

BI@Home: News from your home away from home

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A WORD FROM RABBI FELLMAN

One of the reasons that I love being a pulpit rabbi is the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of Jewish life and learning. I’ve always wanted to be part of everything Jewish – over the whole lifecycle, over the whole calendar year – to really build a deep and lasting relationship with a community. While still in Rabbinical School, I remember laughing with a colleague, who was heading into Jewish camping, saying that I hoped that they really enjoyed Tisha B’Av since it was the singular Jewish holiday that was celebrated over the summer. They laughed and said it was one of the reasons that they loved camp. They didn’t have to deal with “chag.”



For all of my love of Jewish tradition, I also rejoice in the traditions and rituals that a family and a community build for themselves. In my seven years at Beth Israel and in my nine years as an ordained Rabbi, I have come to appreciate those non-ritual rituals that we have, and that we have built. As this is the summer issue of BI@Home, I want to mention some of our favorite family rituals and community traditions of summer that we have created,

work to sustain, and enjoy sharing with others. Some of the rituals are simple joys and others are more involved, but here are a few that we look forward to each year.

Celebrating our complex identities. We may think that we have to pick a certain part of our identity at any given moment. How joyous when they converge, and we get to celebrate the different sides of who we are together. With summer on the horizon, we look forward to Herb Daroff’s singing of Adon Olam to the tune of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” in honor of opening day of baseball. And we look forward to joining the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts for their Jewish Heritage night each summer. We are looking forward to trying to get to a WooSox game this summer and were delighted when Steven Schimmel and WooSox president Charles Steinberg announced that it would be happening this year.

Feeling and tasting the specialness of the season. Another summer ritual is outdoor swimming. Our kids cheer and celebrate the first outdoor swim of the summer! The cheers are even louder when they hear that we

are going to a lake and even louder still when we suggest that it be followed by ice cream at Kimball's, Rota Springs, or another one of the amazing creameries we have in the area.

Connecting to nature and working the ground. For the second year in a row, we have planted a garden in a raised bed. Those who know me know that I am not a gardener. Still, as we determined ways to spend our time at home, gardening seemed like a way to grow and appreciate the food that we are privileged to afford, to learn about sustainability, and to literally get our hands dirty learning about the blessings of produce that comes from the ground. Each day, my family walks by our raised bed, helps to water it, and remarks on the status of the seedlings. In addition, we compost and this year, picked up some compost from the company that we use, completing a cycle of growth and nourishment.

Tisha B'Av is a collective day of mourning. It may be the only Jewish holiday in the summer, but summer brings so many occasions to celebrate. May this summer ground us, be a source for renewal and growth, and a time to be in community. I encourage you to embrace, create, share, and enjoy your own traditions this summer, too. Make us part of your summer rituals and come to shul and let us know what else you love in the summer!

A SUMMER OF CROSSROADS AND TRANSITIONS ***PAULA SOMMER, BETH ISRAEL PRESIDENT***

June is a time of crossroads and transitions, of endings and new beginnings. I was thinking about the different ways we mark time when I found this online at Myjewishlearning.com:

“Time, in its essence, is an unceasing flow on which human beings have imposed meaning with arbitrary divisions and markers—years, months, weeks, days, minutes, and seconds. These units of time serve as measures for human activity in education, commerce, leisure, agriculture, and religion.



Jewish time grew out of God's imposition of order on the primeval chaos. First, God separated the light from darkness, creating day and night. Then, as a reflection of God's cycle of creation and rest, the work week was differentiated from Shabbat. Later, at the time of the Exodus, God mandated that the Israelites mark the new moon of Nissan, thereby establishing a monthly and yearly cycle.”

The Jewish calendar has many New Years: Rosh HaShanah (1 Tishrei) for the ritual sabbatical year; Tu BShvat, (15 Shevat) for the trees; Passover (15 Nissan) for redemption; and Fiscal (1 Elul) for tithing of cattle. Who knew it was so important that cattle tithes be made of cattle born in the same cattle birth year?

There are also many secular new years as well: January 1 for the calendar; April 15 for tax year; July 1 for many fiscal calendars; and early September for the academic year. The regular academic year is coming to an end. Please enjoy learning about our 2021 high school graduates elsewhere in this issue. We are so proud of how they have persevered through this most unusual year. They now face new adventures, and we look forward to seeing how they handle them.

Closely tied to the academic year is our internal BI calendar. Like many organizations, our fiscal year starts on July 1. We plan to get together in June for our annual meeting, where we will reflect on the previous twelve months and plan for the coming year. You should have already received a notice in the mail. Please join me for our Annual Meeting on June 9 at 7:30PM. We will welcome new board members, review where we are financially, and review this unprecedented year, productive despite COVID. I look forward to seeing you all on Zoom.

FY2022 Dues Information

Dues Are Not Increasing

This year, each member unit is being charged full dues in their category. This may mean that your bill will look different than it has in previous years. We know that many have requested and received abatements in the past. We value having you as part of our family and will work with you to ensure that your privacy and needs are met.

If you are in need of an abatement or financial arrangement for this year, please contact Beth Cyr, Manager of HR and Finance, at 508-756-6204 to schedule a time to discuss your bill.

FY2022 Dues Structure

Family (full dues) \$2250
Family 1st year \$740
Family 2nd year \$1500
Single (full dues) \$1610
Single 1st year \$540
Single 2nd year \$1060
Associate Family \$710
Associate Single \$400

Additions to Your Bill

The following categories will be appearing on your bill along with membership dues. Some of these additional lines are optional, others are central to our ability to function as a safe and secure community.

Security Assessment \$50

We rely on the additional support of our community to ensure that we are able to physically gather safely. For this reason, this is not optional. The funds collected through this assessment support security detail over the High Holidays and at other programs and services, equipment used by our volunteers to ensure communication and security, and physically securing the building and providing surveillance.

Technology Donation \$50

This is an optional donation. Over the past year, the donations to our technology fund have enabled us to stay connected as a community and to gather, seeing each other's faces. Your donations to this fund will help to ensure that we are able to continue to serve and improve our ability to reach our members all over the world.

General Endowment Donation \$540

This is an optional donation. As we near our 100th anniversary as a congregation, we are appreciative of the foundation that was left for us. We now are responsible for ensuring that a spiritual and engaged community sustains for the future...We have not raised dues in hope that you will instead donate to our General Endowment Fund. This is the fund that contributes to our General Fund every year and helps us pay our bills. ***The more we get from the Endowment Fund, the less we rely on dues. We are suggesting the \$540 multiple of chai. However, any donation is appreciated.*** We are trying to grow our endowment to \$5 million by the time we reach our 100th anniversary in 3 years.

Chai Kiddush Club Donation \$180

This is an optional donation. Many of us donated to this optional fund this year even though we weren't meeting in person for a kiddush. We used this fund to pay for goody bags, the ice cream truck, the cheese cakes, and more goodies that helped us get through the holidays with a little more fun. As we start to reopen, we look forward to sharing meals together again soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Goodman
VP of Finance

JOIN BETH ISRAEL FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM – JUNE 9 @ 7:30 PM

All of BI's Membership received details about the annual meeting via postal mail and email. Don't forget that it will be held Wednesday, June 9th at 7:30 p.m. It is a chance to hear from leadership about where we stand and plans for the future. It has been an extraordinary year – one of great difficulty and hardship, and also one of great ingenuity, hard work, and pulling together. This is a chance to pull together again – this time as a complete community together at this meeting. It's also a time to vote for the new slate for Board of Directors.

This year's meeting will again be held through Zoom. To join us, you can use a computer, tablet or phone and follow these directions.

On a computer, tablet, or smartphone: Go to: <https://zoom.us>, click on "Join A Meeting".

Enter Meeting ID: 826 5822 7832

When prompted enter Passcode: 298498

If calling in by phone:

Dial: 1 (929) 205-6099 and follow the instructions.

Meeting ID: 826 5822 7832

If prompted for a password, enter: 298498

If you have technical issues that make it difficult to connect to Zoom, call the office during office hours, before the meeting date, to get assistance. We want to see everyone on June 9!

MAZAL TOV TO BI FAMILIES CELEBRATING SIMCHAS

We congratulate:

- Akiva Lichtenberg and Tova Reiter on their aufruf (6/5) and their wedding (6/10).
- Leah Honor and Brian Doherty on the birth of their son and on his bris on May 30, where he was named Joseph Gabriel (Joey). Congratulations as well to big brother Connor.
- Reena and Saul Slovin on the engagement of their son Nadav to Michal Beltzberg.
- Merna Siff on the birth of her first great-grandchild – Maya Paulette Magdovitz.

REOPENING UPDATE

For many of us it has been, as the Beatles sang, a long, cold, lonely winter. The warm weather and huge progress in the fight against COVID-19 together make for a diminution of the loneliness and the cold. We have been holding Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv on Fridays in our courtyard for several weeks now. We were able to celebrate a simcha – Eva Sommer's bat mitzvah – in our sanctuary, with Torah reading and communal singing. And starting June 5, we are opening morning Shabbat services to in-person participation.

Our re-opening is happening in a carefully staged way, with *pikuach nefesh* our guiding principle. All BI members received an email detailing the current state of reopening and how to register for in-person services. Note that we recognize not everyone is able to attend in person as yet, and we will continue to simulcast via Zoom. If you have any questions on how to register for in person services or on who is eligible to attend in person, call the office. The article below provides more information from our medical advisor, Jeremy Golding.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE
JEREMY GOLDING, MD, ABFM, FAAFP

Our BI Streaming Service Working Group (SSWG) has been meeting regularly for months to coordinate weekly and holiday services at BI. Over the past few weeks, we have turned our attention to re-opening the synagogue to in-person services. I hope everyone has seen our reopening plan. It is available on the website at <https://www.bethisraelworc.org/shabbat-services.html>, and you can call the office if you would like a hard copy mailed to you.



We are very excited to be gathering again in person for prayer and community (and yes, very soon for kiddush!) All decisions about closing (and reopening) the synagogue were guided by a deep concern for *pikuach nefesh* (saving lives and protecting health) and more generally, by halacha. We've also been guided by Massachusetts state requirements.

I want to now share a little about the science behind the decisions we've made. I hope this will help the community understand our choices, and also help guide you in important choices you need to make.

Vaccination against Covid-19 has been a game-changer. The available shots are nearly 100% effective in preventing serious illness and hospitalization from Covid-19. They also dramatically reduce infections that make people feel sick, as well as infections that do not cause symptoms. Thus, immunization reduces transmission (contagion) of the virus to others. And yet, even immunized people must remain cautious, especially indoors. Coronavirus is transmitted by small and large droplets expelled by people while breathing, coughing, and... even more so by singing! Because even immunized people can re-transmit infection to non-immunized people, we need to wear masks when doing indoor activities, especially when these higher-risk activities are indoors with many other people. Masks are dramatically effective in reducing transmission.

Doctors and public health experts need a bit more time and data to be confident in recommendations relaxing all restrictions. Once we are confident that transmission rates remain low, even with the newer, more contagious (and potentially more deadly) variants now beginning to circulate in the US, we can relax indoor masking requirements. I anticipate that we will continue to require that all vaccine-eligible attendees at indoor events be immunized for the foreseeable future. Risk of transmission of virus outdoors appears to be extremely low. It appears likely that we will not need to require immunization for all attendees at outdoor activities, such as those occurring over the summer.

If you have not already gotten immunized, I URGE you to do so promptly for three reasons. First: for your own health and safety. Second: to help keep safe the doctors, nurses, and other health professionals who have risked our lives over the past 1.5 years to care for everyone. Third: to protect your family and community whose physical, mental, and economic well-being depend on not allowing new, vaccine-resistant strains to emerge. We need EVERYONE to get this safe and extremely effective vaccination. Although vaccination appointments were difficult to come by in the early weeks of vaccination, they are now easily available in many different settings.

It has been my privilege to serve as Medical Advisor to our BI community. I am just delighted that I will be joining you soon, in person, to pray, to eat, and to say "L'chaim!!". Stay safe.

BING HAS PLANS!

Beth Israel Next Generation – our young adults affinity group usually abbreviated as BING – has a number of plans for the summer. Some are set and others will be finalized after this issue of BI@Home. For updated information, consult weekly emails and the BI Website’s calendar. Here’s what we know for now:



Berry/fruit picking – We’ll be picking blueberries this summer and apples in September. Stay tuned for the exact dates.

Movie nights – Stay tuned or update on when, where and which movies.

Botanical printing challah covers - This fun and easy craft is planned for Sunday, August 8th.

Challah making with Rabbi Aviva Fellman – Coming your way on Sunday, August 29th.

Havdalah Happy Hour – BING is continuing its popular series of monthly Havdalah get-togethers with a theme or activity. Mark your calendars for June 19th, July 24th, Aug 28th.

Want more information on these and other BING activities? Watch your weekly email and/or join the BING Facebook group.

JOIN BI FOR FUN AND LEARNING WITH MEMBERS TOGETHER

On select Sunday mornings each month, we meet for a presentation, breakfast, and a chance to hang out with other BI members and their friends, all safely accomplished via Zoom. The last Members Together Program of the 2020-2021 season will be on June 6 when new dad Noah Slovin will talk to us about Sustainability and the Torah. What does our Torah have to say about protecting the earth? About living in a sustainable way? Come to this program to find out. And you might get a glimpse of baby Z’ev in the process.

Join us at 9:00 a.m., right after morning minyan. Bring coffee and breakfast, if you like. We’ll have half an hour of schmoozing, breaking into smaller groups if there is a large turnout. Then at 9:30 our guest speaker will present, leaving time for Q&A at the end.

We’re already thinking about programming for 5782. Do you have ideas for future Members Together? Contact Dale Rosenberg at dle@bethisraelworc.org or call the office and ask for Dale.

PROJECT ZUG – STILL TIME TO STUDY

Our partnership with Project Zug of Hadar Institute continues through the summer. Whether you are someone who has taken all of our group classes, someone who hasn’t even looked at the Project Zug website, or somewhere in between, it’s not too late to sign up for partnered learning with Project Zug. You can partner with someone at BI, or have the Project Zug staff find a chevruta for you. They will match you with someone with similar interests and time constraints. Close friendships have been formed through study partnership! Go to the Project Zug website (projectzug.org) or contact Dale Rosenberg, Director of Learning and Engagement, if you want to know more.



MAZAL TOV TO OUR SHUL COMMUNITY'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Several BI families have children graduating from high school this year. We asked the parents to tell us about their graduates and give us a picture to share with the community. They are an impressive bunch! I'm sure many of you remember them as small children.

Jessie Cohen



We're thrilled to announce that Jessie will be graduating high school this year and attending Wellesley College. She'll be majoring in political science on a pre-law track. She's graduating in the top 6% of her class, is a National Honor Society member, Goddard Scholar and Questbridge finalist. She's a cheesecake enthusiast, has yet to find an ice cream flavor she doesn't like, and still can't crochet, despite having more than a year in COVID isolation to work on it. In high school, she was captain of her Mock Trial team and is looking forward to joining the Wellesley team, working on their newspaper, and exploring all of the opportunities that Wellesley has to offer! We're so proud of Jessie, and though we'll miss her singing, her haphazard and enthusiastic cooking, and her unending ability to make

us laugh, we can't wait to see her shine!

- *Marc and Melissa Cohen*

Sophia Jacobson

Sophia, you are an amazing young woman and we are so very proud of you! You are brave, bold, smart, creative, funny, and beautiful inside and out. You are caring and considerate and full of energy and enthusiasm. You truly bring joy to everyone who gets to know you.

You have had a very impressive four years in high school and we have loved seeing how much you have grown and all that you have accomplished. In the classroom, your teachers and classmates saw your intelligence, curiosity, and strong voice. On the fields and court, you wowed your coaches and teammates as a three-season athlete, playing fiercely as goalie for soccer and showing leadership and skill as Captain for basketball and softball. Outside of school, you went above and beyond, including enriching your Jewish knowledge and studies and arranging with your school to spend the Spring semester of your sophomore year in Israel with TRY (Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim). In your community, you found ways to give back. During COVID when everyone was stuck at home, you arranged, edited and sent out videos of "beautiful children." As the USY President, you edited together the videos about pie baking, menorah lighting, and asking the four questions.



We are thrilled about the adventures you have ahead of you. This summer, campers will be lucky to have you as their counselor and lifeguard at Ramah--your summer home away from home. We are so excited that you will take a gap year in Israel next year on the Nativ program. After that, we can't wait to see all that you learn, accomplish, and experience as a Presidential Merit Scholar at Muhlenberg. We are confident that you will continue to bring joy, excitement, new ideas, compassion, and so much more into this world.

- *Jonathan and Sara Jacobson*

Naomi Shertzer

We are so proud of Naomi, graduating with High Honors from Doherty Memorial High School's Engineering and Technology Academy! At Doherty, Naomi was active on the Worcester High School Swim team and dabbled in a number of other extra curriculars. This past semester she was particularly engaged in an internship at WPI focused on engineering strategies for AI-human interaction.



She has also been a committed member of our Worcester Jewish Community: Naomi has worked as a Madricha at Rimon for four years, volunteered weekly in the JCC finance office for three years, and has been working as a lifeguard at the JCC pool (perhaps you've seen her there!), as well. When Naomi is not torturing her little brother, she is a supportive and loving sister. She is a thoughtful family member and active participant in our ongoing political debates. Naomi values time with extended family, including the time spent with Grandma Ginny before she died, and is a committed friend. She is excited to take her love of math, interest in engineering and liberal arts, and her commitment to Jewish community to Lafayette College in Easton, PA. She will work as a counselor and lifeguard at Camp Ramah New England this summer.

- *Deb Martin and Dan Shertzer*

Kayla Traiger

Kayla is graduating with High Honors from the Engineering Technology Academy at Doherty Memorial High School. During her four years at Doherty, she held leadership positions as president of student council, class treasurer, National Honor Society officer, and number one singles player and captain of the tennis team. Also, during this timeframe, she participated in the Worcester USY chapter as president and religious education Vice President and in the HaNer region as the Israel Affairs Vice President. Finally, she enjoyed working at Eisenberg Assisted Living as a waitress during the academic year and this summer will return to Camp Ramah as a counselor. In the fall, she will be attending the nursing program at Northeastern University, where she plans to play tennis, join a sorority, study abroad and be involved with Hillel. We are very proud of her and are looking forward to her next chapter!



- *Laura and Rich Traiger*

Jacob Weiner



We are proud beyond words of Jacob's courageous, creative, and compassionate spirit, which has been an inspiration to us and to others since he was a toddler. He attended Sudbury Valley School, where he cultivated his love of learning, his artistry and his entrepreneurial ethic, launching a business selling homemade ice cream to his classmates. During this last pandemic year, Jacob taught himself as he achieved a HiSet certificate through Quinsigamond Community College. His compassion and deep reservoir of commitment to others guided him through several years working with special-needs campers at Camp Ramah in New England, a passion he plans to continue as he begins studies to be an Emergency Medical Technician in the fall. Jacob is also a budding filmmaker, writing, directing and filming short movies. Jacob is an inspiration and our hero, and we couldn't possibly be prouder of what he's accomplished and of all that lies ahead for him.

- *Greg and Rebecca Weiner*

COLLEGE GRADUATES AND BEYOND!

We featured high school graduates in this issue of BI@Home. We want to feature the college, professional school, and grad school graduates in our next issue. Did you or your child or grandchild recently graduate with an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree? We want to know about that! This is a chance to share family accomplishments with your BI family. Don't be afraid to toot your own (or your child's or grandchild's) horn. Send a blurb (150-200 words) and a photo to Dale Rosenberg at dle@bethisraelworc.org. Questions? Email Dale or call the BI office and ask to be connected to her.

CELEBRATING BROTHERHOOD WITH A SPECIAL SHABBAT

This year we have already had a few special Shabbatot to celebrate key constituencies in our shul: Youth Shabbat, Sisterhood Shabbat, and Life & Legacy Shabbat. Because of COVID restrictions, all of those events were marked with a Zoom Shabbat service. However, the last – but very much not least – of this series of Shabbatot will be in person! It's an amazing thing to be able to see one another, read Torah from the scroll and sing together in our beautiful sanctuary. And we can do all of that while we celebrate Beth Israel Brotherhood.

June 19 will be our annual Brotherhood Shabbat. What would Beth Israel be without the Famous Brotherhood Breakfasts, the World Wide Wrap, and other programs created and populated by our Brotherhood members? Honor them at Shabbat morning services as Brotherhood leads prayers and readings and takes on Torah reading and other responsibilities.

As with our other in person services, only vaccinated congregants may attend in the sanctuary. You must preregister, either by filling out an online form or calling the office, and must follow all safety rules. The service will be simulcast on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Brotherhood is planning a very special Shabbat service. Make the service even more special by showing up in force (in-person and remotely) to honor this key group.

EXPLORING JUDAISM MINI-COURSE

So many converts, potential converts, and Jews who just wanted a better grounding in our faith have benefited from the Exploring Judaism course Rabbi Fellman offers. This summer, the rabbi will give a taste of this enlightening course in a mini-series on three Monday nights: July 12, July 26, and August 9 at 7:45 p.m. If you've thought about taking the class but weren't sure this is a way to put your toe in and see if it's for you. If you want to take the full course in the fall, here's a chance to get a head start. If you'd just like to broaden your knowledge of Judaism and have those Monday evenings free, it's for you, too. If you are interested in registering, contact Rabbi Fellman.

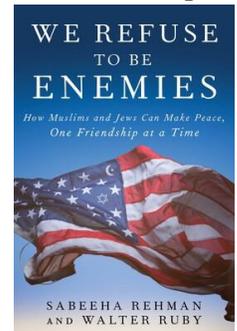
TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME: WOOSOX JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT AUGUST 1



Worcester has our own baseball team! The Worcester Red Sox – also known as the Woosox – are a Triple A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, and they are playing in the new Polar Stadium. The Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts is planning a Jewish Heritage event with the Woosox on August 22. Mark your calendars now. This is a chance to cheer on the home team and show your pride in your Jewish heritage at the same time. Watch your weekly email for details.

RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE – BOOK TALK ABOUT MUSLIM/JEWISH CONNECTIONS

The Racial Justice Initiative Committee is planning a book talk in June. On Wednesday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m. we'll have a presentation by Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby, authors of the new book: *We Refuse to be Enemies: How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace, One Friendship at a Time*. As the publisher (Simon and Schuster) says in the press release for the book, “*We Refuse to Be Enemies* is a manifesto by two American citizens, a Muslim woman and Jewish man, concerned with the rise of intolerance and bigotry in our country along with resurgent white nationalism. Neither author is an imam, rabbi, scholar, or community leader, but together they have spent decades doing interfaith work and nurturing cooperation among communities. They have learned that, through face-to-face encounters, people of all backgrounds can come to know the Other as a fellow human being and turn her or him into a trusted friend. In this book, they share their experience and guidance.”



The presentation will be done via Zoom (so sorry, no book signing that evening). Mark your calendar now. You can read the book ahead of time, or get excited to read it at the book talk. We've invited local Muslim communities to join us, as well as other synagogues. Register on the shul website, or contact the office. All registrants will receive the Zoom link via email.

If you attended services for Parashat Acharei Mot/Kedoshim, you heard Rabbi Fellman's extraordinarily moving Dvar Torah on the topic of our responsibility not to stand idly by at the blood of our neighbors. She exhorted us to all kinds of action, including a shout out to join the Racial Justice Initiative Committee in its efforts to highlight this important area of inequity in our society. If you have an idea for a Racial Justice Initiative program or would like to join the Committee, contact Alan Harris.

CYCLING, PICNICS, NATURE WALKS – IT'S UP TO YOU!



Summer is a great time for activities that don't take a lot of planning. Would you like to go on a picnic, a lake outing, a bicycle ride, a nature walk? Do you want to see if other BI community members are interested? All you have to do is get the details of your plans to Dale Rosenberg by Wednesday to get your event announced in the weekly email that comes out on Saturday night after Havdalah. It's the happy medium between planning and spontaneity! Send Dale an email with what you'd like to do or call and she will take all the details down over the phone. Dale can be reached at dle@bethisraelworc.org or at 508-756-6204 x227.

PLAN NOW FOR BACK TO SHUL ON AUGUST 29

On the last Sunday in August, BI hosts a “Back to Shul” event, in which we welcome back members of our community who were away over the summer and also provide lots of info to old, new, and prospective members on plans for the coming year. This year's Back to Shul day is August 29. There will be a barbecue, activities for people of all ages, information about all the different BI groups and activities. Watch for details in the next issue of BI@Home, which will come out in August and focus on the High Holy Days.

RETURN TO PARIS Food Frenzy!

We had so much fun on our last tour to Paris that we have decided to rejoin Karen, our guide, for another jaunt to Paree.

Last time we focused on the Jewish history of this great city.

This time it's a **FOOD FRENZY!**

See a typical Paris market.

Learn how the French shop, cook, and eat.

Learn the history of French cuisine.

See the cheeses, the kosher sausage, the desserts!

Ooh la la!!

From savory to sweet, learn how to eat like a Parisian.



Line up your snacks and join us on Zoom:

Sunday June 13th, at 4:30 p.m. for a 2-hour trip to Paris.



This trip is a fundraiser for the Beth Israel Endowment Fund. \$10 per connected screen covers our costs. Please consider purchasing an “Admission Plus” ticket. \$18 contributes \$8 to the Endowment and \$28 contributes \$18 to the Endowment.

Register on the Beth Israel Website at <https://www.bethisraelworc.org/event/paris-tour.html> or call the office at 508 756-6204 to register. Once registered you will get the Zoom credentials via email.

Questions? Email dle@bethisraelworc.org



WINE TASTING EVENT – JUNE 19 @1:00 P.M.

Remember those great wine tasting events that Dan Shertzer and Deb Martin used to lead? Well, we've got one scheduled and it's just in time to buy some summer wines. We'll meet in the courtyard after the special Brotherhood Shabbat service at 12:15 p.m. The wine tasters will sit in socially distant, household groupings. In the event of inclement weather, we will conduct the tasting in the social hall.

OUR WINE JOURNEY THIS YEAR: We will be basing our tasting on the selection of house wines from the Parisian restaurant "La Fille Du Boucher.' It is a super fun deli with a really wonderful selection of wines. Bring your stories of Paris, kosher restaurants, and the joy of being together. The key wines we expect to taste are La Fille Du Boucher's: Cote du Rhone, Pinot, Bordeaux, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. With its Parisian theme this will be a great follow up to our Food Tour of Paris. What's better than wine with food?



HOW IT WORKS:

Deb & Dan and others, will lead us on a fun wine tasting experience. It's a unique opportunity to have a fun afternoon outing while supporting the shul you love.

Once seated, you will receive a kit of tasting accoutrements (French you know - keeping the theme) including the wines and snack pairings. This will not be a full meal.

We will have the opportunity to learn about:

1. The flavors and offer insights on the winemaking process.
2. Food, pairings for each wine, and the experience of the kosher world of Paris.
3. One another's experiences and stories as we open up for questions and discussion.

PURPOSE:

Proceeds after cost from this event will support BI. In particular, this is one of several events we are planning that are designed to build our endowment. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to order wines for your summer backyard (or beach, or shabbat, or however you want) enjoyment.

We are planning on having a great time together on June 19 and hope you will join us. We think we all deserve a drink!

BUY TICKETS:

You must pre-register for this event! Tickets are \$18 or \$36 per person, depending on how much you wish to donate. We estimate that the cost of the event is about \$12 per person, so anything over that is a donation. There will also be a small (\$2 per bottle) surcharge for wine ordered through the shul after the event. All proceeds will go to build the BI Endowment fund. You can buy tickets online (see your weekly email for the link) or by calling the office.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the event, call the office.

WATCH PARTY: THE MEYEROWITZ STORIES (NEW AND SELECTED), JULY 14

Let's have a Watch Party! On Wednesday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m. we will gather and watch a movie together and discuss it afterwards. We'll show the film on Zoom, so you can watch from your home, your vacation spot, or wherever you choose. Our film is the critically acclaimed 2017 comedy/drama "The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)." This award-winning comedy/drama centers on a dysfunctional Jewish family.

Dustin Hoffman plays Harold Meyerowitz, the many times married patriarch of the family. Harold is a sculptor who feels he doesn't get the recognition he deserves. The three grown Meyerowitz offspring – played by Adam Sandler, Ben Stiller, and Elizabeth Marvel – all have beefs with their father and with one another. A grand-daughter, played by Grace Van Patten, is a student filmmaker who shows her family a work with subject matter one doesn't usually screen for a father and grandfather. Emma Thompson as Harold's current wife and Candice Bergen as one of the former wives add to this all-star cast. Director Noah Baumbach brings out the best in all of them.

The conflicts among the various Meyerowitzes are played for laughs, yet with an underlying seriousness that makes this film hard to categorize. Glenn Kenny said, in the New York Times review, that "With this film, Mr. Baumbach has achieved a near-perfect balance between engagement and discomfort...the acting is spectacular. Ms. Thompson is hilarious, Ms. Marvel applies her customary note-perfect execution of character, and Ms. Van Patten is what they call a find. And while Mr. Stiller's Matthew is both reliably and appealingly neurotic, it is Mr. Sandler who excels, both riotously and poignantly."



You'll find you can relate to all three generations of Meyerowitz's, in different ways. Check your weekly emails or contact the office to get the Zoom link. Then line up your popcorn and sweets and we'll go to the movies! There is no charge for this event.

YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE: RIMON RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, RIMON PRE-K AND USY DALE ROSENBERG, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT



The school year is winding down. In Rimon, we have only a few instructional sessions left. Although our school year has been on Zoom, we are planning for an in-person end of year party on June 14 and hope that most of the students will be able to attend. Families are welcome!

We have managed to have some outdoor in-person events in recent weeks. Our Lag B'Omer barbecue was marred by rain. However, we turned it into a drive through event. BI Members drove up and received a hamburger and/or hot dog dinner to go, and families with children got goody bags including fun toys and trinkets and the craft projects we'd planned to do if the weather had cooperated.

More successful from a weather point of view were two in person events we held just before Shavuot. In the morning we had the last session of our USY Project Zug course. Although we have met

on Zoom throughout the course, we were able to meet in person, outside, for the last class. It was so wonderful to see the USY-ers and to study together under the trees and on the grass.

Then in the afternoon we had a joint event with Rimon, Rimon Pre-School/Tot Shabbat, and BING (Beth Israel Next Generation) at Elm Park in Worcester. There was storytelling, consumption of much homemade ice cream and cheesecake, a crafts project, and a short hike. Twenty-five people attended and all had a wonderful time.

We are beginning to plan youth activities for the fall and will do so in consultation with Jeremy Golding, our medical advisor. Recognizing that families have different issues and different circumstances, we hope to have a mix of in person and remote activities in the coming year and to offer both in-person and Zoom options for classes and Hebrew tutoring. More details will be shared as they become clearer.

One thing that is clear – we have great energy around youth programming at BI! Laura Traiger, who has served as USY Advisor for ten years is stepping down this summer. We are really excited that Rowan Mason, who has served as our Early Childhood Educator for a couple of years, will now have a dual role. They will take over for Laura and continue to provide Tot Shabbat and Rimon Pre-School programs as well. Rowan officially starts in their new role on July 1, but they will be meeting with Laura to learn more about USY at BI during the month of June.

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS ARE THE BEST!



Summer time and the birthdays are easy, even during (towards the end of – Ezrat HaShem) a pandemic. Outside gatherings are feasible, whether at home or in our beautiful local parks or at a lake. Fresh fruit is plentiful; it's a great time for outdoor games and picnics and general fun. The following Beth Israel members are celebrating birthdays between now and September. Let's all wish them *Yom Holedet Sameach* – a happy birthday, and health and wellbeing until 120!

June Birthdays to Celebrate: Susan Brunell, Marc White, Marc Cohen, Saul Slovin, Wendy Shepro, Brenda Litani, Glory Goldman, Ronald Silver, Samuel Weiner, Myra Aframe, Barbara Patashnik, Brian Doherty, Herbert Millman, Naomi Shertzer, Carol Glick, Gerard Martin, Victor Saffrin, Beth Cyr, Dan Shertzer, Jonathan Jacobson, Norman Goldman, Selma White, Rebecca Perlin, SONDY PADOW, Sheila Trugman, Idan Fellman, Bruce Wahle, Carol Goodman Kaufman, Howard Fixler, EmmaChaya Praver-Lipton, David Ladd, Minna Gregerman, Robert Golden, Karolyn Darvish, Noam Fellman, Greg Weiner, Irina Rabinovich, Andrew Kalvinek, Kenneth Kalvinek, Iona Hines, Ezra Hines.

July Birthdays to Toast: Eleanor Rodenstein, Michele Roberts, Eric Capellari, Jeremy Golding, Ari Fellman, Lois Singer, Robert Sherman, Sylvia Webman, Benjamin Ushman, Silvia Leb, David Etedgee, Samuel Cohen, Earle Skiest, Elizabeth Baker, Ruth Ladd, Marion S. Hodes, Judy Silverstein, Seircha Hines, Maya Katz, Steven Wolfe, Arielle Ganem-Rosen, David Kravitz, Richard Silver, Dov Ushman, Anna Krendel, Ellen McShera, Mansour Moheban, David Suhl, Roberta Kravitz, Avi Fischer.

August Birthdays to Revel In: Leah Honor, Cantor Neuba Miriam Silva, Jakob Voelker, Alissa Schimmel, Micah Bergman, Jeffrey Borenstein, Sara Stone, Julian Kates, Marlene Farbman, Vladimir Rabinovich, Sara Jacobson, Akiva Lichtenberg, Morris Bergman, Sally Chinian, Elaine Baskin, Rowan Mason, Steven Schimmel, Sharon Krefetz, Herbert Daroff, Edward Glick, Shaaron Hoffman, Mark Millman.

ADULT EDUCATION AT BETH ISRAEL

The Rabbi, Vice President of Education, and Director of Learning and Engagement are hard at work planning for adult education in the fall. A focus group is being convened to discuss options and possible topics, teachers, and methods. Look for an all-congregation survey coming out soon. What do you want to learn? When is it most convenient for you to learn? Do you prefer in person, remote, or some of each? Would you like to see more tours, more text study, more history, something else? We want to offer what you want to receive! So, fill out the survey when it shows up in your inbox.

PLANT A RADISH SHARE A RADISH

Do you garden? Do you have too much of a good thing during harvest times? Instead of sneaking those zucchini onto your neighbor's porch, how about sharing? We're starting a new program on June 20, lasting throughout the summer. We'll be collecting produce and sharing it with those in need.

Simply take your extras to the basket that will be in front of the synagogue or to Bunny Callahan's front porch at 74 Richmond Avenue in Worcester by Wednesday of every week and the bounty will go to the free fridge downtown. Easy peasy, shared!



**NHC Online Summer Institute: July 25
– August 8.**

Join the National Havurah Committee for an online summer vacation of Jewish learning, spirituality, and community. There is something for everyone! Many of your Beth Israel friends and family will be there. Due to COVID concerns, the Institute is online again this year. It's a low-cost way to find out what the National Havurah Committee's Summer Institute is all about. Once you try it, you'll be

hooked. Then next year you can join for a week of in person learning and fun!

Details on courses and other experiences, as well as how to register, can be found at <https://havurah.org/summer-institute-2021/>

What You Need To Know:

1. The Richmond Family Foundation has generously donated a grant to the Synagogue to expand and enhance the Playground.
2. As we return to meeting in person the Playground will be used after services on Shabbat, during Rimon Religious School, and for Family Events and More!
3. In order to make the Playground the best it can possibly be there are additional matching funds available from the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and from an anonymous donor.

How Can You Help:

1.

DONATE!

<https://www.bethisraelworc.org/payment.php>

For every dollar donated up to \$3000 we get two times the amount.

2. The money you donate will go towards...

- Enhanced climbing structures
- Basketball
- Hopscotch
- Four square
- Tetherball
- Gaga court
- Bench to watch children playing
- Picnic Table

Thank you to all that have donated and all that will.

Please make your donations by check or on the BI website by June 15th.

Questions? Contact The Beth Israel office at [508-756-6204](tel:508-756-6204) or Sara Jacobson.

Watch the BI Calendar for a dedication ceremony.





Our Mission:
To protect and enhance the well-being of Jews
in our community and worldwide

Jewishcentralmass.org

Do you have a business that could use more exposure? BI@Home is delivered to the homes of all Beth Israel members. An advertisement here can have real impact at a low price! Email dle@bethisraelworc.org for details.

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