

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

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In This Issue

A Word from Rabbi Fellman – p. 1
Israel Trip – p. 2
Thursday Schmooze Returns – p. 2
Mah Jongg Mondays – p. 2
Mazal Tov, Greg Weiner – p. 2
The Beth Israel Community in 5783 – p. 3
Simcha or Important Milestone – p. 4
BI Cares Update – p. 4
Sponsor Kiddush at BI – p. 4
Rimon – p. 5
BI@Home Wants You! – p. 5
USY and Tot Shabbat – p. 6
Chapel Renovation – p. 7
Social Action Report – p. 7
Hanukkah Fun – p. 8
Adult Ed – p. 8
Bagels and Books – p. 12

A WORD FROM RABBI FELLMAN

The High Holy Days may be behind us but as I think to what images and memories I am taking with me into this year, I think about Simchat Torah.



My grandmother's yahrzeit is Simchat Torah. I remember my father telling me that it would be fitting that on the day his mother, Bernice Kremer (nee Goldberg) died, we would be encouraged to dance as we ended and started the Torah again. We would have to celebrate both the completion and start of the Torah but also her life. My Grandma Bena was a lover of Judaism, a proud parent and grandparent, and an excellent challah baker. It is her challah recipe that I use each week and my grandparents' challah dish that sits on our table on Shabbat and holidays.

Being a Rabbi with a Rabbi parent, I had sort of come to terms that Jewish holidays, especially the ones in Tishrei, would not be spent gathering with extended family. We each needed to be in our own communities and time for our larger family would have to take place at other points during the year. Maybe that is another reason that I make a point of baking challah and using that dish, as well as incorporating tunes written by my father into my service leading. Both of those actions make my family feel a little closer.

This year, it felt like a happy confluence that my younger sister, Devora Bena (named after Grandma Bena), named her son at his bris just before Simchat Torah. My parents came up to celebrate the birth and naming of their newest grandchild and because of the distance from their home, my parents stayed through the Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah holiday.

As a gift to the new parents (and maybe also as a gift to our family), we took their three older children and my parents back to our house for the two-day chag. Besides feeling like a living version of the classic story "It Could Always Be Worse*," it gave us the opportunity to mark Grandma Bena's yahrzeit together.

On Simchat Torah morning, Grandma Bena's 35th yahrzeit, Ari and I held the corners of my Tallit as my parents stood under it with 7 of their grandchildren and recited the Torah blessings together for their Aliyah. I can think of no better way to honor them, their legacy and those who came before than this embrace of Torah, community, and family.

Of course, at supper that night, when my parents mentioned how meaningful it was to have that experience, some of the grandkids piped up “I had forgotten about that already.” But **we** hadn’t forgotten – and I will forever carry that passing of Torah and love of family in my mental bank of Shabbat and chag memories and strive to create more opportunities to honor those who came before and keep them close to us.

*A man complains that his house is too crowded. One at a time, he is told to take the farm animals into the house. When he finally can’t take it anymore, he is told to remove them from his home and his home seems so peaceful, roomy, and quiet.

ISRAEL TRIP – BI CONGREGATIONAL ADVENTURE! PLANNING FOR NOVEMBER 2023 - UPDATE

Our plans for a congregational trip to Israel proceed apace. We are currently looking to have a joint trip with Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster and the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts. We have a preliminary itinerary and tentative dates of November 6 – 16, 2023, although there may be an add-on option. Our theme is “Israel Then and Now,” and the itinerary includes excursions and sites that will be attractive both to those who have never been to our ancient homeland and those who’ve visited many times. If you are interested in potentially joining us, contact the office for more information.

THURSDAY SCHMOOZE RETURNS

Starting November 3rd, we will be restarting our Zoom Schmooze get-togethers on Thursdays from 1-2pm. There is no agenda, just a chance to hang out with friends, old and new. If you’d like to join us, please contact Michelle Cochran at 508-347-7333 or weefishe@charter.net for more information and the Zoom link, or watch the weekly emails, which include the link.

ARE YOU READY FOR MAH JONGG MONDAYS?

We heard how much you missed Mah Jongg at Beth Israel. So...it’s coming back. Starting November 14, you can join Mah Jongg maven Lydia Borenstein for a fun time playing this ever-popular game, right here at BI. Beginners are welcome. Light refreshments will be offered. We ask a \$5.00 donation per person to cover expenses.

Members and non-members alike are welcome to come to Mah Jongg Mondays. Note that we are a mask friendly environment and will accommodate you whether you choose to wear a mask while playing or not.

Beth Israel strongly encourages vaccination against COVID-19. If you have not been vaccinated, we do ask you to wear your mask while in the building.



MAZAL TOV, GREG WEINER!



Greg Weiner is a busy man. By analogy with POTUS (President of the United States), Greg is our POTS (President of the Shul). It is a position he has been serving in since June of 2022. He is also a long time member of the faculty at Assumption University, and served as Provost from 2019 until last April. At that time Greg was named the Interim President of Assumption University, when the previous President announced his retirement. He does all this, as well as being a contributor of Op-Ed pieces published in the New York Times and Washington Post, and a husband and father, too!

On October 17 the Assumption University Board of Trustees announced that Greg Weiner had been elected the 17th President of Assumption, making the interim appointment official and permanent. All of Beth Israel congratulates Greg on this important career milestone. We know you will do a great job in your new role, particularly since you’ve already been doing it! So from now on, we need to recognize that you’ve moved from POTS to POTSU (President of the Shul and University). What will you do next?

THE BETH ISRAEL COMMUNITY IN 5783

HERB DAROFF, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP

As Vice President for Membership, my mission is to help nurture and sustain our congregation through recruiting new members and making sure the old ones are having their needs met. I'm assisted in this effort by the Membership Committee, which is divided into two subcommittees. The Recruitment Subcommittee is charged with Outreach, looking for potential members and helping them find out more about Beth Israel. The other half of the committee is Inreach or Stewardship/Retention. These committee members focus on the current membership and work to ensure that we are aware of and meeting their needs. We need both sides because we want to both maintain and grow this vibrant shul community.



We recently had our first New Members Shabbat since before the pandemic began. We invited everyone who had joined since 2020 to have an honor and get a chance to meet longer term members of the congregation over Kiddush lunch.

In just this calendar year, ten new member households have joined Congregation Beth Israel:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Budman and Natan Keddem | Micah and Natalie Klayman |
| Rachel Darrow | Dan Mandell and Barbara Smith Mandell |
| Michael and Kateryna Friedman | Nancy Roberts |
| Ilana Hollenberg | Jack Soref and Allison Cursein |
| Yuri Iozzo | Alli Thresher |

We are so happy to have you all! Several others have expressed strong interest in joining. All of this activity is the result of many people helping to spread the word about our open and welcoming community.

I'm sometimes asked what members can do to support our community. There are so many opportunities! They tend to fall into three broad categories:

The first category is Financial Support. Monetary donations for both the operating budget and to add to our endowment are always welcome. You can also show your support for the congregation as a whole or for specific activities by donating to specialized funds, or by participating in events that raise money for BI.

Another important category is Participation. So many of our membership give your time and talent to our many activities, projects, and committees. If you haven't been participating much, or just want to participate more, there are numerous opportunities to do so. You can help with maintaining our facilities, both in the building and the outdoor space. You can join in with those maintaining our security. If you have the skills, you can contribute to the community by leading parts of our services, reading Torah or Haftarah, giving a dvar torah when the rabbi is not available. If you don't have those skills and want to learn them, we have educational opportunities for you.

And we don't just need leaders. We need people to attend our twice daily minyans as well as Friday Night and Saturday Morning. Not everyone can come every day or every week, but if a number of people commit to coming once or twice a month, we'll be sure of consistently having a minyan.

We also want your participation in programming, both in developing and leading programs and in attending the ones of particular interest to you. We'd love your input and your presence at fun social activities, social action events, educational programming, and maybe some other things we haven't thought of yet. And don't forget our 100th anniversary is coming up in 2024, offering plenty of opportunities to get involved.

The third category is Outreach. Can you think of someone you know who might enjoy coming to Beth Israel, whether for services or programs, whether in person or on Zoom? Introductions by our members are one of the best ways to let people know what's going on and how welcoming we are. Don't think of yourself as recruiting new members but just helping people see what you enjoy about the community. If they like it here, they'll eventually join, as others have.

Please let me know how you would like to help maintain and grow our community. I'd love to explore the options with you. Chat with me at Kiddush after Shabbat services or email me at hillelkarl@gmail.com.

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!

BI CARES UPDATE

DEB FINS, CHAIR BI CARES COMMITTEE

We currently have 10 active members on our BI Cares Committee. We have reached out to about 15 congregants in response to requests or calls to the office. The requests for assistance have included tech help, information needed about community services, wishes for outreach from the shul to not be forgotten, specific errands or tasks that needed to be done as well as ongoing companionship. Many of our members have sent cards to those recuperating. In addition to these requests, I know that others, both on this committee and not, reach out regularly to members of our community and/or assist with needed issues. We also know that our members have sprung into action when there has been a major trauma facing a family although that has not specifically been a task of this committee. BI Cares gets involved only when there is a specific referral.



The BI Cares Committee has received positive feedback from congregants even when it turns out that assistance is not needed. People have felt good about being contacted. One family made a donation in honor of our help and here is an excerpt from a thank you note that we received from another:

“As part of the BI Caring Committee, I want to thank you for the adorable card and get well wishes. It was so nice to be remembered and it made me feel connected to friends back home.”

We should feel proud as a community that we offer an organized way to reach out to those in need. We welcome additional members to the committee. Please contact me at DLFins@aol.com if you are interested in joining us.

SPONSOR KIDDUSH AT BI – FOR AN OCCASION OR JUST BECAUSE

Shabbat morning services at BI are followed by Kiddush lunch. Our members and guests enjoy good food and good conversation every week. You can help make that happen by sponsoring an upcoming luncheon. You might want to do this in recognition of a major event in your life or that of your family: a milestone birthday, a child's or grandchild's graduation, a wedding anniversary. Maybe you want to thank someone at Beth Israel who has been particularly helpful to you by offering a lunch in their honor. Or maybe you just want to give back a little bit (and make sure the lunch is full of food you like).

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.

And if you want to sponsor regularly without paying regularly or cooking – join the Chai Kiddush Club. For \$180 a year, you can get your name listed any time the Kiddush Club provides lunch, which is many times during the year. The names of current Kiddush Club members are published each week in the Shabbat and weekly emails and also posted on the Social Hall wall every time the club sponsors Kiddush Lunch.

To join the Kiddush Club or to sponsor a special kiddush, contact Beth in the office.

RIMON, A PLACE FOR FUN AND LEARNING

DALE ROSENBERG, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT



This year, the first day of Rimon happened to coincide with International Talk Like a Pirate Day, so we had a lesson on Jewish pirates during our first session. The rabbi also introduced the various kinds of Jewish texts, as illustrated by cookies with decorations! Since then, we've studied some of the themes of the High Holidays, Jews and tattoos, Jewish views on hospitality, and much more.

Every Shabbat we learn about the parasha of the week and have a demonstration, skit, or debate about an issue raised in the weekly reading. For Breishit, we learned about the biblical story of the creation of the world with props and treats representing what was created on each day.



We also sing songs connected to the parasha most weeks. For Rainbow Shabbat, we learned about the story of Noah and the great flood as well as diversity of gender identity and sexual orientation. Rimon showed our commitment to inclusion by decorating the lunch tables on Rainbow Shabbat, making clear that all are welcome!

Our special holiday activities have included our "annual" Interfaith Sukkot Dinner. The annual aspect had been interrupted by the pandemic and we were so happy to get back to this tradition this year – the first time since 2019. Rimon practiced *hachnasot orchim* (welcoming guests) by serving a tasty chili dinner to Muslim and Christian guests and then we heard views of hospitality in each of our faith traditions. We ended the dinner with the ever-popular edible Sukkot, made from graham crackers and icing.



We did another food project when studying Simchat Torah, making both edible Torah scrolls and caramel apples. But it wasn't all food! We unrolled a miniature replica Torah scroll and learned about scribal traditions.

We're enjoying learning from and with Tommy Ben Bassat, our new Community Shlichah, about Israeli life and culture. Tommy joins Rimon almost every week to teach an interactive lesson.

Now that the fall holidays are over, Rimon is settling into a more regular weekly schedule of Mondays and Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. At each class we have snack in Hebrew, where the children learn the Hebrew names of different foods and practice basic Hebrew sentences. Families also have the option of having an individual weekly lesson for their children in Hebrew reading, focusing on prayerbook Hebrew.

We're excited to be learning together this fall in Rimon Religious School! If you're in shul on Shabbat morning, feel free to drop in and hang out with us for a while. You might learn something new!



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 December 15, 2022.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH USY AND TOT SHABBAT?

ROWAN MASON, YOUTH ADVISOR AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

USY Youth Group

USY had a wonderful and successful start to our fall. We're grateful to all who supported youth programming through our BI High Holiday Greeting Booklet and Challah fundraisers. We thank as well all of you who showed up for the teens to listen to their wonderful rendition of the Book of Jonah on Yom Kippur afternoon.



Upcoming this November, we will be baking for you all in our annual Thanksgiving Apple Pie fundraiser, organized by Isaac Shertzer and Theo Weiner. A portion of our proceeds will be donated to the USYer's social action project for this year. The teens voted this year to focus on Environmental Justice and Climate Change. They will be engaged in learning and fundraising related to this important topic. Keep your eyes out for opportunities to support and learn from our USY'ers about the how and why of protecting our environment.



As the days grow shorter, USY is gathering near for days of fun and connection. We have two lounge events coming up – get togethers on Shabbat afternoon in our Youth Lounge on the second floor. Our Fall Shabbat Lounge will be the first Shabbat of November, where we'll come together after services and kiddush lunch for board games and schmoozing. In December, we'll join with Rabbi Fellman for Hot Cocoa with the Rabbi after services and lunch. Finally, looking forward to the winter holidays our teens will be gathering on the first night of Hanukkah at Bowlero in Shrewsbury. They will light Hanukkah candles and enjoy an evening of bowling together, organized by Kenny and Andy Kalvinek.

Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat enjoyed wonderful High Holiday services in combination with the Rimon children. On both our holidays, the kids enjoyed a children's shofar service with lots of singing and dancing.

We will continue to gather on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. for Tot Shabbat. Each gathering is themed to the Jewish calendar and the seasons, with explorative play centers for the young children to enjoy before we begin our service. At the end of Tot Shabbat we join Rimon for snack and an activity for all.

Coming up, we have a Tot Shabbat on November 5 that will focus on stories about Abraham and Sarah and a Hanukkah-themed Tot Shabbat on December 3. We look forward to gathering with you and your children!



If you have friends or family with children 7 and under, please invite them to our Tot Shabbat gatherings and reach out to Rowan Mason at rn.m.bethisrael@gmail.com to join our e-blast group where you'll get a monthly reminder of our gatherings!

CHAPEL RENOVATION UPDATE

DEB FINS, CHAPEL RENOVATION CHAIR



As many members are aware, we have been using the Chapel again since shortly before Rosh Hashanah. The room is functional, but the renovation project is not yet completed. We are still awaiting the installation of the audio and video equipment (including assistive technology), reinstallation of artwork, completion of the new *amud* cover. We are also looking into possible relining of the ark and are waiting on a quote for that. The holidays certainly slowed things down.

Once the audio is installed, we want to have the service leaders come in to determine sound levels and if any acoustic remediation is needed. We have resources to cover that process as well. We continue to be within budget (even with some unforeseen expenses) and well under our total raised.

Feedback from members has been very positive. Dale Rosenberg has reported that it is lovely to be in there during Rimón's Saturday morning *tefilah* and other youth events. The Kabbalat Shabbat regulars have commented on how pleasant it is to be in this comfortable renovated space on Friday evenings. Members can also store their *tallitot* and *tefillin* in the chapel drawers as they previously did.

We do want to encourage members to keep the chapel in its current pristine condition as much as is feasible. Please do not leave coats, boots, umbrellas, papers, etc. in the chapel. We have both coat racks and a spacious coat closet for your belongings. We also suggest that food and drink be limited to non-carpeted areas of the shul.

Enjoy the renovated chapel! When the whole project is completed, we will have an official launch and thank the donors who made this happen.

SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

Social Action is back in action this fall. First, we would like to thank everyone who participated in our High Holiday food drive. Thanks to your generosity we were able to collect 363 pounds of food. This bounty will be delivered by Rachel's Table to Friendly House Neighborhood Center.



Shelter meals are also back. Share your favorite casserole, chop a salad, make or buy a dessert. We organize a home cooked meal and deliver it to a neighborhood shelter. To participate, please contact Michelle Cochran at 508-347-7333 or weefishe@charter.net. Upcoming dates are November 6th and November 13th.

The next food drive is the Turkey Drop. We are collecting turkeys on November 20th from 11-1 at the chapel entrance (back door). Someone will be there to take your donations which will go to Pernet Family Health Services. These turkeys do not have to be kosher. We are also asking for gift cards to grocery stores in \$25 amounts which you can drop off at the BI office. This way a family can get whatever they need to celebrate with their personal traditions. Thank you again for reaching out to help friends in need.

HANUKKAH FUN AT BI AND AROUND TOWN

Before you plan a family Hanukkiah lighting or a neighborhood latke fest, check out what we've got planned for the Festival of Lights. There are some Hanukkah happenings in the works that you can put on your calendar now!

First of all, in advance of the holiday, **Hanukkah at the Worcester Art Museum is planned for Sunday, December 4.** It's an all-day affair and there will be a couple of sessions led by BI clergy and staff. This annual event is free and open to the public.



We have two events of interest to families and youth coming up on Sunday, December 18. Rowan Mason will lead a PJ Library Bagels and Books event from noon to 2:00 p.m. There will be a Hanukkah themed craft opportunity as well as lots and lots of latkes and a bunch of books to read. Fun for all! Drop in briefly or stay the whole time. Then in the evening USY is lighting candles for the first night and then going bowling!

Wednesday, December 21 will be the annual Rimon Hanukkah party with Yankee Swap and Hanukkah themed games. It goes from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. and all BI children age 5 through high school are welcome. **Beth Israel members and friends of all ages are invited to arrive at 6:00 with a Hanukkiah** (or more than one!) and we'll light together and enjoy some Hanukkah treats.

Then on **Saturday night, December 24**, we have a fun plan for all ages. As we all know, the North American tradition of Jews eating Chinese food and going to a movie on Christmas dates back to a time when Chinese restaurants and movie theaters were all that was open on the 24th and 25th of December. We'll do our own version of **Chinese dinner and a movie with Havdalah, Hanukkah candle-lighting, a kosher dinner (Chinese, we hope), followed by a movie.** Actually, there will be two movies in two different rooms – one for adults and one for children. The young at heart adults are welcome to attend the children's movie instead, if you prefer. We'll have popcorn and watch together on the big screen. It all starts at 6:00 p.m. Do you have a suggestion for either the adult or children's movie? Call the office and make your opinion known!

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

Now that the fall holidays are over, we've really ramped up adult education. We have a mixture of in-person and remote classes and have some that are taught by our staff and members and others with lecturers from other organizations. 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.



Israeli Elections Again? With Community Shlichah Tommy Ben Bassat November 7 at 7:30 p.m.



Every time we turn around it seems there is another Israeli national election! Well, that's not your imagination. We're about to have the fifth Israeli election in less than four years. Join us as our Shlichah, Tommy Ben Bassat, explores how the Israeli system of elections works (and sometimes doesn't), how Israel got into this repeated election cycle, and what can be done to make it work better. We'll meet in the Beth Israel library and the presentation will be simulcast on Zoom.

***Book Talk with Jean Meltzer and Rabbi Fellman:
A Discussion of the New Book “Mr. Perfect on Paper”***

Wednesday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

This is just the thing for all who enjoyed last year’s book *The Matzo Ball*, as well as those who missed it. Jean Meltzer has a new romantic comedy novel out called *Mr. Perfect on Paper* and once again, she and Rabbi Fellman will be discussing the book as part of the Worcester JCC Author Series. *Mr. Perfect on Paper* follows the story of Dara Rabinowitz, third generation Jewish matchmaker. Dara’s version of matchmaking is a very popular app for Jews looking for matrimony, but Dara herself hasn’t found her perfect match yet, although she has a comprehensive list of what she’s looking for in a husband. Due to a scheme by her matchmaking *bubbe*, Dara goes on national television to find her match. After a number of mishaps, she seems to find the right man, the one who checks all her boxes. But what if her real *bashert* isn’t the guy who has everything on her “must have” list, but instead a widowed tv personality who has a child and isn’t even Jewish?

Like Meltzer’s first novel, this is a lighthearted romantic comedy that also deals with some serious issues. Along with romance and comedy, Meltzer explores mental health challenges, the difficulty of finding time for dating while in a high-powered career, and issues around being an observant Jew in an interfaith relationship. Rabbi Fellman and Jean Meltzer will discuss the book and these issues together. See your weekly email for the Zoom link.

***Why Israel? Revisiting the Meaning of Zionism with Rabbi Lauren Berkun
A Four-Week Course Brought to Us by the Hartman Institute***

Four Thursdays

Why should Israel matter to a 21st century North American Jew? What are some of the most meaningful spiritual and moral visions for Israel today, and how can we engage in a nuanced, pluralistic conversation about them? This four-session course includes a weekly lecture, text study, and breakout discussions.

All sessions 2:00-3:30 pm ET. We’re meeting in the BI Library on Thursdays at 2:00. We watch the Zoom of Rabbi Lauren Berkun and then do the breakout exercises together.

Thurs, October 27: The Zionist Idea

Thurs, November 3: Relational Zionism

Thurs, November 10: Zionism and Power

Thurs, November 17: Zionism and Overcoming History

Although the first class is over, you can watch it on the recording and pick up from there. Or you can take the class from home as an individual, if you choose. Contact Dale Rosenberg for more information.

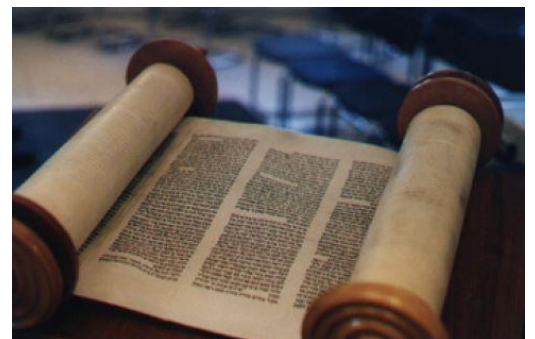
TGIF: Torah Goodness It’s Friday with Rabbi Fellman

Fridays at 10:00 a.m. starting November 4

Get a jumpstart on Shabbat with TGIF (Torah Goodness It’s Friday), Rabbi Fellman’s weekly parasha class. Starting on Friday November 4, @10:00 a.m. we’ll once again meet in the BI Library (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 a.m. in the library or on Zoom. Check your weekly email for the Zoom link.



Cooking with Rabbi Eve Eichenholtz

Fridays at 11:00 a.m. 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 Fridays at 11:00 a.m. 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!

Family Tree Workshop for Beginners

A Four-Part Zoom Class with Andrea Daroff

Four Mondays beginning November 7

Have you always wanted to get into genealogy but didn't know how to begin? Do you want to know more about your family history? It all starts with a family tree and Andrea can tell you how to have one. In four one-hour sessions she will introduce methods for constructing family trees and the resources available to find the information you need.

This class was offered in the summer and is being repeated for those who were interested but weren't available then.

Classes are via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on November 7, 14, 21, and 28. If you'd like to join, email

BIWorc.FamilyTree@gmail.com.

Global Day of Jewish Learning

November 13

Beth Israel is once again participating in the Global Day of Jewish Learning, sponsored by Limmud. The theme this year is "Rebuilding" and we will have two or more sessions on that topic. We will also provide the study guide for those who wish to learn more on their own or in *hevruta*. Watch your weekly emails for details.

Torathon is Back in Person and at BI!

November 19 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Every November we devote a Saturday evening to Jewish learning, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts. Clergy and educators from throughout our Central Massachusetts Jewish community come together and teach classes on a wide variety of topics. It's a wonderful time to get together for Havdalah and learning. Torathon has been remote since 2020 but we will be back in person this year.

The program starts at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 19. This year's theme is "How Judaism Influences our Lives." You can find more information and buy tickets at a pre-event discount on the Federation website.



Project Zug Presents: Money and Power with Rabbi Avi Strausberg

Four Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

November 30, December 7, December 14, December 21

Power and money introduce tricky dynamics and complicated moral questions into professional and personal relationships. In this session, we'll be exploring the effects of influence and how Jewish sources might advise us to respond when navigating relationships with power imbalances. We'll explore questions like: when do we speak up and when do we stay silent? When do we speak truth to power and when do we flatter to avoid conflict? What moral standards should we require from those in power and what happens when they fail to meet those standards?



We'll engage as a group and in hevruta (partner) study. Sessions will begin with framing comments by Dale Rosenberg, followed by a brief introductory video. Then we'll divide into hevruta pairs to read the texts and discuss Rabbi Strausberg's questions about them. At the end we'll reconvene as a group to share our insights.

To register, call the office or email Dale Rosenberg.

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.

Jewish Journeys with Rabbi Eve Eichenholtz

Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster

We are all on a Jewish journey, some of us are just starting our journey, others have been journeying for years. Join together with others as we explore Judaism and most importantly how it fits into our lives. Whether you are thinking about conversion, or trying to find how Judaism fits into a new stage of your life, this class is for you. All levels and backgrounds are welcome.

We will meet most Thursday nights for approximately 20 sessions, with some breaks for vacations, holidays and to accommodate Rabbi Eichenholtz's schedule and community events. This class is free for members of either Congregation Beth Israel or Congregation Agudat Achim. For non-members the fee is \$150. For more information or to register, contact Rabbi Eichenholtz, rabbieichenholtz@agudat-achim.org.

And... Plan Now for Shabbat Vayechi, January 6/7, 2023

Scholar in Residence Shabbaton with Rabbi Avi Strausberg

Many of us know of Rabbi Avi Strausberg's work from Project Zug classes like "Everyday Moral Dilemmas," "Money and Power," "Introduction to the Jewish Bookshelf," or "The Days of Awe and Fear." Others were introduced to her more recently when she spoke so movingly at the teaching commemorating *shloshim* for Danny Baker. If you haven't yet heard Avi Strausberg speak, take it from those who have: you are in for an intellectual and spiritual treat! Plans are under way for Rabbi Strausberg to spend Shabbat with us, the first weekend in January. She'll be giving multiple talks to the congregation as well as teaching Rimon students Saturday morning and USY member at Havdallah. Watch your weekly emails for more details.

Congregation Beth Israel

15 Jamesbury Drive

Worcester, MA 01609

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

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.





Congregation Beth Israel

and PJ Library present:

Bagels and Books and Fall Fun!

Sunday, November 27, 2022

10:00 a.m. to noon

15 Jamesbury Drive

Worcester, MA 01609

Join Congregation Beth Israel for a Thanksgiving Weekend get-together for book lovers, autumn lovers, and people who just need to get away from the turkey leftovers. We'll provide a lovely bagel brunch, books (including some with fall and harvest themes), and everything you need to make some fun crafts.

This event will be fun for all ages. We ask that families with children under 7 have an adult accompanying the children.

Congregation Beth Israel is mask-friendly. We will accommodate you whether or not you wear a mask. We strongly encourage all to vaccinate against COVID-19.

508-756-6204 for more information



Congregation Beth Israel
Welcome. Engage. Inspire. Grow.

PJ Library
Bring Jewish stories home