

BI@Home: **News from your home away from home**

Contact Congregation Beth Israel

508 756-6204

office@bethisraelworc.org

15 Jamesbury Drive Worcester 01609

www.bethisraelworc.org

In This Issue...

A Word from Rabbi Fellman – p. 1

Purim is Coming – p. 2

Some Ideas About Miracles by Greg
Weiner – p. 3

Highlights of Recent Events – p. 3

BI@100 Anniversary Celebration – p. 4

Memory Book & Memorabilia – p. 5

Volunteers for BI@100 – p. 5

Rimon Update – p. 6

Social Action in Action – p. 6

BI@Home Wants You – p. 7

SIR Recap – p. 7

Adult Education – p. 7

Celebrate with us! – p. 9

Israel Trip – p. 9

Chapel Renovation – p. 10

Chametz Sale Form – p. 11

Bagels and Books – p. 12

A WORD

FROM RABBI FELLMAN

A number of years ago, when our eldest child was in kindergarten, I was walking her to school and every three steps she kept stopping. For her, every leaf, every dandelion, every ant was a cause to pause and marvel at the awesomeness of the world. For me, they were each a cause of mounting frustration and increasing impatience. I had other things to do and places to get to, an office and job that was counting on my, e-mails to check, errands to run, laundry and a sink full of dishes to tackle, phone calls to return, articles and sermons to write. Don't get me wrong, I loved that morning time together, I just didn't understand why it had to take so much time and seem excruciatingly long for such mundanely common things.



Abraham Joshua Heschel, a leading Jewish American rabbi, scholar and philosopher of the 20th century wrote about the concept of Radical Amazement. He wrote, "Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed."

I needed her daily reminders to slow down and live in the present. This was how my daughter was living life and I was too busy living in the future and keeping my head down and busy that I was missing the beauty of the world around me. I was too concerned with planning what was coming next that I failed to live in the awesomeness of the present. My daughter's amazement at a brown leaf, an ant, a dandelion was my wake up call to be in awe of all of the moving parts in our world. It forced me to slow down a bit and while the ant, leaf, and weed were not causing me awe, her reactions and focus did. She was (and continues to be) a source of reminder to live with radical amazement. Recently, I was honored to participate in The College of the Holy Cross' Multifaith Community Day of Prayer. Celebrated on the first day of the spring semester, the multi-faith service which includes Buddhist, Muslim, Hindi, and Jewish representation, includes teachings from the different faiths, music, and meaningful ritual. This year the theme was titled "Cherishing God's Creation" and focused on the environment and our connection and responsibility to our climate. I shared a story from the Talmud that addresses our dreaming about the future with an injunction about how it is our responsibility to build solid and reliable foundations for those futures that we won't see.

After the service, I was approached by a Holy Cross senior who shared that during a class her freshman year, she visited our synagogue. She related how I showed them around, answered their questions, and said something profound to her that she has held and embodied throughout her college experience. She enthusiastically reiterated that she has held the “dandelion story” as her guiding and grounding message through her collegiate journey. The importance of recognizing the holiness, unique quirkiness, and awe inherent in the daily routine and of simply being.

I have come to embrace that living with an awareness of Radical Amazement means that I take a moment to appreciate the vibrant colors of the foods I eat, on my plate and even while shopping in the supermarket. I pause to take a deep breath when I step outside before walking faster to my car to make up that time and get where I am going. I try to be more present and “multi-task” less while speaking with others so that I focus my attention on the relationship being built in the moment. And I try to embrace the holiness in the everyday pulse of being, especially in those totally “normal” days and how they also contribute to the beauty of the calendar and build to the holidays that we think of as more holy.

Abraham Joshua Heschel also taught that “People of our time are losing the power of celebration. Instead of celebrating we seek to be amused or entertained. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation. To be entertained is a passive state--it is to receive pleasure afforded by an amusing act or a spectacle.... Celebration is a confrontation, giving attention to the transcendent meaning of one's actions.”

The holidays of Purim and Passover are seemingly right around the corner but while I work to plan for those, and acknowledge the incredible miracles that mark those observances, I am going to appreciate and celebrate those dandelions as they start to grow, the ants as they begin to encroach in my space and notice the leaves that are just starting to bud on the trees. Acknowledging the mundane daily miracles enables us to be more fully ready to embrace the miracles of the bigger holidays. When we can open up to the awesomeness around us, it makes it easy to see all of the ways in which we are supported, in the role that we play in something much larger. It gives us perspective and makes us aware of how much good there is in our lives, even when the hard parts are still present, even when we feel that there are more pressing places to be and things to do.

PURIM IS COMING! PURIM IS COMING! PURIM IS ALMOST HERE!

Nobody does Purim like Beth Israel! Put on your dancing shoes, your colorful costume, and dive into your sense of joy, whimsy, and raucous celebration. Join us for:

- Carnival! Bring your inner child to Shabbat services on Saturday, **March 4th** and enjoy some favorite Shabbat-friendly Purim carnival games in the Social Hall during Kiddush. All welcome to play, those under 4 feet tall might have the most fun!
- Hamantaschen Baking! Volunteers are needed to help roll, press, fill, etc. Sunday morning, **March 5th, at 10:00 am** Regardless of your experience or skill level, master baker Lydia Borenstein has a job for you.
- Klezmer Dance Party at the White Room! On **March 5 at 6:00 pm** it's time to get in the Purim spirit with music, dance, and – above all – fun! A Klezmer ensemble including our own Jack Soref will perform. Open to the public, no admission charge or cover charge. Come in costume! Bring your own supper! Cash bar, relaxed atmosphere in a fun gallery space.
- The Main Event: Service, Megillah Reading, Shpiel, and Raffle! On Monday, **March 6 at 7:00 pm** we'll experience the wild joy that is Purim at BI. This year's Shpiel is themed “PBS: Purim Broadcasting Service.” We'll read Megillah again the next morning as part of our **7:30 am** services.
- Rachel's Table Purim Food Drive! **The drive continues through March 17.** It's a great way to fulfill the mitzvah of providing for the poor on Purim.



SOME IDEAS ABOUT MIRACLES

GREG WEINER, BETH ISRAEL PRESIDENT

Purim and Passover present a profound contrast on the idea of miracles, or so it seems to me. And the contrast might be instructive for our congregational future.

I struggle a bit with the Passover miracles. A reader contemplating the story with innocent eyes might very well wonder whether Pharaoh is as much the victim as the aggressor. He repeatedly tries to let the Jewish People go. He even asks Moses to pray for him. But God stiffens Pharaoh's heart. There's a sense that these miracles simply need to happen for the sake of our story as a people—that they are part of a necessary Divine plan.

Contrast that with the Purim story. God's name never appears in Megillat Esther. Seemingly miraculous things do happen, but they are the work of human determination, human vision and human courage.

The fact that these stories bookend this season is a compelling reminder that we need both kind of miracles—maybe even that the kind we work with our own hands are a necessary predicate, or at least accompaniment, to those for which we depend on God.

Might that say something about our congregational life? What a beautiful miracle it is that Beth Israel has endured for a century, across dramatic changes in Jewish life in general and the Worcester community in particular. It's hard not to see God's hand at work. But it's equally hard not to see our own.

For those who attend Finance Committee meetings, which present unrelenting budgetary challenges, simply hanging on, seems miraculous. That's the work of many hands, from our lay leaders to our professional staff. We might need a combination of our hands and God's to shift into a growth mentality in which our goal is not simply to survive but to thrive.

That's within our reach. The economic growth in Worcester presents immense opportunities for us to expand our membership and, perhaps more important, our engagement. There are almost certainly unaffiliated Jewish professionals—many of them young, many with families—coming to Worcester. Engaging them, and beginning to grow, would be a miracle—one we work, and for which we depend on God as well.

HIGHLIGHTS of RECENT EVENTS:

On Sunday, February 12th, BI hosted a number of events in our building that were partnered with the greater community. The morning started with the FJMC World Wide Wrap during morning minyan and then students and others from BI, Congregation Agudat Achim (Leominster), and Beth Tikvah (Westborough) came together under the direction and leadership of BI Social Action for "SouperBowl" Sunday! Together the communities learned about our obligation towards others, food insecurity, and then made meals that were distributed locally to help those in need. What a Mitzvah-filled morning!





BI@100 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

NANCY SPITULNIK AND PAULA SOMMER, CO-CHAIRS

Our 100th anniversary is coming next year - 2024! At Beth Israel, we are proud of our strong history and heritage. We are proud of who we are and of everything we do that shapes our distinguished identity as an inspiring and caring community. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, we honor this legacy as we reflect on what we have done in the past, who we are in the present, and what we hope to do in the future. The following list details our plans for this meaningful celebration.

Honoring the Past: Spotlighting our memories and the members who have made us what we are today.

- Collecting and displaying memorabilia that details our important history in the city of Worcester and the greater Jewish community.
 - Gathering memories and stories that highlight our special connections to Beth Israel.
- The memorabilia and memory book projects are underway. The separate article below has more information.

Celebrating the Present: Highlighting the special qualities of today's Beth Israel and our unique place in Worcester's Jewish life with special activities and projects during the year.

- Scholar-in-Residence weekends to highlight our religious practices, language, culture, and history.
- Courses and workshops to help us be more knowledgeable about Judaism and comfortable with rituals such as leading services, chanting torah, reading haftorah, and writing a D'var Torah.
- Musical concerts and community sing-alongs featuring visiting guests and our own congregant talents.
- Klezmer band weekend focused on pride and knowledge of our Jewish and Yiddish heritage.
- Social events and gatherings to share our connections and friendships.
- Community trip to Israel to enrich our links to Israel and our fellowships with other congregations and the Jewish Federation.

Embracing the Future: Gazing into Beth Israel's bright future and sharing visions of what we hope to become.

- Workshops and programs to create a vision of what we hope Beth Israel will look like in 25 years.
- Time capsule that freezes what is important in our lives today, that our children and grandchildren will be excited to explore in future decades – l'dor v'dor, from generation to generation.
- Creation of a special synagogue project that permanently memorializes our celebration.

Our 100th anniversary celebration will culminate in a festive weekend from **May 31-June 2, 2024**. With your help and support, our anniversary weekend will include:

- Kabbalat Shabbat with Shabbat dinner on Friday night
- Special Shabbat services and kiddush lunch
- Joyous Saturday night dinner-dance
- Re-dedication on Sunday morning to renew our commitment to our Jewish heritage and our special Beth Israel community
- Festive gala luncheon that completes our anniversary celebration

Our entire 100th anniversary celebration will be memorialized in our beautiful memory book. This memory book will be available to each congregant as a remembrance of our remarkable year. We are already collecting items to be contained in this special book. You can help by submitting your photos, stories, and memories. The memory book will also contain written congratulatory wishes from congregants and community friends. We welcome your ideas, input, and particularly your involvement.

Please contact the project team at BI100@bethisraelworc.org.

100TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORY BOOK AND MEMORABILIA COLLECTION!

PAT BIZZELL

The 100th anniversary memory book will preserve our precious memories of meaningful moments at Beth Israel—from last week, last month, or long, long ago!

Please join your fellow BI members and former members who are sharing their stories. Your memoir can be 200-250 words, or more. Just take all the space you need to relate your experience.

Wonderful stories have already been contributed: someone has explained how his father's death returned him to daily minyan at BI, and another has recounted how her beloved mother-in-law recruited BI members to feed the needy, well before Rachel's Table existed.

Please email your story to me at pbizzell@holycross.edu, or type or hand-write it and mail it to me at 31 Chippewa Road, Worcester MA 01602. I am happy to help you find the right words if you wish.

Our memory project will also include a display of physical objects, photographs, posters and more (remember the "Make a Lulav Shake" tee-shirts?). Please contact Herb Daroff at HillelKarl@gmail.com to offer a donation.

Barbara Smith Mandel is remodeling our former cantor's office into a BI museum and archive and we'll share your memorabilia in a rotating display in the front window. We'll keep track of who donates what, and your memorabilia can be returned, or can become a part of Beth Israel's permanent collection. Pictures and documents can also be copied and the originals returned to you.

Thank you for sharing your special times with all of us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BI@100!

We need your help to make our 100th anniversary celebration a meaningful and joyous experience. We are looking for volunteers willing to be committee chairs or committee members on the following committees. Please contact us at BI100@bethisraelworc.org if you are willing to volunteer. Indicate if you would be willing to chair one of the activities below or are volunteering for the committee. Feel free to volunteer for more than one committee! With the help of our volunteers, we look forward to an outstanding 100th Anniversary Celebration!

COMMITTEES

- Facilitate publicity efforts
- Develop fundraising activities
- Collect and display memorabilia
- Solicit ads for the anniversary memory/ad book
- Plan a Scholar-in Residence weekend
- Organize a musical program
- Coordinate a social event related to the 100th anniversary
- Develop a process for congregants to develop a vision of BI's future
- Oversee the development of a special permanent memorial project
- Create a Time Capsule

FINAL WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS

- Plan a shabbat dinner for Friday night
- Organize a kiddush lunch for after Saturday shabbat services
- Plan a dinner/dance for Saturday night
- Design the re-dedication ceremony for Sunday morning
- Organize the gala luncheon for Sunday

SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

BUNNY CALLAHAN

Thank you to everyone for your participation in the winter coat drive.

A core Jewish value is *K'vod Habriyot*, remembering the dignity of your neighbor, and we were able to keep some of our neighbors warm in nice coats and hats this year.

We also make a meal for a residential shelter about twice a month. To participate, either by cooking something at home or purchasing part of a meal, please contact Michelle Cochran. We need people to be part of this tzedakah, and it is easy to pick something within your wheelhouse.

RIMON STUDIES AND EXPERIENCES EVERYDAY MIRACLES

DALE ROSENBERG, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT



In my nearly five years working with the children of Beth Israel in Rimon Religious School, I personally have experienced so many everyday miracles. Watching a child who spent almost a full semester without talking once in class suddenly speaking excitedly about the lesson of the day; watching older students grappling with difficult concepts; the pure joy of small people jumping with joy at the chance to lead one of our morning prayers; being asked “tell us the story again about...”; even seeing children experience Hebrew language in a small way by asking for snack in Hebrew – these all feel like small miracles to me. As we move into the months of Adar and Nissan and with them the holidays of Purim and Pesach, we’ll talk about miracles big and small in Rimon classes.

In March, as we prepare to mask ourselves and wear costumes that hide our true identities, our theme for Rimon will be hiding and revealing. What do we hide about ourselves? Where and with whom can we be our authentic selves? We will consider these questions as we read stories from our tradition that grapple with issues of who we are and who we seem to be. Our hero for the month will be Rabbi Yiscah Smith, an Orthodox Rabbi who is a transwoman.

Our April hero, Louis Brandeis, continues my frequent practice of teaching American Jewish history through major figures in our country’s development and success, people who are or were proud of their Jewish identity. Brandeis was a noted jurist and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. His judicial philosophy and accomplishments still resonate today, over 100 years after he joined the Supreme Court. He is credited with developing the judicial notion of the right to privacy, one that is under assault today. His writings on the concept of freedom will help to inform our study of Pesach, the Festival of Freedom. We’ll also talk about his lasting legacy in organizations named for him, including Brandeis University and Kibbutz Ein HaShofet (“the spring of the judge” – Brandeis is the judge.)

It's not all history and heroes, though. We’ll be making masks for Purim, holding a model seder (the students particularly look forward to hitting one another with scallions during the chorus of Dayenu), and engaging in the ever-popular Parasha Debates.

Do you want to drop in on Rimon some time? We always welcome guests! Class is held Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 and Shabbat mornings at 10:00.

BI@HOME WANTS YOU!

BI@Home is our print newsletter. It is sent to all members' homes 6 times per year. Are you working on a committee project? Do you have news to share about goings on at the shul? Do you have ideas for future articles? Contact Dale Rosenberg at DLE@bethisraelworc.org to pitch your idea. **Deadline for submissions for the next issue is April 15, 2023.**

ADULT EDUCATION AT BETH ISRAEL: THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Are you experiencing Adult Education at BI? Our aim is to offer learning opportunities that appeal to all of our diverse community. Questions about the courses or ideas for future ones? Contact Director of Learning and Engagement Dale Rosenberg at dle@bethisraelworc.org.



SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE RECAP

REENA SLOVIN

I'm writing this as we anticipate our Scholar in Residence Shabbat that was rescheduled for February 24-25. For the first time in three years, our congregation gathered to eat, learn and schmooze together with Hadar Institute's Rabbi Avi Strausberg. Knowing the wonderfully engaging teacher she is and the learning community we are, I'm sure that when you read this you'll reflect on the wonderful experience you had.

Rav Avi is the Senior Director of National Learning Initiatives at Hadar. She received her rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College in Boston, is a Wexner Graduate Fellow and holds a Masters in Jewish Education. Rabbi Strausberg has taught several Hadar Zug classes in which BI has participated, including Days of Awe and Fear; Everyday Dilemmas; and Power and Money."

The two study sessions and the sermon focused on the theme of "Worlds Within Words". During the Friday night session, we learned about God's creating the world with words and how we, like God, have the power to create and destroy with our words. We looked at sources from the world of Hasidut and Musar (Jewish ethics) to reflect upon the constructive and destructive power of language. The Saturday session dealt with the power to name and how names are deeply connected to identity. We looked at both early rabbinic and modern feminist midrashim (interpretations) to explore the relationship between naming, identity, and self-determination.

Looking ahead, the Education Committee is planning a second Shabbaton in the late spring (June 2-4). It will include singing and learning with singer/ song writer/ educator Rabbi Josh Warshawsky who will be leading services, teaching, speaking and working with our youth over the course of the Shabbat. He will also be performing a concert together with local musicians, students and our BI High Holiday singers.

In advance of BI@100, our committee hopes to dedicate a particular Shabbat in late fall 2023, when we will match hosts and guests for a Friday night dinner at the homes congregants. We will offer workshops during the week preceding that would include crafts, cooking, and learning skills and tips for how to do Friday night at home.

The education committee is also planning a series of speakers featuring scholars and teachers who grew up at Congregation Beth Israel. They include university professors, writers, performers and innovators. We hope to schedule these for Sunday mornings in the spring of 2024 in collaboration with Brotherhood, Sisterhood and the BI@100 Committee.

TGIF: Torah Goodness It's Friday with Rabbi Fellman

Fridays at 10:00 am

Get a jumpstart on Shabbat with TGIF (Torah Goodness It's Friday), Rabbi Fellman's weekly parasha class. We're meeting on Fridays in the Chapel (with a Zoom option for those unable to be physically present) to learn about the week's Torah reading.

Rabbi Fellman chooses a section of the parasha to discuss and provides us with the text and relevant commentary. We read it together and the rabbi offers insights and facilitates a discussion. The conversation is sometimes moving, occasionally contentious, often humorous in parts, and always engaging and enlightening.

There's no need to preregister or commit to coming every week. Drop ins are always welcome! See you Fridays at 10:00 am in the chapel or on Zoom. Check your weekly email for the Zoom link.



Divine Intervention in Jewish Texts and Tradition with Rabbi Fellman

Thursdays at 1:00 pm

What is the role of miracles and God in Jewish tradition and lore? Come and journey with us through the realms of hope, miraculous tales, and even the absurd as we look at texts that delve into the roles and existence of prophets, talking animals, speech impediments, Divine voice, angels, Rabbinic theology, moving trees and rivers, and more. This is Rabbi Fellman's current WISE course and it is being held on Zoom.

Cooking with Rabbi Eve Eichenholtz

Select Fridays at 11:00 am on Zoom

After TGIF, you can continue getting into the Shabbat mood by joining an online cooking class with Rabbi Eve Eichenholtz of Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster. On some Fridays at 11:00 am Rabbi Eichenholtz leads participants via Zoom in an exploration of new and familiar recipes from around the Jewish world, suitable for your Shabbat table.

Recipe suggestions and requests are always welcome! Check your weekly email for the Zoom link and what's cooking this week!

Project Zug Presents: The Triumph of Life

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm



This class continues in March. If you missed the beginning, contact Dale Rosenberg who will catch you up.

And remember – the whole Project Zug catalog is available to BI members at no cost, thanks to a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts.

Shabbat Plus with Rabbi Fellman: Seder Resources

Saturday, March 25 after Kiddush Lunch

After lunch we'll look at ways to make your seder more interesting with extra material for your haggadah. Do you want a seder that's more child-friendly? Focused on a specific interpretation of "freedom"? With readings about causes you care about? Come to this session and Rabbi Fellman will lead us in learning about resources that can be added to the traditional haggadah. You can also bring resources your family uses, to show to others.

Poetry, Tea, and Macaroons

Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Join us in the library after evening minyan for a special Passover program. We'll eat macaroons and drink tea and recite poetry written on the theme of Freedom.

The Racial Justice Initiative Presents: Exploring Race through Film

Sunday, March 19 at 6:00 pm The Hate U Give

Sunday, April 16 at 6:00 pm Rosenwald

The Racial Justice Initiative is offering an opportunity to think about issues of race through the lens of inspiring and/or provocative films. Each month we are getting together on the third Sunday of the month. We begin with a light supper, then screen a film, and follow with a facilitated discussion. The films for March and April are:

The Hate U Give, directed by George Tillman Jr., 2018. Based on the young adult novel by Angie Thomas, this feature film tells the story of a teenage African American girl who is witness to the murder of a black man by a policeman. With echoes of many other police shootings of black men, this film explores themes of contemporary racial tension and struggle in a story that feels true to life.

Rosenwald, directed by Aviva Kempner, 2015. A documentary about Julius Rosenwald, businessman and philanthropist who partnered with Booker T. Washington to build high quality schools for African American children throughout the Jim Crow south. From 1915 to 1932, 660,000 rural southern African-American students attended Rosenwald schools. The film also discusses the Rosenwald Fellowships, given to gifted African Americans in a variety of fields throughout the Great Depression and the 1940s. Recipients of Rosenwald Fellowships included many who would go on to become household names: Marian Anderson, Ralph Bunche, W. E. B. DuBois, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston, Gordon Parks, James Baldwin. After the film, Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal, a Rosenwald descendant, will offer more information on the Rosenwald family and lead a discussion.



SIMCHA? IMPORTANT MILESTONE? WE WANT TO KNOW!

Have you recently celebrated a family event – wedding, bar/bat mitzvah, new child, grandchild, or great grandchild? Were you recognized with an honor by a community organization? Have you (or your children or grandchildren) received an award? Your Beth Israel community wants to know! Our president, Greg Weiner, offers congratulations in the weekly announcements after Shabbat services and they are also featured in our weekly emails that come out right after Shabbat. Contact Dale Rosenberg, Director of Learning and Engagement, at dle@bethisraelworc.org or contact the office to spread the good news!

AND WE LOVE CELEBRATING TOGETHER OVER KIDDUSH! There are lots of ways to sponsor kiddush lunch. You can shop for pre-prepared foods, cook in our kosher kitchen, or hire a caterer. You'll be acknowledged in the weekly email and also in the end of service announcements. To join the Kiddush Club or to sponsor a special kiddush, contact Beth Cyr finance@bethisraelworc.org in the office.

ISRAEL TRIP – BI CONGREGATIONAL ADVENTURE!

PLANNING FOR NOVEMBER 2023 - UPDATE

Our plans for a congregational trip to Israel have come to fruition. This is a joint project of BI, Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster and the Jewish Federation. You can register now or get more information. Contact Rabbi Fellman or the office to get the full itinerary or watch your weekly emails for the registration link.

CHAPEL RENOVATION UPDATE

DEB FINS, CHAPEL RENOVATION CHAIR

Our renovated chapel is getting a lot of use! We hold daily minyan in the space, have classes like TGIF and Rimon Shabbat morning Tefilah instruction, and even held the annual World Wide Wrap program there, including two study sessions about tefillin. On a particularly cold Shabbat morning, we held services in the warmer chapel rather than in the large and colder sanctuary. We also were able to save on heating costs. Kudos to Howard Drobner who came in on Friday to move some of the technology equipment into the chapel. Unfortunately, there were some wi-fi issues due to the weather, so things did not work as well as we had hoped.



Congregants are enjoying the flexible seating and the ability to store tefillin and tallitot in the drawers at the back.

We continue to work on the Chapel as there are a few outstanding pieces to the project. Specifically, we need to install the computer to manage the camera, adjust the sightlines and review the lighting. There are some smaller repairs that Scott is working on. None of these issues has prevented daily use.

We are working on how to honor contributors and a rededication later this year. However, at this time, we would like to recognize all the donors to the project:

Barry Aframe	Sarah Metz Krissoff
Jay and Myra Aframe	Edward and Regina Leavitt
Howard and Susan Alfred	Lila Levy
Joel and Elizabeth Baker	Benjamin and Cara Lyons
David and Nancy Bayer	Steve Meenes
Inna Chernykova and Sev Semenov	Judith Noar
Sally Chinian	Sondra Padow
Michelle Cochran	Phyllis Pollack
David and Janice Cohen	Eleanor Rodenstein
Rhonda Cohen-Boyar	Ruth Rubin
Herbert and Andrea Daroff	Richard Rudnick/Sheila Trugman
Howard Drobner/Maxine Garbo	Victor Saffrin/Bunny Callahan
Marlene Farbman	Barbara Salitsky
Geraldine Feldman/David Epstein	Schwartz Charitable Foundation
Ari and Rabbi Aviva Fellman	Leon and Malka Sebag
Dan and Debbie Fins	Dan Shertzer/Deborah Martin
Howard and Jody Fixler	David Seidenberg
Frances Friedman	Merna Siff
Jack and Nancy Gold	Sheri Sigel/Denise Forbes
Robert and Gayle z"l Golden	Richard and Bonnie Silver
Jeremy Golding/Michele Roberts	Paula Sommer
Norman and Glory Goldman	Morton and Isabell Sreiberg
Arthur and Roberta Greenseid	Alan and Nina Stoll
Alan Harris/Evelyn Herwitz Harris	Marcia Tannenbaum
Jonathan Jacobson/Sara Jacobson	Wayne and Suzan Ushman
Edward and Merle Jellson	Greg and Rebecca Weiner
Joel Kaufman/Carol Goodman Kaufman	Samuel Weiner
Kenneth and Harriet Klayman	Steven and Judy Wolfe
Elliot and Sharon Krefetz	Terrel Yonda z"l

We offer a heartfelt thank you to the L.A.R.S. Sisterhood Legacy Fund for their generous donation towards the window treatments.

We also acknowledge the work of Howard Drobner, Jay Freedman and Bryan Coombs to wire the chapel and install the audio/visual equipment. And thank you to Michele Roberts for her work in fixing the amud (Torah reading table), to Karolyn Darvish and Louise Moheban for selecting the fabric for the amud cover, and Billie Adler for her assistance with choosing colors and other aesthetic matters.

SELLING YOUR CHAMETZ – MEKHIRAT CHAMETZ



WHAT?

Jewish law prohibits Jews from using or even possessing any chametz (leaven) during Pesach. To ensure compliance with this law, we clean our homes and, just to make sure, we transfer title on any remaining chametz to a non-Jew. This chametz becomes the property of the non-Jew for the duration of Pesach and should be set aside in a place where it will not be disturbed or seen during the holiday. The rabbi will serve as your agent for this transaction.

HOW?

If you would like the rabbi to sell your chametz, mail this form back to the synagogue or bring it to Congregation Beth Israel in person. Note the deadline below!

It is permissible for one person to sell the chametz for an entire family. However, to teach the importance of this mitzvah, all members of the family are encouraged to sign this form.

According to our tradition, one of the reasons that the Jews merited being taken out of Egypt was that they always remembered their Hebrew names. To keep that spirit alive, all are encouraged to add a Hebrew signature when selling their chametz. (If you need help with your name, call the rabbi.)

There is a longstanding tradition that when selling chametz, one should simultaneously contribute tzedakah to the synagogue's Maot Hittim (literally "wheat money") Fund. This Passover relief fund helps needy individuals here and abroad celebrate this holiday, as well as the rest of the Jewish year. Please make checks payable to "**Rabbi's Sunshine Fund.**"

WHEN?

Completed forms must arrive at Congregation Beth Israel **no later than Wednesday, April 5, at 8:30am** before the **rabbi sells the congregation's chametz**. No forms can be accepted after that time.

Note that the rabbi will arrange a post-Pesach chametz "buy back" **on Thursday, April 13, by 8:30 PM**. If you sell your chametz through the rabbi, please do not touch your chametz before this time. It's not yours until then!

Authorization of Proxy

We/I hereby authorize Rabbi Aviva Fellman of Congregation Beth Israel, Worcester, MA, to sell all chametz that may be in our/my possession. We/I understand that she will sell all chametz wherever it may be: at home, place of business, car or elsewhere, in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Jewish law.

Name(s): _____

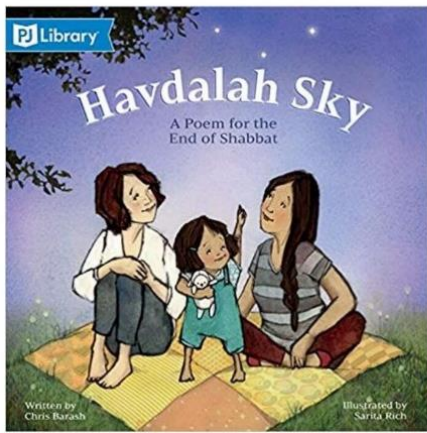
Hebrew Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Additional Names/Addresses: _____

Maot Hittim (literally "wheat money" – it is traditional to donate money to help members of our community celebrate Passover)

Amount Donated \$ _____



Congregation Beth Israel **and PJ Library present:**

Bagels and Books and Spring

Sunday, March 19

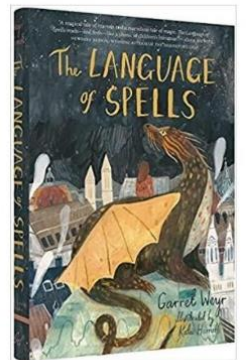
10:00 a.m. to noon

*15 Jamesbury Drive
Worcester, MA 01609*

Join Congregation Beth Israel for an event celebrating reading, community, and springtime! We'll provide lots of books, a springtime craft, and a snack.

This event will be fun for all ages and we will have an assortment of books to look at (and potentially borrow), from picture books to novels. We ask that families with children under 7 have an adult accompanying the children.

508-756-6204 for more information



Congregation Beth Israel
15 Jamesbury Drive
Worcester, MA 01609

Phone: 508-756-6204; email office@bethisraelworc.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm