custodian Larry Johnson, a native of New York, has worked as a custodian for 25 years in several school districts in both New York and Texas.

CDC Executive Director Zoe Miller has been heavily involved in Jewish Early Childhood education for several years. She holds a BA in Early Childhood Education/Liberal Arts and a Master’s in Teaching and English from the University of Minnesota. Before joining the CDC, Zoe was the curriculum director at Shalom Austin’s Early Childhood Program. Email: cdcdirector@bethisrael.org.
OUR STAFF

CDC Assistant Director Rebecca Taute grew up at Beth Israel and is an alumna of our education program. Becca attended high school in Israel, and she brings a great deal of enthusiasm and love of children to her job. Email: btaute@bethisrael.org.

CDC Assistant Director for Curriculum and Compliance Tiffany Primus has been involved with early childhood education for the last eleven years in both teaching roles and as administration. She has a BA in Special Education from Liberty University and her Directors license for the state of Texas. She has been teaching at the CDC for the last three years and is very excited to be a member of this wonderful team at the CDC. Email: tprimus@bethisrael.org

Bookkeeper Dylan Besteiro, a graduate of Texas State University, previously served the National Hispanic Institute as Director of Business and Finance. Prior to that he was their Admissions Director. In his free time, Dylan likes cooking and taking his dog Bella to the park.

University of Texas graduate Jason Taper jointly serves Congregation Beth Israel and Temple Beth Shalom as our Social Justice Coordinator. Jason is a native Texan and a proud NFTY-TOR and Texas Hillel alum, having served on the board of both groups. Jason will work with both CBI and Temple Beth Shalom to connect the Reform Jewish community of Austin in all of our social justice efforts. Additionally, he will work closely with each congregation to amplify and elevate our individual social justice work. Email: jason.austinsocialjustice@gmail.com.
Until we are able to gather together safely again, CBI’s services and education opportunities will be online only. Please check our weekly schedule online as the offerings may change from time to time.

**Mondays**

8:30am Morning Meditation - Rabbi Folberg will lead a fifteen minute guided meditation that will conclude with a prayer and a blessing for the day. In the [CBI Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cbi/.)

**Tuesdays**

8:30am Morning Meditation - In the [CBI Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cbi/).

**Wednesdays**

8:30am Morning Meditation - In the [CBI Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cbi/).

5:45pm Meditation Service - This service includes elements of Jewish meditation practice as well as traditional liturgy. Kaddish will be recited. *On hiatus in July.*

**Thursdays**

8:30am Morning Meditation - In the [CBI Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cbi/).

12:15pm Torah Study with Rabbi Kerry Baker - [Registration required](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cbi/).
**CBI's Online Offerings at a Glance**

**Fridays**

**8:30am Morning Meditation** - In the [CBI Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cbi/).

**10:30am CDC Shabbat** - Our regular weekly Shabbat with the CDC kids is wild and zany and a whole lotta fun. Join with the youngest among us to learn all about Shabbat the fun CDC@CBI way! [Email us for the link](mailto:info@cbi.org).  

**12:00 Mussar with Rabbi Kerry Baker** - In a society or body politic or economic system that seems broken, where can we find the tools we need to fix the world? A branch of Jewish thought called “Mussar” can help us address those issues. [Registration required](#).

**6:00pm Family Service** - This fun Shabbat service used to be on the 1st of the month. Now it is weekly online. Designed for children of elementary school age, but everyone is welcome! *Except the 4th Friday of the month.*

**6:00pm Oneg Shabbat** - *4th Friday of the month only.*

**6:30pm Erev Shabbat Service** (New time) - Our usual Shabbat evening service with Rabbis Folberg and Levy, along with Cantorial Soloist Sarah Avner. Kaddish will be recited.

**Saturdays**

**9:15am Torah Study** - Our highly interactive and illuminating Torah Study is still interactive! Our Zoom connection allows you to participate from the comfort of your own home.

**9:30am Tot Shabbat (2nd and 4th Saturdays only)** - Rabbis Folberg & Levy and Cantorial Soloist Sarah Avner share the leading of our fun and engaging Tot Shabbat service for children under 5. [Email us for the link](mailto:info@cbi.org).

**10:30am Shabbat Morning Service** - Our usual Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbis Folberg & Levy and Cantorial Soloist Sarah Avner. Sometimes this service is led by one of our Lay Leaders. Kaddish will be recited.
ANNUAL HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE

BENEFITTING THE CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK

Go to www.bethisrael.org to donate online.

SUKKOT 5780 AT CBI

Friday, October 2 – 6:00 pm – Erev Sukkot/Erev Shabbat Services
The Erev Sukkot Service is a fun, energetic service for all ages.
Use your own lulavim and etrogim to shake, shake, shake during this festive holiday!

Saturday, October 3 – 10:30 a.m. – Sukkot Morning Service
SIMCHAT TORAH 5780 AT CBI

Friday, October 9 at 6:00 pm
Erev Simchat Torah/Erev Shabbat Service
This year, our Simchat Torah Service will feature the youngest members of our community. Join them online as they sing, dance, and a celebrate the “birthday of the Torah.” We will read the end of Deuteronomy and the beginning of Genesis, completing and beginning the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings.

Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 am
Simchat Torah/Shabbat Morning Service with Yizkor

CBI TRIVIA NIGHT PARTY
Brought to you by CBI Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Saturday, October 17
Log in and test run at 6:30 PM – Contest begins at 7:00 PM

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place!
Musical intermissions courtesy Marc Kapner

Make your reservation now
https://www.cbiaustinsisterhood.org/events/trivia-night

One team per household - Contest is limited to 20 teams*
Each team will need one computer and one cell phone to play

*Due to the limit of 20 teams, please honor your reservation and notify us if you must cancel.
For questions or cancellations, please email Marvin Hecker - gmhecker@sbcglobal.net
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
Sunday, October 18, 1:45pm

Our tradition teaches in Psalm 104: “God, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your creatures!” Come join us for this special opportunity to bless some of God’s most precious and loving creatures: our pets. There will be a short outdoor service to offer thanks and praise for our beloved animals, and time for some drooling and schmoozing.

Please bring your pets who are comfortable around other pets and people.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

“Circle of Friends” Alzheimer’s Caregivers Respite group is truly one of the most rewarding programs you will ever take part in. We sing, dance, play games, create art, and enjoy the company of some wonderful people coping with Alzheimer’s, while providing a much-needed respite for their caregivers.

Your help is needed to provide support with morning welcoming, breakfast set-up, assisting friends with getting their breakfast and/or lunch, and moving to and from activities such as music and art therapy, bingo and dominoes. Relief volunteers are also needed to assist during the lunch hour and clean up. All shifts last 3 to 5 hours. Whether you’re available once a month or every week, participating in this program is both a mitzvah and a joy.

If you are interested in volunteering in a warm, loving and fun environment or you have a loved one you would like to enroll in this program please contact Theressa Lyons (tllyons@mac.com) at (512) 845-5374 or Faith Steinberg at (512) 926-1477. Circle of Friends on is hiatus during the pandemic.
The Child Development Center at Congregation Beth Israel is a nationally recognized early childhood program accredited through NAEYC. The CDC is a supportive and nurturing community, where children play to learn in a joyful, caring environment. Highly qualified, CDC educators and families work together to foster each child’s potential through play-based, emergent curriculum. Each child has the opportunity to grow, learn, imagine, and question the world as they explore and investigate art, music, science, literature, block-building, and active playground time. Judaic values highlight the importance of bravery, courage, kindness, and perseverance. Children participate in Jewish traditions, building memories, traditions, and life-long friendships. Low student-teacher ratios, small group sizes, active family involvement are just a few hallmarks of this outstanding program. For information, contact CDC Director Zoe Miller at 512-371-0224 or cdcdirector@bethisrael.org.

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George Burns said, “You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.” Members of Empty Nesters are living examples of this quote.

Empty Nesters get together twice a year for community feasts. We start with a social hour sipping wine, catching up with old friends and making new ones. Then we sit for a scrumptious dinner, followed by lively entertainment. We complement our dinners with several special field trips each year to plays, concerts, museums, and Fairs.

You don’t need to be a member of Congregation Beth Israel to join Empty Nesters. We welcome anyone who is interested in meeting people and sharing in our camaraderie. If you fit that description, join now! Annual dues are only $15. What a deal!

Due to the pandemic, our events have moved online. For more information, contact David Mann at 512-346-4940 (dbmann@earthlink.net)
It is important that our kids, pre-teens and teens have a community that they can call their own. CBI

CBI is proud to offer three Jewish youth group experiences for our students in 4th through 12th grades. Throughout the school year, CBI youth group events and retreats focus on fun interaction with Jewish peers, social action, Jewish education and Israel, worship and personal growth and leadership

ATeed (4th-5th) and ATT Jr. (6th-8th) have one event per month during the school year. ATT (9th-12th) may have more than one, depending on the month. The events take place at CBI or around Austin.

For more information:
Junior Youth Advisor (ATeed & ATT Jr) – Jacob Levy: jlevy1270@gmail.com
Director of Youth Education & Engagement (ATT) - Carly Cera: ccerabethisrael.org.
Follow us on Instagram @austintempleteens.
Join our Facebook groups: ATeed, ATT Jr, ATT
CBI’s Caring Community program is the link to our members from birth until death, in times of sickness and health, and in times of sadness and joy. Our volunteers work to bring our members closer together and create community where none exists, as well as to bring Judaism to those unable to come to us. We realize there is no one-size-fits-all approach to helping people and try to respond to each person’s needs individually, reaching out to different members of our sacred community to achieve this.

If you need assistance: Please contact Trish Ivey, Executive Assistant to the Clergy at clergyoffice@bethisrael.org or call 512-454-6806. Keep in mind that privacy laws prevent hospitals from notifying us when members are admitted.

To volunteer: One of the best ways to develop lasting relationships within our sacred community is to reach out to those in need. We are currently seeking volunteers for all types of helping tasks and will provide all training you need to help fulfill these important mitzvot. Please contact Trish Ivey at clergyoffice@bethisrael.org.

Some of the things we do:
- **Write caring cards** to those needing comfort, struggling with an illness, or to celebrate a happy occasion.
- **Phone visits** to members who have just returned from the hospital, brought home a new baby, or happen to be home-bound.
- **Provide meals** to the home-bound or recently suffered a death in the family or have their hands full with a new baby. We need volunteers to make meals and take meals.
- Make and deliver **Baby Baskets** to families with newborns. We also knit, crochet, and quilt to make kippot, booties, hats, and blankets.
- **Hospital visits** can include visiting members in nursing homes, rehab centers or even at home along with visiting at the hospital.

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**CBI SISTERHOOD**

Have you been thinking about getting more involved at CBI, meeting new friends, and making meaningful contributions to your community and your synagogue? Come join CBI Sisterhood!

In this virtual world, we are building connections through virtual happy hours, educational speakers, online games, and fun philanthropy. CBI’s Sisterhood has a little something for everyone.

Your membership dues go towards supporting our congregation with grant requests as well as scholarship funds that help send CBI kids to Jewish summer camps and summer experiences in Israel.

As an active member of the Women of Reform Judaism, an international organization representing over 36,000 women’s groups, we support social justice work in North America, Israel and around the world.

Sound interesting? Join us at cbiaustinsisterhood.org/join, or contact Bailah at baihlah@grandecom.net.
CBI BROTHERHOOD

JOIN THE CBI BROTHERHOOD

We build the sukkah - Come help us out! Just 1 morning/year.
We put on the annual latke/brisket dinner - Come help us out at Chanukah time!
We make breakfast tacos for the Internet Café - Come help one Sunday morning!
We usher at High Holy Days services - Come help on Rosh Hashonah or Yom Kippur!
We have monthly meetings - Show up for food, drinks and fun!

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION IS ONLY $36
Membership is open to men and women
First-year membership is FREE. Accommodations are made for financial hardship.

CBI Brotherhood supports religious school and youth activities.
All proceeds go to scholarships that send our CBI kids to Greene Family Camp and to Israel.

Just go to the Brotherhood page at www.bethisrael.org/brotherhood.html and fill out the form.
ADULT EDUCATION

Beginner’s Hebrew Tuesdays 6-6:45 p.m. $75 Non-member fee
Oct 20 to Dec 15 – Instructor Sarah Avner Registration required
Welcome to the Hebrew alef-bet (alphabet)! This class is for adult learners who have never taken a Hebrew class before OR need a Hebrew refresher from the very beginning. Students need to acquire: Learn Hebrew Today: Alef-Bet for Adults on their own to participate in the class.

Level 1 Hebrew Wednesdays 6-6:45 p.m. $75 Non-member fee
Oct 21 to Dec 16 – Instructor Sarah Avner Registration required
Pre-requisite: Beginner Hebrew. This class is for adult learners who have taken a beginner Hebrew class previously and, after a couple of lessons of review, will be ready to work towards improved reading fluency. Students need to acquire: Hineni 1: The New Hebrew Through Prayer on their own to participate in the class.

From Kosher to Knishes: Jews and Food Through the Years
Wednesdays at noon $75 non-member fee
Oct 21 to Dec 16 – Instructor Rabbi Kelly Levy Registration required
This course will delve into the history, culture, and ethics surrounding Judaism and food. We’ll explore the background of our favorite foods, eating for nourishment versus eating for pleasure, and discover the role Judaism plays in what goes on our plates.

Living a Jewish Life Tuesdays 7 – 9 p.m. $100 non-member fee/semester
Spring registration starts in December
This introductory course is intended to convey information about the major facets of Judaism: holidays, lifecycle occasions, Israel, etc. Students in this class typically come from a variety of backgrounds such as born-Jews, Interfaith couples, non-Jewish students, and adults simply curious about Judaism.

For more information or to register for any of these classes email clergyoffice@bethisrael.org or call Trish Ivey at 512-454-6806.
YOUTH EDUCATION

Youth educational programming at CBI is comfortable, inclusive, and welcoming of learners of all abilities from pre-school to 12th grade. Our congregation proudly offers opportunities that encourage engagement in a journey of learning and spiritual growth through exploration of various topics.

The goal of our youth educational programming is to foster those who are committed to life-long learning—searching and questioning, studying Torah, participating in the Jewish community, striving to master the Hebrew language, and devoted to the observance of the Jewish calendar as well as the Jewish life cycle. We strive to give our children a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish community, as well as an enduring and positive relationship with Jewish culture, Hebrew and prayer, traditions, texts, and values.

All classes during the Fall Semester, at least, will be conducted online. We are committed to help families prioritize supplemental Jewish education by providing students with well planned, interactive lessons that create connections with others and foster a love of Judaism and Hebrew. Students will be up and moving, playing games through the screen and participating in high-quality conversations.

CBI + THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN JEWISH LIFE

We are a proud ISJL Education Partner!
The ISJL Education Curriculum is a spiraled youth curriculum, in which students from pre-school through 12th grade revisit key content areas with increased sophistication as they progress through the curriculum. The ISJL is continually updating the curriculum not only to add content, but also to ensure it's in line with current educational best practices and ever-evolving pedagogical understanding.

The ten key content areas are: Community, Culture and Symbols, God, Hebrew and Prayer, Israel, Jewish History, Jewish Holidays, Jewish Lifecycle Events, Mitzvot and Jewish Values, and TaNaKh (Torah, Prophets, and Writings).

Additionally, CBI has been paired with ISJL Education Fellow, Julian Cohen, who is available year-round to assist with creating special programs, offer guidance on the curriculum, provide online visits and support, and to ultimately be an extended part of our CBI community.
HEBREW ENGAGEMENT

Our Wednesday evening Hebrew School is available for students in third through sixth grade. Each of the 24 sessions includes an all-school T’filah (prayer) service geared specially toward pre-B’nei Mitzvah students. While the core focus of Hebrew School is on Hebrew engagement, each grade’s approach is different.

Third graders dive deep into customs, meaning, and vocabulary related to Shabbat and Passover. Each session incorporates Hebrew surrounding those holidays (i.e., Challah, Kiddush, Pesach, Chag Sameach), as well as the introduction of a new “Hebrew letter or vowel of the week”.

Fourth graders continue to build on learned Hebrew with the use of Hebrew workbooks and games.

Fifth graders use their Hebrew knowledge to begin learning Prayerbook Hebrew.

Sixth graders fine-tune their reading skills and practice reading for fluency.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS – THIS IS THE PLACE FOR YOU!

In a role made possible by CBI’s Zach Avner Inclusion Fund, our religious school Inclusion Specialist works with our families and teachers to support all learners on their Jewish journey. We look forward to building on our strong tradition of meeting the needs of all who wish to learn and live Jewishly.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Carly Cera, Director of Youth Education and Engagement, at ccerabethisrael.org, or 512-454-6806 x 218 to set up a time to talk on the phone or in person. We look forward to getting to know you and your kids!
FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

All events in this section are designed for families with children age 0-5 and open to the public. Older siblings always welcome to participate.

TOT SHABBAT
Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Jan. 9, 23 | Feb. 13, 27 | Mar. 13
Apr. 10, 24 | May 8, 22

This service is filled with songs, stories, and sometimes even dancing. Afterwards, we have snack, craft projects, and play time. Until further notice, Tot Shabbat will be online to ensure everyone’s health and safety.

OPEN DOOR SHABBAT
Select Saturdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Oct. 3 | Nov. 7 | Dec. 5

Open Door Shabbat is a sensory-friendly, accessible service for everyone. This is a music and movement driven, come exactly as you are, service. Service is held in the Sanctuary. More information at www.bethisrael.org/opendoorshabbat.

PJ HAVDALAH
Saturdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Nov. 21 | Dec. 19 | Mar. 20 | May 15

Wear your pajamas and join us in Smith Auditorium for a potluck dinner, story, music, and short activity. We’ll end with a quick Havdalah service to say goodbye to Shabbat and welcome the new week.
PRE-PLANNING WITH PEACE OF MIND

Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery #3 at Capital Parks Cemetery
14501 N. IH35
Pflugerville, TX 78660

- Peaceful, calming atmosphere
- Gazebo for tranquil meditation
- Well maintained landscape
- Perpetual care
- Open daily 8:00 - 5:00
- Plots available for members (including non-Jewish immediate family) and non-members

More information
Phil Baum at 512-917-7987

Congregation Beth Israel

JOYFUL • DIVERSE • INCLUSIVE