



The ENVIRONMENT Issue

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

A Teenage Perspective

Members of our BIFTY community will lead a service on Friday, February 21, titled "The Secret Life of the American Jewish Teenager." Details on Page 2.

Saving Energy

Brian Ringelheim describes improvements the synagogue has made that will save energy. Page 4

Lessons From Tu Bishvat

Rabbi Marion reflects on the New Year for the Trees. Page 5.

Lessons in Respect

Ira Wise ponders the need to address environmental issues that threaten the future of the planet. Page 7.

The Meaning of the Mikvah

Rabbi Marion will lead a visit to a Mikvah in March to teach about how the ritual bath has been used to acknowledge and embrace life's ongoing changes. Details on Page 8

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THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE OF NATURE

By Rabbi Evan Schultz

Welcome to our second themed bulletin issue, this month with a focus on the environment.

Our theme aligns with the festival of Tu Bishvat (see Rabbi Marion's article on Page 5) in which we celebrate the New Year of the Trees. My focus will be on Psalm 19 and the Jewish experience of nature.

Many congregants have expressed to me in conversations about God, that they often experience the divine within the natural realm. The same is true of

my experience, when I think about my spiritual journey, so many of my deepest connections have been within the bounds of nature's sheer beauty.

What is it about nature that is so profound for so many of us? I think back to when I was a teenager at Jewish summer camp in New Hampshire, recalling still the feeling of jumping into the freezing cold lake on Friday afternoon just before Shabbat, the lake becoming like Jewish Clorox, cleansing me and my bunkmates before we walked to the outdoor sanctuary to welcome in the Sabbath.

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SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Join us on February 21-22 as we welcome our Scholar in Residence, Dr. Wendy Zierler, to Congregation B'nai Israel.

Dr. Zierler is a deeply engaging scholar and teacher whose main areas of focus are modern Jewish Literature and Feminist Studies. Both Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion studied with Dr. Zierler in rabbinical school and are so excited to welcome her to our community.

Dr. Zierler is the Sigmund Falk Professor of Feminist Studies and Modern Jewish Literature at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City.

Her most recent book, "Midrash and Movies: Popular Film and

Jewish Religious Conversation," was a finalist for the National Jewish Book award. She is also the author of "And Rachel Stole the Idols; The Emergence of Modern Hebrew Women's Writing."



Dr. Wendy Zierler

"I teach a variety of courses in Hebrew literature and the ways modern Jewish writers reinterpret the Bible and other classical sources," Dr. Zierler said in an e-mail. "I have written books on the first Hebrew women writers and on popular culture and theology."

Continued on P. 4

WELCOME! WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to their participation in our many programs and hope their affiliation will not only enrich their lives, but that of our congregation.

Judith Stern

Eastlawn Street, Fairfield

Lake Serrins and Martin Anderson, Oscar & Leif

Homeland Street, Fairfield

SHARING OUR JOY...

Marjorie and Paul Krubiner, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Rafael Galon Sufian Krubiner, son of Steven and Aviva Krubiner.

Maggie and Marc Walowitz, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Henry Easton Weinberg, son of Chloe and Zach Weinberg.

Joanne and Richard Krantz, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Cameron Allan Gillies, son of Elizabeth and Neil Gillies.

Shari and Brian Nerreau, in celebration of the engagement of son Brad, to Samantha Russell.

Liz and Mark Nigrosh, in celebration of the marriage of son, Seth, to Robin MacFadden.

Nina and Ken Rabine, in celebration of the birth of granddaughter, Nora Pearl Reiter, daughter of Alexis and Steve Reiter, sister of Dean.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Estelle Baer, sister of Beryl Kaufman
Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner

Bernard Gladstein, father of Geoffrey Gladstein

Cristobal Alvarado, father of Mary Zubrinsky

Shirley Goldstein, grandmother of Jenny Goldstein.

Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine

Norman Suslock, husband of Joan Suslock

BULLETIN BOARD

February Mitzvah Morning



Bridgeport Islamic
Community Center

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, February 9, to help prepare and serve food in the Bridgeport Islamic Community Center soup kitchen at 703 State Street, Bridgeport, where meals are served every Sunday to about 120 people. Five volunteers are needed between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for the soup kitchen. After the meal, guests are invited to select items from the food pantry. Five volunteers for the food pantry are needed from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Check Hashavua and the temple website to sign up.

A Teenage Perspective

Join with members of our BIFTY community for an engaging Shabbat experience on Friday, February 21 at 6:00 pm. at a service titled "The Secret Life of the American Jewish Teenager." Throughout the service, our teens will share their perspectives about the ways that Judaism informs and impacts their daily lives, and they will create space for intergenerational conversation and dialogue. Plan to join us after services for a congregational dinner and an inspiring learning session with Dr. Wendy Zierler, our scholar in residence.

Shabbat Playdate

Join us for a special Shabbat morning gathering on Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 at the home of Rebecca and Nick Blondin. Titled "Playdate for Babies, Ones and

Twos," it is specifically geared for our 0-2- year-old friends (older siblings welcome!) We'll celebrate Shabbat with some singing, dancing, playing and eating. Bagels, coffee and snacks provided. This event is hosted by Rabbi Marion and Rebecca Blondin, through our Havurah for Young Families. Bonim families, B'nai Israel families, and friends of Bonim all are welcome! Please R.S.V.P. to Rabbi Marion at smarion@cbibpt.org if you would like to attend. Address provided upon R.S.V.P.

Sisters' Schmooze

The next Sisters' Schmooze will be on February 27. Location to be determined. Please look for details in Hashavua and on the website.

Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Monday, February 3, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. At the last drive, 19 units of blood were collected, which can save up to 57 lives. Donors include the following members of the B'nai Israel community:

Michael Blumenthal, Mark Nigrosh, David Pressler, Caren Schwartz and Myra Shapiro. Please register with the Red Cross at either 1-800- 733-2767 or 1-800-RedCross.

One Temple, One Book

Please save the date for a discussion of "Antisemitism Here and Now" by Deborah E. Lipstadt on April 20 at 7 p.m. We encourage you to read this important book, and will be offering study sessions in March.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE OF NATURE FROM P. 1

Or even more recently, running through the trails and paths of the Connecticut forests, whispering the words, “mah rabu maasecha Adonai,” (how great are your works, Adonai), as I feel the roots and rocks beneath my feet and am awed by the sun reflecting upon the lake in the distance, through the trees.

Perhaps it is that nature is the antithesis of the rest of our worldly experience. I think about most of my day – we, for the most part, deal in words. we talk, we listen, we read, we shout, we sing. However take a look at the poetry of Psalm 19, verses 1-7, what do you see?

*To the lead player. A David psalm.
The heavens tell God's glory and
God's handiwork sky declares.
Day to day breathes utterance and
night to night pronounces knowledge.
There is no utterance and there are
no words, their voice is never heard.*

*Through all the earth their voice
goes out, to the world edge, their
words.*

*For the sun God set up a tent in them,
and he like a groom from his canopy
comes, exults like a warrior running
his course.*

*From the end of the heavens his
going out and his circuit to their
ends, and nothing can hide from his
heat.*

I read this and am stuck on the line, “There is not utterance and there are no words.” In other words, nature offers us a wordless language, perhaps what the great twentieth-century Hebrew poet H.N Bialik would call “the language of images.”

Nature speaks a different kind of language. “Day to day breathes utterance, and night to night pronounces knowledge.” The heavens speak, but it is



a wordless language, according to Bible scholar Robert Alter.

Certainly anyone who has had a profound experience in nature can relate to the notion that the earth and the heavens, the sun and moon, they offer us a deeply moving wordless experience, of speechlessness and silence, breath and knowledge.

**When I think about my spiritual journey, so many
of my deepest connections have been within the
bounds of nature's sheer beauty.**

THE SABBATH OF SONG

Please join us as we celebrate Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song, on Friday, February 7, at 6 p.m.

We will be honoring Mark Edinberg for his contributions to the musical life of the synagogue, and his music will be performed by Cantor Sheri Blum, the Adult Choir, Radio Klez and several other temple musicians.

You have probably seen Mark playing trombone in the original Temple Band, playing keyboard at Friday night services, or with our Klezmer Band, Radio Klez.



Mark also arranges the music for our Friday night services. He has written original compositions, including High Holiday anthems for the adult choir and for the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

“Hearing everyone play, sing and/or enjoy something I wrote is both rewarding and an honor,” Mark said.

CUTTING OUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Over the last several years, the synagogue has taken steps to reduce its energy consumption, thus saving money and benefiting the planet.

Brian Ringelheim, the temple's House Committee chairman, has led this effort, with help from Eric Braisted, the synagogue's maintenance director; Peter Montagna, a congregant who is an engineer; President Shari Nerreau and First Vice President Larry Levine.

Brian noted that the first three items on the list below were accomplished with the help of United Illuminating and did not cost the temple anything up front.

Here's how the arrangement works. Initially, U.I. absorbed the cost of the new equipment. It will recover the cost over the next four years by continuing to charge us the same amount for electricity



as it has in the past, even though our consumption has decreased by \$15,000 to \$17,000 a year. After the project is paid off, the temple will benefit from the energy savings on its bills.

Brian listed the following improvements:

- A new 10-ton air conditioning unit was installed to replace a 20-year-old unit. The new unit is more energy efficient and uses more modern refrigerants.
- LED Lighting has been installed around the building and in the parking lot.
- Heating in the school is now more regulated with bypass valves and more thermostats, so the first room on the heating run is not really hot and the last one cold.
- A timer control was put on the boiler to cut gas consumption
- We have begun using reusable coffee mugs instead of disposable ones at the Keurig machine.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE FROM P. 1

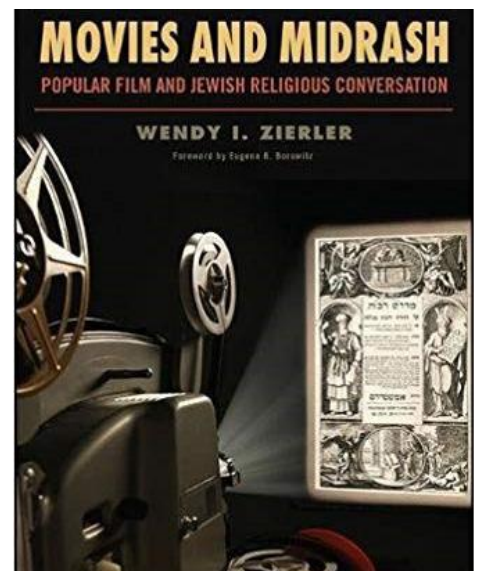
Prior to joining HUC-JIR, Dr. Zierler was a Research Fellow in the English Department of Hong Kong University, where she lived for five and a half years while teaching at the university.

Congregants will have two opportunities to learn with Dr. Zierler. She'll be teaching on Friday night after Shabbat services and dinner, and will lead Torah study on Saturday morning.

She will also lead a session for local clergy on Friday afternoon as part of the Joseph I. and Sylvia Spector Clergy Institute lecture. Check Hashavua for information on how to sign up for dinner.

"I came to my interest in modern Hebrew literature after taking a class on Hebrew poetry with the poet Yehuda Amichai," Dr. Zierler wrote. "I came to my interest in studying the history of the first Hebrew women writers after taking a course at Princeton with Sandra Gilbert and Elaine Showalter, who helped create the field of Anglo American feminist literary studies.

And my interest in movies and theology came from team-teaching with leading Reform Theologian Eugene Borowitz at the N.Y.U. school of HUC."





FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY/RABBI SARAH R. MARION

A TIME OF REBIRTH

As I write this article, the temperature outside is struggling to reach 40 degrees, and a cascade of snow flurries is drifting its way through a gray morning sky. And, yet, Tu Bishvat, the New Year for the trees, is just around the corner.

Because Tu Bishvat originated in a warmer Middle Eastern climate, it is a holiday that often feels disjointed from our realities in the American Northeast. But I find that the customs, teachings, and traditions associated with Tu B'shvat still contain meaning and relevance for our chilly Connecticut lives.

**Just like birds jostling
at feeders and spreading
seeds along fences, we, too,
can begin sowing the seeds
for our future.**

I love the way that Tu Bishvat encourages us to recommit and "re-plant" ourselves towards our goals in the midst of these cold, tired months, when we often need an extra push just to leave our warm homes.

The Jewish author and poet Marge Piercy describes it best in her poem, "The New Year for the Trees:"

*It is the New Year of the Trees,
but here the ground is frozen under
the crust of snow.
The trees snooze, their buds tight as
nuts.
Rhododendron leaves roll up their
stiff scrolls.*

*In the white and green north of the
diaspora
I am stirred by a season that will not
arrive
for six weeks, as wines on far
continents prickle*

*to bubbles when their native vines
bloom.*

*What blossoms here are birds jostling
at feeders, pecking sunflower seeds
and millet through the snow: tulip red
cardinal, daffodil finch, larkspur jay,*

*the pansy bed of sparrows and juncos,
all hungry.*

*They, too, are planters of trees,
spreading seeds*

*of favorites along fences. On the earth
closed*

*to us all is a book in a language we
cannot*

*yet read, the seeds, the bulbs; the eggs
of the fervid green year await release.
Over them on February's cold table I
spread
a feast. Wings rustle like summer
leaves.*

Just like birds jostling at feeders and spreading seeds along fences, we, too, can begin sowing the seeds for our future -- even when it is dark and cold -- so that when warmer periods arrive, the fruits of our labor are able to burst forth and thrive.

But seed sowing, especially in the winter, takes patience and perseverance. Our efforts may not be immediately visible -- they might remain underground, buried under snow and ice, until they gain the warmth and strength needed to survive. Nor do we know if the possibilities that we plant will even take root.

The mystics believed that Tu Bishvat marks the day on which tree sap begins to flow up the trees' roots and branches. Therefore, although the trees may still appear barren from the outside, Tu B'shvat marks the day on which they begin to experience internal growth. Tu B'shvat marks the first step towards their rebirth, slowly percolating from within.



We need Tu Bishvat, and it's many customs and traditions, to remind us that internal growth and renewal are indeed achievable, and even inevitable. So long as we continue to plant and water our own seeds of possibility, we, too, will eventually see our own rebirth in full bloom.

AN INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

Celebrate Tu Bishvat with the Tent of Abraham, our interfaith community partners, on Sunday, February 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Temple.

We will reflect upon the beauty of the natural world, consider our role as caretakers of the earth, and enjoy traditional Tu Bishvat snacks and other treats to nourish our souls on a cold winter day.

Please RSVP to Ronnie Dubrowin at ronmidwife@gmail.com by January 27.

If you plan to attend, please bring donations of new hats, gloves, mittens and/or scarves to donate to our neighbors in need, in our efforts to help keep each other warm this winter.



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

HELPING TO SAVE THE PLANET

The Bonim Preschool cares very much for our environment and works hard to keep our world healthy and safe for all future generations. Here you see a few small ways the kids contribute each day.



The one-year-olds drop their reusable cups into the class basket for use throughout the day. No wasted plastic cups!



3A students Miriam and Emilia recycle their paper and containers

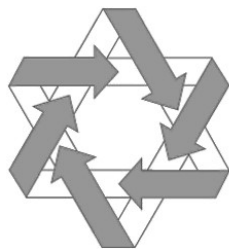


We are proud to display our "No Idling" sign by the school door



FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE BAL TASHCHIT – DO NOT DESTROY

During the winter break, Audrey and I had an interesting discussion with our adult sons about the coming elections, specifically about the Democratic candidates. They were adamant about many things (as 20somethings tend to be), but they both felt that the bottom line was that they would support the candidate they felt would be best for the environment and reversing global warming. They have an acute fear that their children or grandchildren may be among the final generations of humanity. It was a sobering conversation.



Each semester, the rabbis and I meet with the families who are beginning the final year of preparing for B'nai Mitzvah. One of the

conversations is about how to interpret a verse from the Torah – this is to prepare them to write a D'var Torah and teach the congregation something about what *their* Torah portion means to *them*. One of the example texts comes from Deuteronomy 20:

When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time

I don't know about you, but I have not had much occasion to study the rules of besieging a city.

in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city? Only trees that you know do not yield food may be destroyed; you may cut them down for constructing siege works against the city that is waging war on you, until it has been reduced.

I don't know about you, but I have not had much occasion to need the rules of besieging a city. In order to make these verses relevant to us (and to the 12-year-old who is preparing to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah) we need to dig deeper. If we are not so concerned with the rules of war, what can the Torah teach us?

Invariably, one of the learners draws our attention to the distinction between the kinds of trees. We may cut down the shade trees but not the fruit trees. The focus is on how resources get used. The

Torah is concerned with conserving food. After the battle is over, people will still need to eat! Food should not be wasted!

This often opens a discussion about environmentalism and how we should reduce, re-use and recycle. We often share a midrash where God tells Adam and Eve to take care of the world they have been given, and not destroy it (*Bal Tashchit*) because no one will come along to create another one.

I believe that there are many issues that are vital to the future of our country and our planet. And I will make my voting decisions based on all of them. My sons remind me – and all of us – of what God told Adam and Eve. We all have to take responsibility for Bal Tashchit – not destroying our planet. We all do a little more than we used to do. Nearly all of us should do – and say – even more.

L'shalom,

Ira J. Wise, D.J.R.E.
Director of Education

THE STORY OF 'FIDDLER'

The documentary film "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles" will be screened at our synagogue on Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m. The screening is free to synagogue members.

The film, directed by Max Lewkowicz, explores the historical context and thematic elements of "Fiddler on the Roof" to uncover the mystery behind the play's success.

The New York Times called the movie

"a fascinating love letter to Fiddler on the Roof."

In his review in The Times, Jason Zinoman said: "Max Lewkowicz's documentary keeps reminding us of the multiple sources of inspiration for this quintessentially Jewish musical, from the paintings of Marc Chagall to the politics of the day.

'In early rehearsals, to help his cast understand what being Jewish in turn-of-

the-century Russia was like, the director and choreographer Jerome Robbins had them re-enact scenarios that black people endured in the Jim Crow South. Robbins emerges as the most riveting figure, a cruel and demanding perfectionist, who, in the words of one commenter, "bludgeoned" the show into shape.





ADULT JEWISH LEARNING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



Adult Round Table

Thursdays, February 6 and March 5 at 12:30 p.m.

Ilene Goby facilitates a discussion about current events for anyone who wants to go beyond the headlines. Join us the first Thursday of every month, and bring a sandwich, your opinion and an open mind.

Pirkei Avot: The Wisdom of the Sages Lifelong Learning: Fridays, February 7 & 14, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Natt Family Library

Join with Rabbi Schultz for a two-session course on Pirkei Avot, an important collection of rabbinic insights written in the period after the destruction of the ancient Temple in 70 CE. Many of these teachings and maxims focus on morals and ethics. All ages, abilities, and levels are welcome and encouraged to join!

Real Life Parenting:

The Blessings of a Skinned Knee Mondays, February 10 and 17, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Natt Family Library

We all want many of the same things for our children. We want them to be resilient, successful and happy. We want them to develop the skills they need to make their way in the world and to never suffer pain. We can't always get what we want, but if we are thoughtful and deliberate, we have a good chance of them becoming wonderful adults who will almost always make us proud. Join Ira Wise, father of a 21- and a 27-year-old (and therefore **not** an expert about your kids) for a frank conversation about parenting. Whether your children are older, younger or even just a plan for the future, this is a conversation you will be glad you had!

Rosh Chodesh

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join with women from across the B'nai Israel community each month for conversation, laughter and learning as we celebrate the start of each new moon and soak in the wisdom of our female ancestors. Women of all



ages are welcome to participate. Our gatherings will be held at Congregation B'nai Israel from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Questions? Contact Rabbi Sarah Marion at smarion@cbibpt.org. Future meetings will be 3/12, 4/16, 5/14 and 6/25.

Fearless Females in the Bible! Twenty Minutes of Torah

Sunday, February 23 at 9:35 – 9:55 a.m. in the Natt Family Library

Rabbi Schultz is leading this month's bite-sized Torah with a brief but meaty Jewish conversation! Come join him in the Natt Family Library to learn about the daughters of Zelophachad – the first ever to argue for equal rights! Remaining sessions will be March 8 and April 5.

Purim Prep: The Scroll of Esther Lifelong Learning:

Friday, February 28, Noon – 1:30 p.m. Natt Family Library

Purim is Near! Join with Rabbi Schultz for a one-session course on Megilat Esther, or the Scroll of Esther. This is a good opportunity to learn the text that we read on the evening of Purim without all the noisemakers and chaos! All ages, abilities, and levels are welcome and encouraged to join!

How to Be a Friend to a Friend Who's Sick

Midrasha: Monday, March 2, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Natt Family Library

Join with Rabbi Marion and Bari Dworken, Educator, Chaplain and Spiritual Director (and member of our B'nai Israel community) for a conversation around the complexities of supporting our loved ones through illness. Inspired by the book *How to Be a Friend to a Friend Who's Sick* by Letty Cottin Pogrebin, we will explore what Jewish tradition has to say on this topic.

Mikvah 101: The Meaning and Majesty of the Jewish Ritual Bath Sunday, March 15, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. At Mikvah Israel,

1326 Stratfield Road, Fairfield

For Women Only

For thousands of years, Jews have immersed in a ritual bath to acknowledge and embrace life's ongoing changes and stages. Today, Jewish men and women continue to use the mikvah to celebrate moments of joy, heal after times of sorrow or illness, and commemorate moments of transition. Women from the B'nai Israel community are invited to meet Rabbi Marion at our local mikvah on March 15. We will view the mikvah up close, learn about the customs and origins of this ritual, and explore the ways that ritual immersion has been reimagined and redefined to support our modern values. *Due to space limitations, this opportunity is limited to the first 12 participants who R.S.V.P. If interest is high, we will offer an additional session at a later date. Please R.S.V.P. to Rabbi Marion at smarion@cbibpt.org*

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

(We greatly appreciate all donations to our special purpose funds.)

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Bonnie Alterman, in memory of Ed and Miriam Payess.

Renée and Rick Beitman & Family, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Bonim Parent Committee, Happy Holidays from your Bonim family, we are so lucky to have you.

Yoav and Lisa Burger, in honor of Rabbi Schultz's Installation.

Vernon and Meredith Dommu, in appreciation of High Holiday Services, and for Rabbi Schultz's work with the Religious School.

Barbara and Mark Edinberg, in memory of Shirley Goldstein, grandmother of Jenny Goldstein.

Alan Feldman, in memory of Shirley Goldstein, grandmother of Jenny Goldstein.

The Fridman Family, in memory of Shirley Goldstein, grandmother of Jenny Goldstein.

Stacy and Rob Giglietti, in memory of Michael Giglietti, father of Rob Giglietti.

Jim and Lisa Greenberg, in appreciation.

Seth, Erin and Jack Greenwald, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

Stephen and Molli Hourihan, congratulations to Rabbi Schultz on his Installation.

Beryl Kaufman, in loving memory of sister, Estelle Baer.

Alice and George Kelly, in honor of Rabbi Schultz's installation as Senior Rabbi.

David and Erica Kraft, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz and the Kraft/Kerber wedding.

The Krauss Family, in honor of Brian Barlaam's Mitzvah Hero award.

Karen Lessler and Jack Schwartz, in memory of Nancy Green, mother of Dan Green.

The Oberhand Family, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz for helping Lindsay prepare for her Bat Mitzvah.

Beth and Jordan Posner, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz's wise counsel.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in memory of Howard Bindelglass, father of David Bindelglass; in honor of Rabbi Evan Schultz's Installation.

Beth and Randy Reich & Family, in memory of father and grandfather, Sidney Loewith Goldstein.

Ben Rottman and Robin Isaacson, in memory of Nancy Green, mother of Dan Green.

Andrea and Michael Rudolph, in honor of Rabbi Schultz's Installation as Senior Rabbi.

Aaron Shellow-Levine and Jill Shellow, in appreciation of B'nai Israel, and in memory of David Lavine.

The Silberman/Weisman Family, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner.

Judy and Robert Witter, in memory of Isadore M. Sternberg, father of Judy Witter.

Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund

Bonim Parent Committee, Happy Holidays from your Bonim family, we are so lucky to have you.

Wendy and Geoffrey Gladstein, in memory of Bernard Gladstein.

Jim and Lisa Greenberg, in appreciation.

Karin Newman, in memory of father-in-law, Sidney Newman.

The Oberhand Family, in appreciation of Rabbi Marion for helping Lindsay prepare for her Bat Mitzvah.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in honor of Rabbi Marion's Installation; in honor of Alexander Renzulli's Bar Mitzvah.

The Silberman/Weisman Family, in memory of Cristobal Alvarado, father of Mary Zubrinsky.

Judy and Robert Witter, in memory of Rosalind Lux Sternberg, mother of Judy Witter.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Jack and Sandy Germain, in memory of Bruce Billingsly.

Jim and Lisa Greenberg, in memory of Bob Greenberg.

George and Chris Markley, congratulations to the Krubiner family on the birth of Rafael, grandson of Marge and Paul Krubiner, son of Steve and Aviva.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in memory of Dr. Allen Ross, father of David Ross; in memory of Herbert Bernstein, father of

Sherry Fogel.

Marilyn S. Weinstein, in memory of Ruth Schaffer, mother of Laurie Peck; with thanks to Helen and Bob Natt, and Serena and Rabbi Sher, for the lovely Chanukah candles.

Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund

Ivan Maisel and Meg Murray, in appreciation for all that Rabbi Prosnit has done for us and many others; in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens.

Ellen and Robert Sheiman, thanking you for years of religious leadership and your continuing friendship.

Marc and Maggie Walowitz & Zach and Chloe Weinberg, in appreciation to Rabbi Prosnit.

Music Fund

Colette Carasso, in memory of Vicky Lee Ashkins Lopez.

Bonim Parent Committee, Happy Holidays from your Bonim family, we are so lucky to have you.

Jack and Sandy Germain, in memory of Lawrence Lax.

Don and Wendy Hyman, in honor of Mark Edinberg's two decades of music.

Geoffrey and Melanie Kooris, a thank you to Rebecca Gordon Blondin and Nick Blondin.

Beth Lazar, in honor and appreciation of Mark Edinberg's musical contributions to B'nai Israel.

The Oberhand Family, in appreciation of Cantor Blum for helping Lindsay prepare for her Bat Mitzvah.

Judy Rankell, in loving memory of Marilyn Sobel Larimore, mother of Karen Sobel.

Beth and Randy Reich & Family, in memory of father and grandfather, Harry Burchman.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in celebration of Arielle Santiago's engagement to Lindsay Albright.

Debbie and Michael Weisman, in memory of parents, Mary and Max Frauwrith; in memory of sister, Nancy Frauwrith.

Enhancement Fund

Lori and Ken Berger, in memory of

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

(We greatly appreciate all donations to our special purpose funds.)

Cindy West, beloved wife of Ken West.
Barbara Berkowitz, in loving memory of sister, Carole Toss.

Marvin Gelfand, in memory of Nathan and Cyril Gelfand.

Ruth and Eric Gross, in memory of Bernard Gladstein, father of Geoffrey Gladstein.

Robert Lessler, in memory of Nancy Green, mother of Dan Green.

Alice Madwed, in memory of nephew, Steven Madwed, son of Ruth Madwed.

Ruth Madwed, in memory of son, Steven Madwed.

Luise Mann, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner.

Dyann Ross and Eric Stein, in memory of Cindy West, wife of Ken West.

Diane Saslow, in memory of Nancy Green, mother of Dan Green.

Mindy and Jeff Siegel, a donation.

Judith Stern, in memory of Sylvia Edelson.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Myra and Marshall Watnick, in memory of Sylvia Weitzer; in memory of David Lavine.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner.

Jon and Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner.

Lori and Dan Underberger, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann; in memory of Cindy West, beloved wife of Ken West.

Nursery School Enrichment Fund

David Iverson, in appreciation of Bonim teachers, and with thanks for nurturing my grandson, William Beare.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in celebration of Rebecca Siegel's engagement to Alex Bacon.

Nursery School Scholarship Fund

Ellen and Sam Rost, in honor of the birth of Sloane Orell, granddaughter of Barbara and Jeffrey Orell.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens.

Jon and Cleo Sonneborn, in honor of the arrival of Cameron Allan Gillies, son of Elizabeth and Neil Gillies, grandson of Joanne and Richard Krantz; welcome Rafael Galon Sufian Krubiner, son of Steven and Aviva Krubiner, grandson of Marge and Paul Krubiner.

Slepian Floral Fund

Yoav and Lisa Burger, in honor of Brian Barlaam's Mitzvah Hero Award.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in honor of Brian Barlaam's Mitzvah Hero Award.

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Barbara Abraham, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner; in memory of Estelle Baer, sister of Beryl Kaufman.

Marty and Alayne Burger, in memory of David Lavine; in memory of Marilyn Sobel Larimore, mother of Karen Sobel.

Religious School Enrichment Fund

Carol Krim, in appreciation of Jonathan Dizney, who reminds me that I chose the best profession.

Lorraine and Bill Smith, in memory of Bob Caston, husband of Miriam Caston.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Sharon Burger and David Bernhard, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

Ellen and Larry Dinkes, in memory of Bernard Gladstein, father of Geoffrey Gladstein.

Mark and Barbara Edinberg, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner; in honor of the CONECT organization.

Deborah Goodman and David Abbey, in honor of Brian Barlaam.

Beth Lazar, in honor of the CONECT organization.

Barbara & Rob Liberman and Gary Nowitz & Ulla Clausen, in loving memory of Ed & Anne Nowitz.

George and Chris Markley, congratulations to Brian Barlaam on being named Congregation B'nai Israel's Mitzvah Hero.

Beth and Randy Reich & Family, in memory of father and grandfather, Stanley Reich.

Ellen and Sam Rost, in memory of Melissa McCormack.

Laurie and Dan Schopick, in memory of Josh Spector, son of Mark and Deena Spector; in honor of the birth of Cameron Allan Gillies, grandson of Richard and Joanne Krantz; in honor of the marriage of Seth Nigrosh, son of Liz and Mark Nigrosh, to Robin MacFadden.

Elaine and Marc Silverman, in memory of Cindy West, wife of Ken West.

Barbara Solomon, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner.

Jon and Cleo Sonneborn, in honor of the contributions of Mark Edinberg.

Laura Sydney Pulton, in memory of Betty Landes, mother of Linda Barlaam.

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Judith Brav Sher Family Education Fund

Jonathan, Nancy, Geoff and Alex Rosenthal, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marjorie Krubiner.

Yakhani Caring Fund

Barbara Abraham, in memory of Irv Kern, husband of Andrea Kern; in honor of the marriage of Seth Nigrosh, son of Liz and Mark Nigrosh, to Robin MacFadden; with joy and gratitude for the birth of Rafael, grandson of Marge and Paul Krubiner, son of Steve and Aviva.

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BIFTY FEBRUARY 2020

It is never too late to join BIFTY! We meet on Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. in the BIFTY Lounge.

Our February Events are:

February 20: Celebrate winter with BIFTY!

February 27: Join our Emissaries for another fun-filled program!

*There is no BIFTY on February 13

Join BIFTY for our SECOND SLEEPOVER of the year after the BIFTY-led Friday Night Creative Service!

When: Friday February 21: Service at 6:00 p.m., Sleepover at 8:00 p.m.

Where: B'nai Israel

Pick up: Saturday February 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Please bring sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, toothpaste and other toiletries, pajamas, change of clothes

Favorite parts of past sleepovers include:

"Sardines!"

"SNL!"

"Hanging out together!"

"Playing games!"



Congregation
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The Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel is published every month except July.

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Congregation B'nai Israel, founded in 1858, seeks to be a vibrant Reform synagogue dedicated to the perpetuation of Jewish life and values within the framework of contemporary American Judaism. We are a gateway to Judaism for all. The Congregation B'nai Israel Bulletin publishes monthly 11 times a year (except July). To submit an article, announcement or ad to the Bulletin, please contact Editor Jack Kadden at jkadden@cbibpt.org. Submissions are due by the first day of the month preceding the publication month. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length or style.

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

We thank the following members of our community for their support of our annual High Holy Day Appeal.

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SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Fridays at 6:00 p.m. where indicated, preceded by an Oneg Shabbat at 5:30 p.m.)

Friday, February 7

6:00 p.m. Special Shabbat Shirah
Service featuring the
music of Mark Edinberg
Torah Portion –
Beshalah, Exod. 13:17-
17:16
Haftarah – Judges 4:4-
5:31

Saturday, February 8

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
9:30 a.m. Havurah for Families
with Young Children

Friday, February 14

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Yitro,
Exod. 18:1-20:23
Haftarah – Isaiah 6:1-
7:6; 9:5-6

Saturday, February 15

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, February 21

6:00 p.m. BIFTY Service – The
Secret Life of the
American Jewish
Teenager
Torah Portion –
Mishpatim, Exod. 21:1-
24:18
Haftarah – Jeremiah
34:8-22; 33:25-26

7:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner with
speaker, Dr. Wendy
Zierler

Saturday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study

9:30 a.m. Havurah for Families
with Young Children –
special offsite gathering
for children ages 0-2,
email Rabbi Sarah for
information

Friday, February 28

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion –
Terumah, Exod. 25:1-
27:19
Haftarah – 1 Kings
5:26-6:13

Saturday, February 29

8:00 a.m. Service
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Kasey
Zuccerella, daughter
of Mark and Jodie
Zuccerella