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THE SHMOOZE

A Weekly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Bais Abraham Congregation



09 March 2024 /29 Adar I 5784

Shabbat Candle Lighting – 5:43 pm

Shabbat Ends – 6:42 pm

According to myzmanim.com

Shabbat Parshat Vayakhel

Kabbalat Shabbat - 5:43 pm

Shabbat Morning Services followed by Lunchish honoring Hillel Kieval and Debbie Katz– 9:00 am

Drasha by Becky Nelson-Zoole

Mincha, Seudah Shelishit and Maariv – 5:28 pm

**Bais Abraham
Congregation**



CELEBRATING 130
YEARS

Bais Abe Community News

Tzetchem L'Shalom

We wish tzetchem l'shalom to Hillel Kieval & Debbie Katz as they prepare to move out of town. We will miss you in St. Louis! All are invited to a lunchish following Shabbat morning services, sponsored by friends of the Kieval-Katz family, honoring Hillel and Debbie and wishing them well.

It's Membership March!

Thank you for being a part of our Bais Abe community as we celebrate our 130th year! We are grateful to those who have already paid their 2024 dues in full or by setting up a payment plan. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet paid your dues, you may do so [here](#). If you would like to learn more about membership options at Bais Abe, including 2024 dues levels, please visit the site [here](#). Income from membership dues is a critical part of our annual operating expenses; every individual and family donation matters. Partial payments and payment plans are gratefully accepted. You can make a payment or set up a payment plan online or contact Ruth in the office, office@baisabe.com or 314-721-3030. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions or to speak further. Thank you again for your support of Bais Abe.

2024 Israel Mishloach Manot Initiative

As we get ready to celebrate Purim, we continue to hold Israel in our hearts and minds. This year, instead of distributing mishloach manot locally to our community, we will be sending mishloach manot and helping to share the simcha with people living in Israel. [There are different levels at which to donate, and we hope you will choose the one that works for you.](#) Your donation will benefit American Friends of the IDF Rabbinate who sponsors this project with Yisrael Hatzair/National Council of Young Israel. A percentage will also benefit Bais Abe. **Deadline extended; we must have your donation by Tuesday, March 12, 2024.** *Additionally, please note this message from Rabbi Ozarowski: This is a wonderful cause worth supporting. But please keep in mind that it does not fulfill the personal obligation to give one's own Mishloach Manot. (They have informed us that they cannot guarantee that the foods will arrive on Purim Day itself). Actual Mishloach Manot to fulfill the mitzvah should be done on Purim Day with the giving of a minimum of two ready to eat foods to another person.*

Phishing Scams

We periodically send out reminders about email phishing scams. Please note that you will never receive emails from anyone at Bais Abe - staff or lay leadership - asking for personal favors or assistance. In general if you receive an email that looks strange, feels off, or is from an unidentified email address, please mark it as phishing and spam, and of course do not hesitate to be in touch with us if there are any questions or a need to speak further.

Rabbi Magence Commemorative Journal Available Now

We are happy to share the digital version of the Rabbi Magence Commemorative Journal [HERE](#). Donors at the Haverim level and above will receive a hardcopy soon. If you would like a hardcopy of this publication, they are available for \$36 and can be ordered [HERE](#).

Bais Abe Stands With Israel

We are brokenhearted and devastated over current events in Israel. We stand with our

brothers and sisters during these unprecedented times. We have created a page of some resources on our [website](#). The Jewish Federation of St. Louis also has a comprehensive resource page [here](#).

Shabbat Greeters

We are always looking for **greeters**! If this is something you are interested in, please sign up [here](#) or be in touch with the shul office. We need your friendly face at the door!

Kiddush Sponsors

Help sponsor Kiddushes and meals at Bais Abe! This is a wonderful way to commemorate a special occasion or honor someone. Please be in touch with Ruth for more information.

Upcoming Events:

THIS Sunday, March 10th at 9am - Congregational Meeting

Letter that was sent out on Thursday, February 29: As you are well aware, Bais Abraham Congregation embarked on a search for a new rabbi following Rabbi Silberstein's departure. A search committee, chaired by Greg Storch and co-chaired by Michael Rauchman, and composed of Judy Hoffman, Selwyn Picker, Rebecca Swartz, Nathan Waldman and Janet Weinberg, reviewed resumes, held parlor meetings with community members, conducted interviews, contacted references and arranged for candidates to be brought in for visits.

This week the search committee recommended the hiring of Rabbi Eliezer Finkelstein to the Board of Directors. The committee felt that Rabbi Finkelstein brings a high level of intelligence, compassion, and kindness to the role, and that he and his family will be wonderful assets to the congregation and larger community.

The Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of Rabbi Finkelstein and is now bringing the hiring to a congregational vote. **The meeting and vote will be held on Sunday, March 10 at 9am. Please note that Daylight Savings Time begins this day as well. Join us for Shacharit at 8, followed by the meeting and light refreshments. All are invited to attend, however only members in good standing (dues current as of 12/31/23) are allowed to vote. There will be a zoom voting option for those physically unable to attend; however we ask that members make every attempt to be at the meeting in person so that a quorum is met.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Greg Storch or Dan Vianello. If you have questions about your membership status, please be in touch with Ruth Schachter-Cohen.

We look forward to seeing you on March 10 and to building a strong Bais Abe.

Sincerely,

Dan Vianello, President

Dr. Greg Storch, Chair of the Search Committee

Purim at Bais Abe!

Purim will soon be here! Please see below for a schedule of Megillah readings, a seudah from Gokul, and a talent show! We appreciate sign ups for the seudah [here](#), or by contacting the shul office. We are looking for YOUR talent and skills for the variety show on Purim day, Sunday, March 24. Email Abby@baisabe.com for more info. Rabbi Joe will distribute Matanot L'Evyonim to those who need assistance on Purim Day. If you would like to donate, please do so [here](#), or send in a check/cash. Please indicate that it is for Matanot L'Evyonim.



Saturday, March 23

**8:15P Maariv followed by
Megillah and Havdalah**

Stick around for drinks and a nosh!

Sunday, March 24

8:00A Shacharit and Megillah

4:30P Mincha and Megillah

**Followed by a Seudah from Gokul
and live entertainment with**

BAIS ABE'S GOT TALENT!

Want to star in the show?

Let Abby know your talent by Wednesday, March 20
abby@baisabe.com



Halacha Highlight

ARBA PARSHIOT (The Four Special Torah Readings), PART I

Next Monday, March 11, will be the beginning of the month of *Adar Bet* (the second month of Adar), in which Purim falls. This is followed by Nissan, the month in which Pesach falls. Related to this is the reading of the *Arba Parshiot*. Usually, on Shabbat, the reading for the last *Aliyah*, called *Maftir*, is a repetition of the last few lines of that week's Torah portion. But on two Shabbatot before Purim and on two between Purim and Pesach, we have special readings as the *Maftir*. On these four Shabbatot, two Torahs are needed, one for the weekly reading and one for the special *Maftir*. The first special *Maftir*, called *Parshat Shekalim* (Exodus 30: 11-16), will be read this Shabbat. It is about an annual tax which had to be given by the first of Nissan for maintaining the Tabernacle (and then Temple). The second special *Maftir*, called *Parshat Zachor* (Divarim 25: 17-19), is about remembering the evil done to us by the nation of Amalek. The Rabbis related this to Purim, the holiday recalling

the evil Haman, believed to be from Amalek, tried to do. Therefore, it is read on the Shabbat preceding Purim, which will be in two weeks, March 24.

Jack Shapiro

St. Louis Jewish Community News and Messages

TOMCHEI SHABBOS

Purim Mishloach Purim cards are now available! Festive Barbara Mendelson Tomchei Shabbos cards are for sale. Purchasing cards supports our Tomchei Shabbos families. Cards are \$3.00 each, 10 for \$30 plus 1 free, and 20 for \$60 plus 2 free. Cards may be purchased from Jackie Oppenheimer (314-954-7088), or Bryna Kandel (314-616-5862).

The Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry Needs Our Help

Please help the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry by donating money or donating food. Below are some suggestions for food items the pantry needs: Peanut Butter & Jelly; Rice, Dry Beans, and Dry Potatoes; Kosher Non-Perishable Foods; Healthy Hot and Cold Cereals; Canned Fruit; Dry Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauces; Healthy Snacks; and Personal care items such as Body Wash, Disposable Razors, and Shaving Cream

Currently, the need is great so please help in any way you can. Thank you. For further information, please contact Louise Levine, 314 368 5902.

Clean Speech St. Louis

We are so excited to bring you 30-days of practical tools for more positive speech based on timeless Jewish wisdom to upgrade our relationships, our lives, and our community here in St. Louis.

Starting March 1st, you can get one short mindful speech tip sent to your inbox each day brought to you by someone in our local St. Louis community! We are so excited to have over 30 local participating schools, synagogues and organizations uniting together to focus on speaking more mindfully for 30-days.

Please sign up [here](#) to join VOLUME 3 of the 30-day Clean Speech St. Louis challenge!



Clean Speech St. Louis Vol. 3 "Words of Peace/Oseh Shalom" begins March 1st

40 Participating
Organizations!

A community-wide campaign
to give us the tools to create
more positive relationships.
Learn practical ways to make
our world a place of Shalom.

Sign up now to take the 30-day
Clean Speech challenge.
Go to cleanspeech.com/stl



JSU AND B'NAI AMOONA PRESENT

ISRAEL & ANTI-SEMITISM PAST.PRESENT.FUTURE.

Open to ALL High School Students

In this crash course on Israel and antisemitism, participants will develop an understanding of the history of the land and state of Israel and Zionism. This will serve as a backdrop to explore October 7 and antisemitism today.

Class Dates: 2/26, 3/4, 3/11, 3/25,
4/1, 4/8 and 4/15

6:45: Pizza Dinner

7:00pm-8:30pm: Class

Where: Congregation B'nai Amoona

Questions?

Liessa@bnaiamoona.com

RabbiMike@jsustl.org

314-498-6279

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Know anyone that needs financial help?
Tell them about stljl.org.

We Provide Loans and Promise Dignity

The St. Louis Jewish Loan Association offers an **interest-free loan program** to the Jewish community to help overcome temporary hardships that may have arisen unexpectedly. Loans are up to \$5,000 payable over 36 months.

General Needs Loans

'General Needs' interest-free loans can be used to cover unanticipated expenses including household-related, small business, debt consolidation, Jewish life events and much more.

Apply

Apply confidently and confidentially online. We provide a step-by-step guide to applying for an interest-free loan through the St. Louis Jewish Loan Association. Visit stljl.org

Contact Us – stljl.org

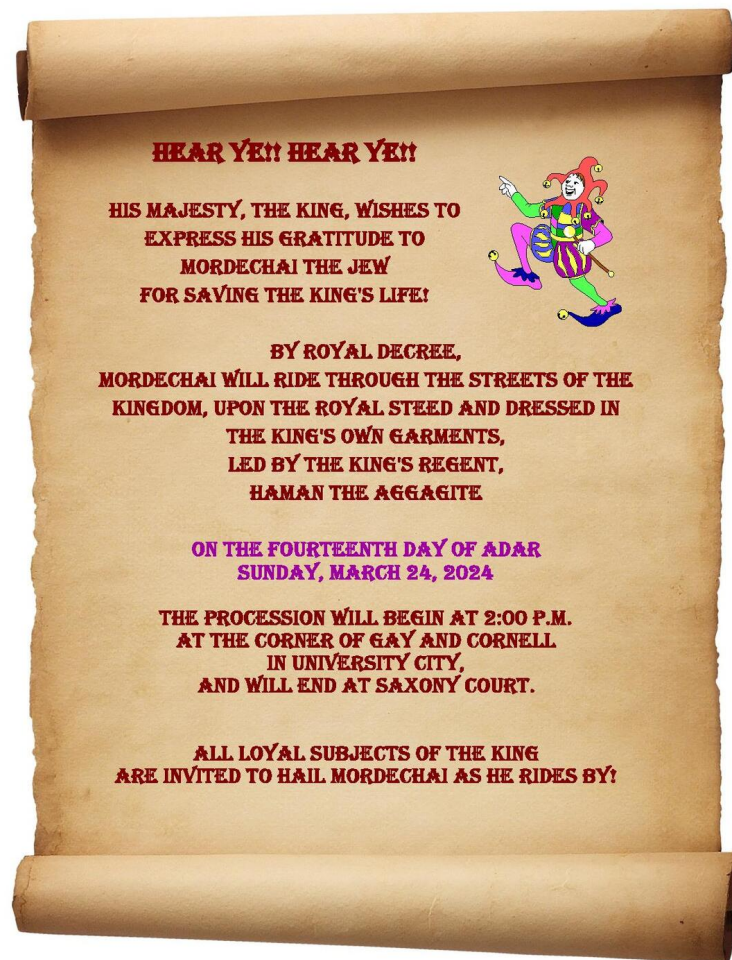
For more information about the loan guidelines or any other questions, please contact us at one of the following:

314-442-3755

jewishloan@jfedstl.org

St. Louis Jewish Loan Association is generously supported by the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and the Lubin-Green Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis





Classifieds

Home for Sale!

7835 Balson Ave
University City, MO 63130

For more information, contact Elisheva Heit at:
314-456-6027
flamencoflowers@gmail.com

Reminders:

Please refrain from wearing perfume/cologne in the synagogue because some of our members are highly allergic. If you inadvertently arrive at the shul wearing any scents, please wash them off. Thank you.

Please be sure to close any windows you open before you leave the building.

Join Connect Bais Abe to get the most up-to-date news from Bais Abe and your fellow Bais Abers. To join the conversation, just send an email to connectBaisAbe+subscribe@groups.io

Seeking photos of Bais Abe activities and Bais Abe members for inclusion in future issues of The Shmooze. Please email photos to Abby@baisabe.com.

שבת שלום

Submit articles and announcements for publication by Tuesday morning to shmooze@baisabe.com. Advertise in the Shmooze Classified section and on Bais Abraham's website for two weeks for \$18. For further news and general information about our shul please check out our website at www.baisabe.com. The Shmooze© is a community publication of Bais Abraham Congregation.

Office Hours & Contact Information

Phone: 314.721.3030

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday: Closed

Email:

Rabbi Joseph Ozarowski, Interim Rabbi: rabbijoe@baisabe.com

Executive Director Ruth Schachter-Cohen: office@baisabe.com

Programming and Engagement Coordinator Abby Goldberg: Abby@baisabe.com

Dan Vianello, President: president@baisabe.com



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