In 2007, a Hanukkah miracle came early for a nice Jewish boy from Gastonia, Julian Rauch.

Does his name ring a bell? For App State alumni and fans, I bet it does.

Julian, whose grandfather Marshall Rauch was once the biggest purveyor of Christmas ornaments in the US, was the Jewish kicker for the Mountaineer football team.

It was early September, the first game of the season. App State travelled to Ann Arbor to play the mighty Michigan Wolverines of the Big 10.

This was one of those games that powerhouses like Michigan put on the calendar to pump up their fans and their record. An easy win to make the team, and boosters, feel good.

App State took it on because of the financial reward of a big-time televised game and the chance, even if slight, to see if the Mountaineers could hang with the Big Boys of college football.

And did they ever.

If you want to shep (get) some North Carolina nachas (pride), google the YouTube video of the game highlights. Truly miraculous.

App State led throughout most of the game but lost its lead in the final quarter, only to have our boychik Julius kick a game-winning field goal with minutes left. The team ran around the field like they had won the national championship.

Some would easily summarize the game with the phrase: “A great miracle happened there.”

Or did it?

When you look back at the commentary on the game, you will notice that App State was actually a two-time national champion in the Division AA league. True, they generally played against lesser competition and smaller schools, but they were perennial champions nonetheless. Michigan, for all of its “Big House” bluster, was going through some very difficult times. And everybody knows that the first game of the season is usually a team’s worst.

A miracle implies that an event occurred that defies the laws of nature—as if only the hand of God could have made something happen.

But I’m not so sure that was the case here. The Mountaineers quarterback, Armanti Edwards, played like an experienced pro, leaving waves of Wolverine defenders in the dust. He and the entire App State team were extraordinarily well-coached, super fired up, and filled with veteran players. They were known for their hustle and grit, and they actually believed in their hearts that they could win. They had a game plan and they executed it to a tee.

Continued on page 2
Maybe this was a miracle in the same way that Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism and dreamer of the State of Israel, thought about miracles. He famously said, “If you will it, it is no dream.”

Meaning: if you prepare for your dreams to come true, work for them, hustle with all of your might, envision your dreams becoming reality (and you get a little lucky), anything is possible.

(A vaccine, for example, will feel “miraculous”, but we all know it will not happen without the hard work of thousands of scientists.)

That game-winning kick might not be a “miracle” in a dictionary-sense. But for a Jewish bucher (young man) from Gastonia, it sure made his Hanukkah in 2007.

Bottom line: Miracles are not just about praying for an outcome that no one believes will happen. They are about doing everything we can to make our dreams a reality, and then hoping that preparation meets reality with a little mazal (luck) on the side.

Hanukkah could not have happened without the Maccabees’ grit. That’s the miraculous take-away from Hanukkah we should work and pray for this year. It’s what Julian Rauch understood when he put that field goal between the uprights.

Wishing all a happy Festival of (Hard-Earned) Miracles!
**B’ Mayim Hayim T’hiyeh,**  
May the living waters sustain you  
Rabbi Jenny Solomon, D. Min., Mikveh Director

In this month of Kislev in which we celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah, I am delighted to share that we have two new artists, both Beth Meyer congregants, displaying their work in our mikveh. These two individuals emanate the spirit of Hanukkah: light, authenticity, resilience, and courage. Here are their artists’ statements:

My name is Loren – a name that I gave myself – and I live in North Raleigh with my wife, two children and three dogs. I have a deep love of nature and working with my hands. My interests vary widely and are sometimes fleeting, but they almost always center around creating something – anything – whether that be a garden or quilted bag or a painting or a loaf of bread. While I am creating, I like to have my space open to the outside, music playing, and alone, save the thoughts of a person that I might hold with me until my work is done. All of the pieces being shown were created using acrylic pour painting techniques. As the artist, I have freedom of color, consistency and direction, but once I make the decision to allow those colors to flow and interact, nature takes over, and the experience becomes an exercise in letting go – of release. The beauty of this process lies in its reflection of life, and the marriage of that which we can control and that which we cannot, coming together, giving life to something new, whether it be relationships or aspirations or simply the mundane. In any given moment in time, we bring what we have cultivated, and if we have the courage to share it with the world around us, then our reward will be something profoundly beautiful. Sometimes, the results are not what we expected, but sometimes they are even better. (Loren Hody)

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My name’s Benjamin, very Jewish I know. I live out in Apex and am currently surviving my way through high school. The arts have always been something I’ve found myself more drawn to, whether it’s English, traditional art, or debate. I’ve always had a bit of a complicated relationship with my own artwork and creativity. A lot of artists I know create some beautiful pieces from nothing. Their art evokes some kind of feeling whether it’s through colors, medium or composition. Surprisingly, that was never something I myself felt connected to. I loved being out on the street and seeing all the people, the buildings, the things you pass by without thinking twice. I wanted to recreate the world exactly how I’d seen it. All the pieces of mine that are up were done in charcoal, a surprisingly temperamental medium in my opinion. I spent hours on end agonizing over things no one else would ever notice, but I can’t imagine there’s a better feeling than being satisfied with the final product for me. I think that’s the beauty of things though. No matter how hard I try, there’s always something different from my subject or reference, so maybe that’s a way for people to see the world through my eyes if only for a single moment in time. (Ben Natan)

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Trust me when I tell you that their work is extraordinary. If you schedule an appointment at the mikveh over the next couple of months, you will get to see their work. If you are not immersing, but want to visit, feel free to reach out to me and we’ll find a time for you to walk through.

Libi Eir maintains the highest standards of cleanliness and we have added further protocols to ensure the safety of our visitors and volunteers (i.e. extra cleaning/time between guests to cycle the water, the wearing of face coverings at all times with the exception of the moment of immersion, and asking that all visitors do their preparation at home rather than at our mikveh). To make a mikveh appointment or for any additional information about the mikveh, please feel free to contact me by calling my cell phone at 214-886-5079, or by sending an e-mail to mikveh@bethmeyer.org.
Staff Spotlight: An interview with Jonathan Wertheim, our new Director of Operations

What’s one place in NC that you are looking forward to visiting?
I want to return to Grandfather Mountain! Annie and I escape to the Blue Ridge Mountains as often as we can.

What was your favorite class in college?
It’s a toss-up: either Unsafe Texts: Sexualities in Francophone Culture or Financial Accounting. The quality of instruction always mattered more than the subject!

Favorite binge-worthy TV show?
The Good Fight, for sure! More than The West Wing, it’s the liberal fantasy that I need.

Cat person or dog person?
Dogs! A cat punctured my air mattress once, so I hold a grudge against its brethren.

Name a book or author that you think everyone should read.
Open The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary by Robert Alter and prepare to be floored.

If we run into you and Annie out at a restaurant, what type of food are you most likely eating?
Eggplant--if it’s on the menu, I order it.

Favorite Jewish holiday?
No Jewish experience feels more empowering than leading a seder at Passover.

Adult Education Committee—Rabbi Jenny Solomon

In Pirke Avot (the Ethics of the Sages) 1:4, the ancient Rabbis teach: “Let your home be a meeting place for sages.” What a beautiful and foundational teaching—namely, respect those who can teach you and seek ways to be close to them. It’s an invitation to re-think our surroundings and look for ways to transform our homes into places for learning and growth. While the Rabbis could never have imagined our reality in 2020 with a global pandemic and the invention of Zoom, their wisdom is more relevant and accessible than ever. Now, everyone’s home can truly be a place for learning. We now have numerous opportunities to encounter sages (one another) and learn from the comfort of our own homes. We hope you will join us on Zoom for the following educational offerings this month (please register for all classes on the website):

- Wednesday mornings 11 AM, drop-in class- Pirkei Avot (Rabbi Eric), Jewish History (Amy Ripps) and Mussar (Rabbi Jenny)

- December 6, 2020, 10-11 AM, “Preparing for Hanukkah: Festival of Light or Festival of Might” (Rabbi Eric)- This is a great session for parents who want to explore the deeper meaning of Hanukkah as well as all interested adults who want to go beyond the decorations and presents and delve into enduring messages of this beautiful holiday.

- December 6, 2020, 7-8 PM, “Preparing for Hanukkah: Body and Soul Restorative Yoga (Dr. Barbara Vosk and Rabbi Jenny)- This session invites participants to explore the spirituality of Hanukkah through gentle movement and breath. All bodies are welcome.

- Looking ahead: A new “Wise Aging” cohort for those who are 55 and older begins in January and continues for 9 sessions through March 22, 2021. This is an extraordinary program which I initiated last spring at Beth Meyer. The last cohort felt so connected to one another that they continue to meet weekly on their own, several months later. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to me at jsolomon@bethmeyer.org.
Hanukkah is almost here! Beth Meyer has a full line-up of great events for Hanukkah, both in-person and on-line, and I encourage you all to find one that is perfect for your family.

During November, both our 3rd-5th and Gesher (6th-8th) classes wrapped up their fall electives. The 3rd-5th grade reviewed the holiday cycle and the Jewish life cycle, and they are starting a unit on Hanukkah, just in time for the holiday!

Gesher students ended their Jewish history elective by sharing what they learned in their breakout groups. If you would like to look at some of what they created, follow these links to their slideshows.

- Early Jewish History
- Medieval & Modern Jewish History
- Holocaust Survivor Stories
- The Dreyfuss Affair

Also in November, our Gesher students and their families gathered in-person for Havdalah. We used our new tent and the courtyard area. For second semester, we will be using this space as an outdoor gathering space, both for social events and classes. Stay tuned for opportunities for your family!

We held our first Simhat Shabbat of the year, on Zoom. This learner’s service is designed for students in 2nd through 6th grade, but all school families are invited to attend. We won’t meet in December, but dates for the second semester are 1/22, 2/19, 4/23 & 5/21.

I’d like to take a moment to thank our faculty. Their creativity, flexibility and optimism are unbounded. We have held more faculty meetings in the first half of the year than we usually do in the whole year, and our teachers are supporting the students and each other in ways we could not have foreseen six months ago. Back in June, we had no idea we might still be remote at this point. We are moving into the second semester with more experience and confidence, and we are excited about the remote, hybrid, and in-person possibilities that exist!

All registered families should expect to receive a weekly email each Thursday. All class links and other reminders will be included. You can also check this page [https://www.bethmeyer.org/school-family-connections.html] for updated information, event information, and tips for remote learning. This page is only visible to logged in and registered families. Still have questions? Email me at school@bethmeyer.org. The main school number is 919-848-8111 and my cell phone is 919-418-1768.
Upcoming Events

Eight Nights of Lights with Beth Meyer Synagogue
Celebrate the Festival of Lights with Beth Meyer Synagogue at these virtual and in-person events.

Sharing Stories of Light — Virtual Community Candlelighting and Storytelling Celebration
Thursday, Dec. 10, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Although not a Beth Meyer Synagogue event, join us virtually with the JCC, Jewish Family Services, and Jewish Federation for a festive community night of a Hanukkah candlelighting, singing and storytelling. The event will feature master storyteller, Gerald Fierst, who will delight us with tales from Jewish folklore. Community members are also welcome to share their Hanukkah memories. Please see details on how submit your story. This event is free but registration on the JCC website is required to receive the Zoom link.

Candlelighting and Welcoming Shabbat
Friday, Dec. 11, 5-5:30 pm on Zoom

Join us for the light of Hanukkah and Shabbat candles, and blessings with the Solomon family. We will create a web of light as we begin the holiday with community and connection. Register here: https://www.bethmeyer.org/event/candle-lighting-and-welcoming-shabbat-with-the-rabbis-solomon.html

Hanukkah Concert with Joey Weisenberg
Open to the Wake Jewish Community
Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 pm on Zoom

Light the third candle with our Beth Meyer Community followed by a concert with world-renowned musician, Joey Weisenberg. Joey is a multi-instrumentalist musician-composer, prayer leader, award-winning author and master teacher. He has devoted himself to opening up the sounds of people singing together in community. The founder and co-director of Hadar’s Rising Song Institute, which aims to cultivate the grassroots musical-spiritual creativity of the Jewish people, Joey works to educate and train communities around the world to unlock their musical-spiritual potential and make music a vibrant, joy-filled force in Jewish life. A Zoom link will be sent upon registration. Register here: https://www.bethmeyer.org/event/hanukkah-concert.html

Kadima Hannukah Event
Sunday, Dec. 13, 4-6 pm (IN-PERSON)

Join us for a fun outdoor event at the Synagogue for Kadima kids followed by a kids’ candlelighting on site. Social distancing and face coverings required. Please RSVP to programming@bethmeyer.org
Upcoming Events—continued

Shining Light on Jews of Color: Speaker Night with Tema Smith
Monday, Dec. 14, 7:30 pm on Zoom

Tema Smith is dedicated to building a meaningful and inclusive Jewish community through her work as a researcher, trainer, writer and engagement professional. Tema will talk with us about her experiences as a Jew of Color, how we might think in new ways about becoming more inclusive of Jews of Color in our own community, and how these themes connect to the deeper spiritual messages of Hanukkah. Register here: https://www.bethmeyer.org/event/speaker-night-with-tema-smith.html

Hanukkah Trivia Night
Tuesday, Dec. 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m. for kids and families with young children 8-9 p.m. (adults)

Join us for one or two sessions of Hanukkah-inspired trivia. Each session will include three rounds of trivia with prizes for winners. The earlier session is geared to families with young children along with elementary and middle school students. The later session will be geared to older teens and adults of all ages. Register for a Zoom link to the family trivia here: https://www.bethmeyer.org/event/hanukkah-trivia-night-kids--families.html
Register for a link to the adult and older teen trivia here: https://www.bethmeyer.org/event/hanukkah-trivia-night-adults.html

Community Candle lighting at Beth Meyer Synagogue
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7 pm. (IN-PERSON)

We will have an in-person outdoor community candlelighting at the Synagogue. Bring your own Hanukkah (menorah) and candles and we will bless and sing together as a community under the stars. Hot chocolate, hot cider and doughnuts will be served. Social distancing and face coverings required.

Candle lighting Across Raleigh-Cary
Thursday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m. (IN-PERSON)

Join us for small group gatherings hosted by Beth Meyer members across our area. Gatherings will be outdoors and all are welcome, whether you live in that neighborhood or beyond. Bring your own Hanukkah (menorah) and candles as we bring light into the dark night and share our tradition with our neighbors — Jews and non-Jews alike. It will be a great chance to build community, schmooze, and celebrate the holiday with new friends.

Happy Hanukkah
Preschool News—Rebecca Krantz

This Hanukkah, Beth Meyer Preschool is celebrating its long-standing tradition of providing an exceptional Jewish learning experience for young children. In fact, 2020 marks 30 years since Beth Meyer Preschool graduated its first pre-K class! At the same time, this has also been an unprecedented year for us all. Covid-19 has left Beth Meyer Preschool dealing with some unanticipated challenges. So, this Hanukkah, we invite you to join our school in our Eight Days of Giving campaign. The campaign will run from December 10 – December 17. Your donation to the Beth Meyer Preschool Fund will help us continue our excellent educational programming by meeting increased operating costs during COVID, supporting teacher appreciation and classroom enrichment, providing scholarships for students to make our preschool accessible to all, and enhancing our facility and outdoor play areas.

We also want to celebrate our 30 years by showcasing alumni from throughout the school’s history. If you or your child would like to be featured in our Alumni Spotlight this month, please email preschooldirector@bethmeyer.org with your favorite picture from your time at BMP, a current photo, and a short summary of what Beth Meyer Preschool means to you. We can’t wait to see where all of our former students are today!

Lastly, we invite everyone to participate virtually in our Eight Days of Giving Spirit Week! During each school day of Hanukkah, our teachers and students will be celebrating with fun, festive clothing. Join us by sharing your own spirit wear on our Facebook page or by sending photos to preschooldirector@bethmeyer.org. Our kids love to see the community joining in their fun, and it’s a great way to liven up your week! Our spirit days will be:

- Dec. 10 - Hanukkah / Winter Day (show off your Hanukkah swag or winter wonderland clothes)
- Dec. 11 - Shine and sparkle day (wear all your glitter and sequins)
- Dec. 14 - Pajama Day (Even 2020 deserves one more pajama day)
- Dec. 15 - Neon colors day (Brighten up the festival of lights)
- Dec. 16 – Crazy hat & socks day (Add a little fun to your outfit)
- Dec. 17 - Superhero Day (and remember, all of our BMP supporters are our kids’ superheros!)

Thank you Sarah Fuerst for your donation into our Tikkun Olam fund, we appreciate your love and support for youth programs.
**Fall Survey Results**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual survey. While we hope to never again have a year of remote High Holy Days services, your responses will help us make decisions regarding services, programming and classes as we continue to be “safer at home.”

The survey was open for 10 days and we received 144 responses. Most of the responses came from congregants over the age of 55. The questions in the first half of the survey were specific to the High Holy Days. The second half of the survey asked more general questions about time period from March 2020 until now.

Our High Holy Days services were a success! Respondents felt that the technology updates and prerecorded service pieces made a remote experience feel connected. Our daily emails during the holidays were welcomed and our technical guidance before the holidays was helpful. Folks enjoyed the opportunities to gather in-person and felt that we had balanced programming. Many congregants felt that the kavanah that our rabbis brought to services helped them connect spiritually even though we weren’t physically together.

Reactions to our Open the Gates campaign were positive. Many folks commented that taking it out of services and making it a separate on-line event was a welcome separation. Some commented that they didn’t like the public nature of the donations, and others loved it. The website we used, Charidy, was easy to navigate and visually pleasing.

Regarding overall community experiences, respondents let us know we are doing a good job, but there is always room for improvement! There is no magic formula, and what worked for one demographic didn’t always work for another. Fostering a sense of community is the most challenging. While folks feel connected to the larger Beth Meyer community, many folks feel that it is more difficult to make personal connections.

We included a question about remote opportunities after we can safely gather in-person. Many respondents would like to see continued remote options for minyanim, as well as Shabbat services (which have been livestreamed for several years). Folks felt that having remote access as well as in-person attendance at adult education events and classes would also be welcomed.

Your feedback is important to us!

**Sisterhood News—Sara Schweiger**

**Shop the BMS Judaica Shop for Your Hanukkah Needs**

Hanukkah begins in 10 days! Are you thinking about a new menorah and pretty candles? We’ve got unique menorahs in various themes! We have frosted candles, sparkly multicolored candles, and classic blue and white candles! Want to stock up on dreidels and gelt? How about a drip tray for under your menorah? Make an appointment to shop at the Beth Meyer gift shop! We’ve got your Hanukkah items and much, much more – from challah covers and kiddush cups to mezuzahs and tallit. Email judaicashop@bethmeyer.org to set up a time to shop on your schedule!
Sisterhood News—continued

Warm Up America Meets on December 8 at 10:30 AM

In November, we delivered three of our handmade blankets to WakeMed Children’s Hospital on New Bern Avenue. In 2020, we created 20 blankets for people in need!

The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30am. Weather (and pandemic) permitting, we will gather in the synagogue parking lot. Please bring camping/folding chairs and face coverings. Last meeting for 2020 is December 8!

Our afghans are made of individually knitted or crocheted rectangles, each one measuring 7 inches by 9 inches. If you have crocheted or knitted rectangles that you’d like to contribute, please let us know and we will try to arrange pick-up or drop-off. Donations of medium weight, acrylic yarn are always welcome!

Contact Dara at dara.finkelstein@gmail.com with any questions.

Sisterhood Shabbat is Going Virtual on January 30

Sisterhood Shabbat will be on Saturday, January 30, and we are ready for something new! This year’s service will be held on Zoom, but with all the parts you know and love. If you would like to help with a reading, English or Hebrew, contact Cathy Kaplan at ckaplan2345@gmail.com. Service participants must be current members of Sisterhood, so if you haven’t renewed for 2020-2021, now is the time! Stay tuned for details in the weekly BMS email.

Wine and Wisdom with Rabbi Jenny Planned for December 9

Find your most comfortable chair, grab a cozy blanket and a beverage, and settle in for Wine and Wisdom with Rabbi Jenny from **7:30 to 9:30PM on Wednesday, December 9**. Rabbi Jenny will guide us via Zoom in creating our very own spiritual toolbox to help us weather these challenging times. She will help us discover the wisdom our tradition offers for cultivating a deep reservoir from which to draw strength in times like these. Sign up at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444aaa82ca3fb6-wine](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444aaa82ca3fb6-wine).

Torah Fund Cards

In this time of social distancing, we are all seeking alternative ways to connect. For a small fee of $5, you can have a beautifully designed Torah Fund Card mailed to the recipient of your choice. Your friend or loved one gets a gorgeous card in the mail with your name on it and the money goes to support higher Jewish education.

The Torah Fund Campaign of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism is the dedicated philanthropy of Women’s League, its members, and its affiliated sisterhoods in Conservative congregations across North America. Torah Fund strengthens Jewish education by supporting scholarships and programming at Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning.

Gail Sherman runs our Torah Fund Card program, and she can be reached at gsherman754@aol.com or 919-264-6037.

Direct donations to Torah Fund can be made by clicking here. Those donating at least $180 over the course of a year receive a commemorative pin.
Celebrate and Honor Family and Friends with these Special Ideas

Tree of Life
Beth Meyer Synagogue’s Tree of Life has been designed to celebrate and honor friends, family, milestones, etc., as opposed to a memorial tree. Contributions will help support an endowment for education, established by Michele and Burton Horwitz and family, that will grow and bear fruit for generations to come.

Each brass leaf is available for a $200 donation to the Burton and Michele Horwitz & Family Education Endowment at Beth Meyer Synagogue. Forms are in the lobby and on the Beth Meyer website: www.bethmeyer.org/giving/tree-life.

Walkway Bricks
Honor a special friend or family member by purchasing a brick to be placed in our “Walkway of Honor.” Pricing for the bricks includes engraving your personal message - three lines of up to seventeen characters per line. To get the discounted price, multiple bricks must be purchased and engraved at the same time.

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The order form is available on the wall outside the synagogue office. Or you can go to https://www.bethmeyer.org/giving/walkway-honor.

Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Glickstein

Harrison Drake Glickstein will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 5, 2020. Harrison is a 7th grader at West Millbrook Middle School. When not in school, Harrison can be found on the tennis court. He trains all week at RRC’s Junior Tennis Academy and most weekends competes in tournaments where he holds a National USTA ranking.

Harrison’s favorite pastime is Gaming! He enjoys teaming up with friends, laughing and battling opponents.

Mom, Dad, and Gabbie are so proud of everything Harrison has accomplished. A special thank you to Rabbi Steven Kirschner who has guided Harrison these past few months, while imparting his wisdom and humor, making it a great experience for Harrison.

Embodied Prayer through Gentle Yoga: Hannukah

Sunday, December 6th at 7- 8:15pm
Join Rabbi Jenny Solomon and Dr. Barbara Vosk for a prayerful yoga practice via Zoom. Each session will include a bit of Jewish learning, chanting, and meditation led by Rabbi Jenny and a gentle yoga practice led by Barbara.

This quiet and rejuvenating practice helps melt away tension in the body and offers another avenue to express our prayers, moving from rote recitation to meaningful and contemplative embodied prayer. This particular series is aimed at preparing our bodies and souls for the holidays: Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, and Passover. By accessing the wisdom of our bodies through yoga and singing, we seek to enrich our experience of Jewish holidays and the sacred rhythms of Jewish life. This class is appropriate for everyone; no previous yoga experience is required.
**Mahzor Lev Shalem Fundraiser**

Our **Mahzor Lev Shalem Fundraiser** is ongoing. We are pleased to recognize the following people who contributed to the campaign last month:

- Mae Berman
- Sarah Fuerst
- Ric & Delphine Peller
- Phil and Heather Weinstein

Support our congregation in purchasing the Conservative Movement’s newest High Holy Day prayer book—**Mahzor Lev Shalem**! This book represents the best of the Conservative movement and promises to be inspiring and relevant for years to come.

- Please help Beth Meyer Synagogue raise the money needed to fill our sanctuary with 700+ new *mahzorim*!
- For each $54 donation, a *mahzor* nameplate will be inscribed in honor of, or in memory of, your loved one and a card will be sent to the honoree or to the family of those memorialized. You can also make a general donation to support the fund.

To find more information and make a donation, please visit [https://bethmeyer.org/giving/mahzor-lev-shalem](https://bethmeyer.org/giving/mahzor-lev-shalem).

**Ritual Committee—Sherry Shapiro**

**Making a Ritual Object – A Wrapping Project**

As we learn and create new ways of living and working at home, one thing to consider is that of making a Jewish Ritual Object, such as a tallit (prayer shawl). Whether for yourself, or someone else, the tallit making project can provide you with opportunities for learning about the history, wearing, and specific prayer or "bracha." Even if you have never sewn, this is an easy project that will “keep on giving.” Below you will find three of links that can help you with learning about the history of the tallit, the specific material and designs, and the occasions when you wear it (see [Encyclopedia Judaica: Tallit](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/making-your-own-ritual-objects/), [My Jewish Learning](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/making-your-own-ritual-objects/), and [Sew Jewish](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/making-your-own-ritual-objects/)).

There are on-line videos, patterns, and directions on how to tie tzitzit for the tallit. An interesting fact about the ritual macrame or, tzitzit (tseet-tseet or TSIT-sis) is that:

> “The central commandment surrounding tzitzit is “And you should see them and remember all of God’s commandments and do them.”

How do the tzitzit do this?

In gematria, tzitzit = 600. In addition, there are eight strands plus five knots. The total is 613—which, according to tradition, is the exact number of commandments–mitzvot–in the Torah. Just to look at them, therefore, is to remember all the mitzvot.” (My Jewish Learning, [https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/making-your-own-ritual-objects/](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/making-your-own-ritual-objects/))

Here is a video to watch on just how to tie your own tzitzit, the fringes on the prayer shawl.

As we come to wear our tallit, we are reminded that, not unlike wearing a string around one’s finger, the tzitzit are a reminder to think of God at all times.

Continued on page 13
Ritual Committee—continued

A Glimpse into The Rabbinical Assembly Response:
Rabbi Miriam C. Berkowitz, as part of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly, is the authority for the interpretation and application of all matters of halakhah.

Rabbi Berkowitz delves into the question whether or not the tallit is optional or required on the bimah.

“The tallit is at once a symbol of divine presence and command, a social marker of membership in the Jewish community, and a symbol that the wearer is fulfilling a function in leading the community in prayer….This teshuva will therefore only address the question of whether those who for some reason do not wear a tallit for their private worship should nevertheless don one to play a public role in leading prayer… This teshuvah will clarify that the people participating in leading the service should do so with a respectful and serious attitude, since their comportment affects not only their own prayer experience but that of the entire community. Clothing and ritual garb is one-way Jews have shown this kind of respect. We will conclude that it is becoming for all Jewish adults in synagogue to wear tallit, as a way to enhance and fulfill their obligation of personal prayer. It is even more essential for those with honors that affect the group prayer experience, not only their own….We will reaffirm that non-Jewish guests must not wear a tallit, even if they are trying to be respectful, as it is misleading when counting the number of people for a minyan and not appropriate. The honors they do receive in some communities, such as reading an English prayer, or even opening the ark, generally carry a different level of ritual status.” (For the full text, see Tallit on the Bimah: Optional or Required?)

As you ponder this project, whether you want to create your own, or one for someone else, the meaning to be found is not only in the making, but most significantly in the wearing. As Rabbi Berkowitz reminds us, “Wearing a tallit can invoke a sense of comfort, being wrapped in a safe and private space, making a transition between regular life and the moment of prayer, connection with Biblical times, and respect for the Divine.”

High Holy Day Contributors

Beth Meyer would like to acknowledge the following people who were not included in our High Holy Days booklet for their contributions to the High Holy Days campaigns.

Phil and Heather Weinstein

Bimah Flower Sponsorship: In memory of Marion Rothstein

Membership News

Beth Meyer Synagogue extends a warm welcome to the following individuals and families who recently joined our congregation.

Blair & Benjamin Denkin. They are expecting their first child in Jan 2021. Blair is a registered nurse. Benjamin is a banker at PNC. They reside in Raleigh.

Carrie & Gregory Stopka. Carrie is a program assistant/Office manager for NC Judicial System. Gregory is a security engineer. They have one adult son.

Jenna & Joseph Beker. Jenna is currently a student in speech pathology. Joseph is a customer healthcare manager/IT. They reside in Raleigh and just welcomed a their son, Oliver.
Beth Meyer Synagogue Yahrzeit Nameplate Order Form

In Jewish tradition, honoring the memories of our deceased loved ones is sacrosanct. At Beth Meyer, one way we practice this is with the placement of a memorial plaque on our sanctuary walls. Beside each plaque, there is a light that is illuminated during the Hebrew month of the deceased’s yahrzeit and in preparation for the four Yizkor services (Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Pesah (Day 8), and Shavuot (Day 2)) recited throughout the year. The names on these plaques remind us that we stand on the shoulders of righteous ones who built and contributed to our holy community and to the world. You can remember your loved one with a yahrzeit nameplate plaque by filling out the information below.

Return the completed form and payment of $360 to the synagogue office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plaque Information:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son/daughter of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Date of Death:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hebrew Date of Death: (The office can fill this in if you do not know it.)</td>
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<tbody>
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<td>Name:</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please allow 10-12 weeks for delivery.

You will receive notification when the plaque has arrived and been placed on a memorial tablet.

NOTE: Please understand that we may not be able to accommodate special requests for plaque placement.
### Yahrzeits

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<tr>
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<td>Charles Perlmutter, Sylvia Selner</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Dec</td>
<td>Benjamin Weinstein, Morris J. Kaplan, Louis Land, Charles Isaacs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Dec</td>
<td>Raymond Davitt, Gloria Jorove, Fraida Satisky</td>
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<td>4-Dec</td>
<td>Ida Zucker, Marion Landau, Michael Scharff, David Robbins, Alvin Newman, Leonard Harrison, Ralph Kaplan</td>
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<td>Daniel Satisky, Jerry Levin, Morris Mendell</td>
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<td>6-Dec</td>
<td>Jose Lurie, Sidney Zeitler, Ruth Blick, Harry Schwartz</td>
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<td>7-Dec</td>
<td>Gertrude Goldwasser, Phillip Sloat, Fred Shore, Mortimer Rosenzweig, Harold G. Bernstein, Nathan Sachs</td>
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<td>8-Dec</td>
<td>Rhoda Mazur, Charles Peller, Sophie Akse, Roy Weber, Rachel Israelson, Morris La Borwitt, Joseph Strauss</td>
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<td>9-Dec</td>
<td>Anne Gorin Becker, Shirley Baron, Albert Yanofsky, Ralph Galper, Milton Blick</td>
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<td>Logan Aronson, Gary Faden, Joseph Needham, Pauline Bush, Robert Rothstein</td>
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<td>11-Dec</td>
<td>Nora Bates, Nancy Gordon, Hudel Gottlieb, Harriet Friedrich, Minnie Scharff, Roger Wagner, Leo Abrams</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-Dec</td>
<td>Abraham Eisen, Gilda Freeman, Irving Sersner, Sidney Seff, Gordon Gott, Ralph Deitz, Harry L. Satisky, Melvin Kaufman, Myron Tannenbaum</td>
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### Birthdays

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<td>Jillian Katz</td>
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### Anniversaries

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<td>4-Dec</td>
<td>Arnold &amp; Faith Shertz</td>
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### December 2020

- Myron Tannenbaum, Melvin Kaufman, Myron Tannenbaum, David Akel.
Donations from October 16—November 16, 2020

Adult Education/Scholar in Residence
• Ellen Adelman in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Cathy & Rich Kaplan in memory of Marcia Fligman, mother of Ray Fligman
• Elaine & David Glass in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich

Beth Meyer Facilities Endowment
• Stefanie Mendell & Richard Johnson in memory of Stefanie’s father, Edmund Mendell

Biblical Garden Fund
• Barbara Vosk & Howie Shareff in memory of Howie’s mother, Fay Shareff
• Cathy & Rich Kaplan in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Mindy & Bruce Oberhardt in memory of Steve Cruse’s brother

Burton & Michele Horwitz & Family Educational Endowment Fund
• Natalie & Michael Guld in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Natalie & Michael Guld in memory of JoAnn Pizer-Fox

Daniel & Alice Satisky Religious School Scholarship Endowment Fund
• Ann & George Tosky in memory of David Tosky

Frances Pensler Religious School Endowment Fund
• Cathy & Rich Kaplan in memory of Alan Bloom, father of Ryan Bloom

General Fund
• Linda Wartski in honor of Rabbi Jenny Solomon
• Lawrence Sichel in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Renee & Steve Hammel in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Jonathan Flescher in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Carl Halperin in memory of Ella Kousnetz, his grandmother
• Anya & Arthur Gordon in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Doris & Richard Saleeby in memory of JoAnn Pizer-Fox
• Debbie & Miles Levine in memory of JoAnn Pizer-Fox
• Judy & Stanley Buchholz & family in honor of Barbara & Jeff Margolis for the marriage of Daniel to Susan
• Harvey Sapir in memory of Arthur Kravetz, brother of Sue Sul

Hesed Fund
• Barbara Vosk & Howie Shareff in memory of Edward Rieffberg, father of Donna Cohen
• Donna Cohen in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
• Cathy & Rich Kaplan in memory of Dorothy Buchalter, grandmother of Rondi Goodman
• Harvey Sapir in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich

Hevra Kadisha Fund
• Cindy Dickman in memory of her father, Sylvan Merwitz
• Cathy & Rich Kaplan in memory of Geraldine Eckstein, sister of Harvey Sapir

Honey & Perry Levine Memorial Fund for Senior Programs
• Sue & Marc Finkel in memory of David Tosky, father of George Tosky
• Robin & Dave Green in memory of David Tosky, father of George Tosky
• Susanne Lury in memory of her parents, Irving & Sarah Rosenblatt
• Elaine & David Glass in memory of Arthur Kravetz, brother of Sue Sul

Jeanne LaBorwitt Library Endowment
• Carl & Isobel Marcus in memory of Carl’s father, Louis Marcus

Leslie & Frances Pensler Religious School Endowment
• Frances E. Pensler in memory of her sister-in-law, JoAnn Pizer-Fox

Library Fund
• Janis & John Zaremba in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich

Mikveh Fund
• Bonnie & Jim Leach with gratitude to Rabbi Jenny Solomon

Preschool Fund
• Sue & Marc Finkel in honor of the wedding of Katie & Henry Zaremba
• Rachelle & Jay Schwartz in memory of their cousin, Debbie Weiser
• Glenda & Rick Toppe in honor of the birth of Brooke Lilah Altman
• Cathy & Rich Kaplan in honor of the birth of Brooke Lilah Altman
• Janis & John Zaremba mazal tov to Amy Ripps on the birth of granddaughter, Maya
• Janis & John Zaremba in honor of Rachelle & Jay Schwartz for the birth of their granddaughter, Brook Lilah

Rabbi Eric’s Discretionary Fund
• Barbara Vosk & Howie Shareff in memory of Barbara’s mother, Phyllis Vosk
• Anita & Jeff Meddin in honor of Rabbi Eric Solomon for blessing our home
HaMaggid

Beth Meyer Synagogue
December 2020

- Ariel, Paul & Sophia Cohen with gratitude to Rabbi Eric Solomon for helping us hang mezzuzot in our new home
- Glenda & Rick Toppe in memory of JoAnn Pizer-Fox
- Joel & Linda Dinkin in memory of David Tosky, father of George Tosky
- Ceci Berenthal in memory of her mother, Ofelia Luria
- Arlene & Jeffrey Kanner in honor of Charlotte Leach becoming a bat mitzvah
- Bonnie & Jim Leach with gratitude to Rabbi Eric Solomon

Rabbi Jenny’s Discretionary Fund
- Barbara Vosk & Howie Shareff in memory of Barbara’s mother, Phyllis Vosk
- Larry & Stacey Kohn in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
- Glenda & Rick Toppe in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
- Jordan Miller in memory of his father, Hyman Miller
- Barbara Miller in memory of her mother, Ruth Goodman
- Robin & Alan Blumberg in memory of Ginger Ackerman

Religious School Director’s Discretionary Fund
- Lara Smith with gratitude to Cathy Kaplan
- Bonnie & Jim Leach in honor of Cathy Kaplan

Religious School Fund
- Sharon & Wayne Mills in honor of Jake Alexander for becoming a bar mitzvah
- Sharon & Wayne Mills in honor of Lyla Sherman for becoming a bat mitzvah
- Lara Smith with gratitude to Amy Ripps

Ronald Bidwell and Betty Mandel Operating Endowment
- Barbara & Jeff Margolis wishing a speedy recovery to the sister of Hirsch Fishman
- Barbara & Jeff Margolis wishing a speedy recovery to the brother of David Glass
- Barbara & Jeff Margolis wishing a speedy recovery to Roger Himmel
- Barbara & Nelson Salez in memory of Barbara’s mother, Beatrice Hyman
- Bonnie & Jim Leach with gratitude to Paul Eagle
- Barbara & Jeff Margolis in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
- Barbara & Jeff Margolis in honor of Elbert Lipman for his 101st birthday

Safety & Security Fund
- Janis & John Zaremba in memory of Arthur Kravetz, brother of Sue Suls

Sisterhood
- Cathy & Rich Kaplan in memory of David Tosky, father of George Tosky

Social Action Fund
- Barbara Vosk & Howie Shareff in honor of Susan Bach & family for sharing her story on Yom Kippur
- Adele & Martin Kaplan in memory of Martin’s sister, Phyllis Estelle Snyder
- Bette Gabel & Martin Gabel in memory of Sibylle Ehrlich, mother of Susan Ehrlich
- Bonnie & Jim Leach in honor of Rabbi Steve Kirschner

Teen Tzedakah Giving Fund
- Phyllis Diehl in memory of her mother, Anne Nebret

Youth Programs Fund
- Janis & John Zaremba in honor of Charlotte Leach becoming a bat mitzvah
# December 2020 Beth Meyer Synagogue

*tentative online offerings*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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<td>Nov 29</td>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
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<td>Dec 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Minyan 9:00a</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Ed Study Session 11:00a</td>
<td>iEngage with Rabbi Solomon 7:30p</td>
<td><em>Shabbat Mishpahah</em> 6:30p</td>
<td><em>Harrison Glickstein Bar Mitzvah</em></td>
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<td><em>Minyan 7:00p</em></td>
<td><em>Daf Yomi Discussion 7:30p</em></td>
<td><em>Candle lighting 4:42p</em></td>
<td><em>Havdalah 5:43p</em></td>
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<td><em>Sisterhood Mtg 7:30p</em></td>
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<td><em>Shabbat Service 8:00p</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Minyan 9:00a</em></td>
<td><em>Prepping for Hanukkah: Festival of Light or Festival of Might 10:00a</em></td>
<td><em>Warm Up America 10:30a</em></td>
<td>Adult Ed Study Session 11:00a</td>
<td><em>Hanukkah</em></td>
<td><em>Hanukkah</em></td>
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<td><em>Minyan 7:00p</em></td>
<td><em>Sharing Stories of Light 7:00p</em></td>
<td><em>Candle lighting 4:43p</em></td>
<td><em>Havdalah 5:44p</em></td>
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<td><em>Daf Yomi Discussion 7:30p</em></td>
<td><em>iEngage with Rabbi Solomon 7:30p</em></td>
<td><em>Hanukkah Candle Lighting 5:00p</em></td>
<td><em>Hanukkah Concert 7:30p</em></td>
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<td><em>Sisterhood Wine &amp; Wisdom 7:30p</em></td>
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<td>Speaker Night with Tema Smith 7:30p</td>
<td><em>Hanukkah Trivia Night 6:30p</em></td>
<td>Adult Ed Study Session 11:00a</td>
<td><em>Lights Across Raleigh 5:00p</em></td>
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“The world rests on three things: Torah, Prayer, and Acts of Lovingkindness.”
- Pirkei Avot

Beth Meyer Synagogue is a holy community rooted in these sacred principles---

- **Torah**: We study the *Torah* to refine our souls and become more moral human beings.
- **Avodah**: We pray with heartfelt intention and seek ever greater ways to connect with God.
- **Gemilut Hasadim**: We care for each other in times of need and celebrate with each other in times of joy. We act to make the world a better place---here in Raleigh, in America, in Israel, and throughout the world.