

The Farewell Cantor Blum Issue

A MESSAGE FROM CANTOR SHERI BLUM

It's hard to believe that 26 years have gone by since I became your Cantor. Being part of the B'nai Israel community has been a true blessing to me.

I take special pride in the 1300 Bar and Bat Mitzvah children I have had the privilege of training here at B'nai Israel. Those children and their families will always hold a special place in my heart and I always look forward to the High Holy Days when I have these young adults return to chant Torah. I will also miss hearing the voices of my Junior Choir and our annual trips to Broadway with their families.



The moment I walked into B'nai Israel for the first time I could just feel that this would be the place for me. I came as a single mother with a 5-year-old in

tow and I found the most wonderful community in which to raise my daughter and plant our roots.

Now I look forward to this new phase of my life. I have had an amazing 42-year career as one of the first women Cantors in history.

I will look forward to "seeing" all of you at my goodbye service on Zoom on Friday, June 12. There we will be able to express our feelings for one another on a fabulous 26 years.

Cantor Sheri Blum

AN ANNUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM



Larry Levine

Please join us at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. The link will be emailed to the congregation closer to the meeting date.

Instructions for using your cell phone to cast your votes will be included in the email.

At the meeting, our clergy and senior staff will report on the past year's accomplishments and challenges. Given this unprecedented time, you will learn about how the staff has adapted to the challenges as well as thoughts about the future. You will have the chance to vote on the synagogue's operating budget as well.

We will also hear the beautiful voices of some of our talented teenagers who have been involved in the Junior Cantor program.

At every annual meeting, we recognize incoming and outgoing members of our Board of Trustees. This year, there will be a change in leadership as our current President, Shari Nerreau, completes her two-year term and Larry Levine succeeds her.

Susan Walden will be the new First Vice President. The other vice presidents will be Laurie Gaugler, Perry Molinoff and Nina Silberman. Rebecca Blondin will be Secretary. Jerry Saunders will continue as Treasurer, and David Herbst will stay on as Assistant Treasurer.

Michael Blumenthal, our Immediate Past President, will be coming off the Board

after many years of service. Jill Elbaum is also leaving the Executive Committee after serving two Presidents.

We will welcome the following new members to the Synagogue Board:

Sarah Fridman, Andi Kern, Abby Levis, Ivan Maisel, Laurie Renzulli, Richard Pearlberg and Amy Pressman.

In addition to Michael Blumenthal and Jill Elbaum, we will recognize these outgoing board members: Mark Hotchkiss, Jack Kadden, Scott Pearlman and Adam Rosen.

Michael Blumenthal chaired the nominating committee, which included

Bonnie Appel, Naomi Erwich, Eric Gross, Mark Hotchkiss, Brian Ringelheim, and Rachel Yuridin.

SHARING OUR JOY...

Cantor Sheri Blum, in celebration of the birth of granddaughter, Elz Jiana Schaap, daughter of Rachel Ginsburg and Noam Schaap.

Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, in celebration of the birth of granddaughter Winnie Noa Gleeson Prosnit, daughter of Jonathan Prosnit and Erin Gleeson.

Marilyn and Hank Banach, in celebration of the birth of granddaughter, Juliet Palmer Gibson, daughter of Jaclyn (Banach) and Kyle Gibson.

Jenny Goldstein, in celebration of being promoted to Chief Development Officer of Americares.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Harris (Hank) Greenberg, husband of Laurel Greenberg

Marvin Gelfand, husband of Joann Gelfand

Lillian Cohen, mother of Diane Bader

Sheila Israel, mother of Laurie Israel

Harold Pressman, brother of Jerry Pressman

Ellery Plotkin

Fred Zubrinsky, father of Todd Zubrinsky

Wilbert Wettenstein, father of Bruce Wettenstein

Walda Sue Mantell, mother of David Mantell

Avor Breiner, cousin of Ellen Sheiman

Charles Gursky, husband of Carol Gursky

Myron Dworken, father of Jeffrey Dworken

Rosalyn Pinsker

MAZAL TOV TO OUR CONFIRMANDS



Mazal tov to our 2020 Confirmands! Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, we are postponing our Confirmation service until we can gather together again in the sanctuary.

We want to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to our Confirmation program, and are excited to celebrate with them and their families (hopefully!) soon!

Jillian Appel
Brooke Berry
Alexy Berson
Amber Borofsky
Emma Cornfeldt
Rebecca Fink
Zach Fogelman
Ben Gassel
Adam Giglietti
Nate Lipset
Samantha Renzulli
Alexa Selter
Emma Shelov
Sam Wizda

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

These are certainly unprecedented times, both from a health and a financial standpoint. In addition to those cruelly touched by COVID-19 directly, many congregants have been significantly affected by the financial downturn...as has Congregation B'nai Israel.

When your household receives the CBI statement in the mail, please respond quickly in one of three ways:

- (1) make your whole or partial payment,
- (2) consider going above and beyond the amount listed, if possible, or
- (3) reach out to our Congregation Assistance Information Page at <https://www.cbibpt.org/contribution->

[assistance-information-page-2/](#) and begin the process of requesting an annual contribution adjustment.

It is essential that the synagogue understands the financial challenges ahead for both our congregants and our congregation as the new fiscal year begins on July 1.

If you are in need of pastoral counseling, please contact the clergy directly:

Rabbi Evan Schultz
eschultz@cbibpt.org

Rabbi Sarah Marion
smarion@cbibpt.org



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

ENDING A CANTORIAL CAREER DURING A PANDEMIC

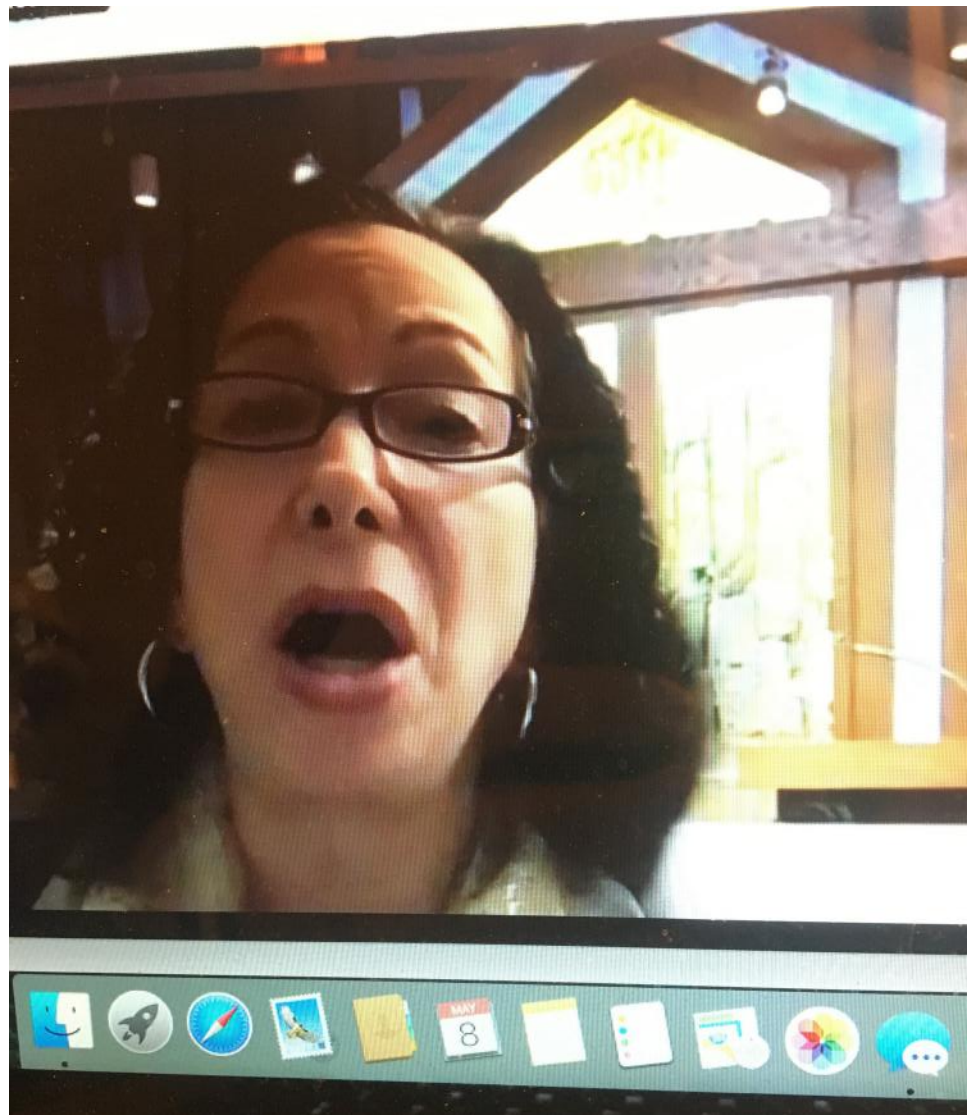
As I write this article on May 1, I certainly have no idea what the world will be like a month from now when you open your copies of the B'nai Israel bulletin. I know that as you read this, we will be finalizing our preparations for our Zoom service to honor Cantor Sheri Blum. I know how disappointed we are to honor 26 years of music and service to B'nai Israel over Zoom, rather than in person, but I can say that the service will be filled with beautiful music, memories, and stories of Cantor Blum's time and impact here at B'nai Israel.

I will have an opportunity to formally speak at Cantor Blum's service on June 12, so I thought I would use this space to share some of the ways that Cantor Blum has stepped up over the past few months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It certainly cannot be easy to close out such a wonderful career during a global crisis. B'nai Mitzvah services postponed or moved to Zoom, final performances of the Junior Choir canceled, opportunities for in-person goodbyes and farewells will most likely not take place.

What's so special about Sheri Blum is that she hasn't missed a beat along the way. Every day she continues to train her bar and bat mitzvah students, now over the phone instead of in person. She cares so deeply for each of her students and their families. Sheri has helped many of our families navigate the difficult choice of postponing their service or holding it over Zoom. As a testament to Cantor Blum, I know a few families who elected to have their service over Zoom so Cantor Blum could be there with them. That certainly reflects the impact that she has had on her students and their families.

In the past couple of months we have taken our community into the virtual hemisphere, and I know how many of our congregants have found it comforting to



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have Cantor Blum sing on Friday nights and at our festival services online. Sitting in her home, Sheri brings her music and her warmth into the living rooms and kitchen tables of our congregants, helping to ease some of the anxieties and challenges that have come along with this current crisis and pandemic.

I certainly have much more to say at our service on June 12, but for now I will say how grateful I am to Cantor Blum for the eight years I've gotten to work with her, and for these past few months when she has stepped up and taken her

Cantorate online.

Who would have thought that after a nearly 40-year career, she'd end it with several Zoom Mitzvahs? She has approached it all with grace, thoughtfulness, and a head held high, showing such care and concern for this community that she loves so dearly.

I look forward to joining with you on June 12 to honor Cantor Blum for her 26 years serving our synagogue community.

THEY FOLLOWED IN CANTOR BLUM'S FOOTSTEPS

Even as a little girl, Dara Rosenblatt had ambitions to be a cantor.

When she was 10 years old, she asked to borrow her father's Tallit to take to school for Career Day. Asked what she needed it for, she replied, "I'm going as a Cantor."

Eventually, she went to cantorial school, and she is now the Cantor at Temple Beth-El in Richmond, Va.

Scott Harris took a more circuitous route. He had a successful career as an engineer, designing offices and trading floors for major corporations, before making a career switch. He is now the Cantor at Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor, Conn.

What Scott and Dara have in common, however, is the inspiration, support and guidance provided by Cantor Sheri Blum.

"I knew Cantor Blum from a very young age," Dara said. "I was very musical, and I really loved singing in synagogue."

In high school, she said, "Cantor Blum took me under her wing. On Friday nights, I was often a soloist. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Scott said that Cantor Blum encouraged him to keep up with his interest in religious music, having him assist with the guitar team, a group of young guitar



Cantor Dara Rosenblatt



Cantor Scott Harris

players that sometimes accompanied the Junior Choir. He also was the Cantor for the first services in the tent for the High Holidays.

"It was with the encouragement and support of Sheri that I decided to become a cantor," Scott said. "She gave me every opportunity to perform at services."

For Dara, Cantor Blum was also a role model, as one of the nation's first female cantors.

"She was very instrumental in my learning to lead services," Dara said. "She really supported me pushed me to do different things."

"If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Dara, who graduated from cantorial school at Hebrew College in Newton, Mass., in 2018, said she's honored to call Cantor Blum a colleague.

"She had an enormous influence on me," she said, "She was a mentor."

He studied at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, but he noted, "Even with the formal training in school, you need somebody like Sheri to take you by the hand and give you the opportunity."

Both Scott and Dara will be participating in the online farewell service for Cantor Blum on June 12.

NEW CANTOR SELECTED



Cantor Michelle Rubel will be joining our clergy team as the next Cantor of B'nai Israel, President Shari Nerreau has announced.

Cantor Rubel currently serves as Associate Cantor at Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, N.J. She was ordained from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2012 (a classmate of Rabbi Schultz!), where she received awards for excellence in liturgy and reform worship. We plan to feature a full-length article in the August bulletin so you can learn more about her.

Cantor Rubel impressed the search

committee from the outset. Search committee chairs Rebecca Blondin and Barbara Solomon said: "From the first note of her audition, we were taken to a spiritual place. Michelle demonstrated creative and varied ways to reach us through her music as well as impressed us during the interview process."



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

A TRAILBLAZER'S LEGACY

As one of the first female cantors in our movement, Cantor Sheri Blum is, no doubt, a trailblazer. After I arrived at B'nai Israel last summer, Cantor Blum and I went on a lunch date to Panera (her favorite lunch spot in town) to get to know each other better. Over her signature "Green Goddess Salad," she told me about some of the challenges she encountered as a young female cantor, trying to make her way in a male-dominated profession.

From the sexist comments and innuendoes that she received from colleagues and congregants, to the intricate balancing act of clergy life and motherhood, well before our movement "caught on" to the struggles that clergy mothers face, Cantor Blum overcame enormous obstacles to stake her claim as an accomplished spiritual leader and authority figure in her own right.

I am grateful to Cantor Blum and to her generation of female rabbis and cantors. In so many ways, their leadership, courage and perseverance made it possible for me to pursue my own rabbinic dreams.

Cantor Blum's retirement provides an important opportunity for us to acknowledge and celebrate the significant advances towards gender equality within our Reform Movement and our broader Jewish world. Thanks to trailblazers like Cantor Blum, my daughter can look into the future and see boundless possibilities. I am so grateful to Cantor Blum and so many others, who dared to change the status quo, and who took on the tremendous responsibility of creating a more just and more equitable world.

But we also know that, in so many ways,



the work that Cantor Blum began is far from complete.

National trends still reveal that women, on average, get paid less than their male colleagues. According to the Reform Equal Pay Initiative, women working full-time in the United States are paid just 80 percent of what men in comparable positions receive (see reformpayequity.org). Men are still more likely to embody top levels of professional leadership, paid family leave is still a luxury that many women do not have access to (leaving some women with the impossible choice to have children or pursue a career), and, thanks to the #me too movement, we know that sexual harassment in the workplace is still an alarmingly common phenomenon.

And even within our own Reform communities, where women rabbis and cantors are prevalent and pervasive, we are not immune to these challenges.

A recent salary survey coordinated by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (the governing body of our Reform Movement) indicated that female rabbis, on average, still make less than our male counterparts. At top rabbinic levels, we still see a rabbinate that is overwhelmingly male, and the CCAR's recently formed Task Force on "Women in the Rabbinate" has collected hundreds and hundreds of stories from female rabbis and cantors – ranging from 50 years ago, to just a few months ago – indicating that sexism in Jewish communal life is still alive and well.

As Cantor Blum's generation increasingly passes the torch to the next generation of female leaders, our work continues. I will honor Cantor Blum's legacy and her retirement by remaining steadfastly committed to the important work that she began so long ago.

Thank you, Cantor Blum, for your leadership, your bravery, and your resilience. You have been a role model and an inspiration to us all!

Cantor Blum overcame enormous obstacles to stake her claim as an accomplished spiritual leader.



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

WE WILL MISS YOU, CANTOR BLUM!

As we prepare to say goodbye to Cantor Blum, we think back to all she has done over the years for B'nai Israel's youngest members.

Cantor Blum is a celebrity to the kids of Bonim Preschool and always has been. Of course, the kids are used to seeing her on Monday mornings for All School Music, but the "wow" factor really can be seen when the kids pass the Cantor's office and hear her singing, or they see her on the bimah for services. They are in awe, often whispering to their parents and teachers with wide eyes and open mouths –"It's CANTOR BLUM"

The students remember Cantor Blum as the wonderful lady who sings Happy Birthday to them (in English and Hebrew) and calls them up to stand near her in the chapel as she asks them in front of the whole school all about how they celebrated their birthdays with their friends and families.

Although we will always remember Cantor Blum for all her signature songs for the Jewish holidays, some of the most memorable times with her for Bonim Preschool students were the special occasions:

The 4's and 5's classes each year formed a special bond with Cantor Blum as they learned new songs for the Moving On Ceremony. One fan favorite that Cantor Blum was "all in" for was the Baby Shark song, where the words were changed to "4A Rocks, 4B Rocks, and Pre-K Rocks." Cantor Blum even worked with a professional musician to get the timing of the background music just right.

The whole school is involved in the Bonim Passover Seder each year led by Cantor Blum, with her wonderful renditions of all the Passover songs. The kids always get a laugh when Cantor Blum tells them she was invited to the



Cantor Blum is a celebrity to the kids of Bonim Preschool and always has been.

McDonald family for Seder and then sings "Old McDonald Had a Seder."

The Bonim teachers have a great love for Cantor Blum as well. Many teachers over the years have been called up to stand in the front of the chapel with the Cantor to help lead their "signature songs" along with her. As a special gift from her this past winter, Cantor Blum gave each Bonim teacher a beautiful cup with musical notes on it as a thank you for helping to keep music a special part of the Bonim curriculum.

We will remember Cantor Blum for all the wonderful memories mentioned above; however Cantor Blum's greatest accomplishment with the children of Bonim has been the addition of a

Preschool Chanukah Music Show. This is the most attended event in all of Bonim history.

Every family joins together in the sanctuary to see their kids on the bimah singing all of the Cantor's favorite Chanukah songs led by her. There isn't an empty seat to be had or a dry eye in the place. It is a special night for everyone, and it reminds us how grateful we are to have such a great music leader for our children.

We thank you for all you have done to keep music alive in our children and wish you a very happy retirement!



FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE

RECALLING A WARM WELCOME FROM A NEW COLLEAGUE

1995 was a year of changes for me and my family. And change can be scary. In the first months of the year, I was travelling a lot, interviewing with congregations and JCCs looking for a new a job. Ethan was two years old. I hadn't planned on looking at opportunities on either coast – we were hoping to stay within driving distance of Chicago.

Jim Abraham (May his memory always be a blessing for our congregation) was the chair of the search committee and persuaded me to give B'nai Israel a chance. The longer story of why I did is for another time. The point here is that during that initial visit in January I met a lot of people and was truly impressed with the congregation. And then I sat down for a meeting Sheri Blum.

She told me that she knows change can be scary. She had just come to B'nai Israel seven months earlier as a single mother.



valued. Sheri Blum sold me. And I have never regretted it.

spoken to most of the kids a year or two younger than him and none of them play the guitar!" I suggested we arrange for a few kids to take some lessons.

Like you, I have seen Sheri bring together all kinds of people to make music and help us all lift our hearts in prayer and in celebration.

She said something like "I can tell you all about what a wonderful community this is. And it is. But there are lots of wonderful communities. What I will tell you is that the welcome I have been given and the *kavod* (honor) I have been given as the cantor has been amazing. I followed Ray Gilbert, who had been here 28 years, and I am treated like I have always been here. And I will follow Jim Prosnit anywhere."

In those days we were a very small senior staff team. Rabbi, Cantor, Educator and Preschool Director. Audrey and I were looking for a place where we could feel comfortable raising a family, a place with good Jewish values and where I would be

Like Rabbi Prosnit, it has been my honor to work with her all but one of her years at B'nai Israel. Like you, I have seen her bring together all kinds of people to make music and help us all lift our hearts in prayer and in celebration.

Sheri is *incredibly* organized and for that I have always been grateful. At the same time, she has also been open to innovation. When I first came to B'nai Israel, she taught music to our Gan – Kitah Gimel (K – 3) students on Sundays. She was always accompanied by a teenager on guitar.

One day she came to me and said, "my guitarist is a junior this year. I have

Sheri ran with that idea and thus was born the Guitar Team! Scott Harris taught a group eight or nine 7th and 8th graders to play on guitars that the Cantor provided. Many of them went on to teach with Sheri. A few years ago, I ran into one of them, now in her thirties. She told me she still plays – mostly Jewish music – for her children.

It is going to be very different not seeing Sheri Blum in the halls, at staff meetings or on the bima. I am grateful for our time together and all that she has done to make our congregation a place that I am proud and grateful to call home.

L'shalom,

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

FUNDS WITH A PURPOSE, PART 2

In the April Bulletin, we began a review of some of the Temple's "special purpose funds" in hopes that members might be encouraged to donate to them.

Donations can be made for any reason. While many make donations to honor the memory of a loved one or to express sympathy on the passing of a friend or relative, donations can also be used to celebrate special events – a milestone birthday or anniversary, a retirement, a graduation, an impressive accomplishment – or to express gratitude to someone who did something special.

This month we focus on two more special purpose funds: the **Bob and Marsha Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund** and the **Yakhani Caring Fund**.

The **Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund** was created to honor Bob and Marsha Gillette upon their retirement in 1995 as our Director of Education (Bob) and Religious School Administrator (Marsha).

Bob and Marsha were beloved by all those who were touched by their educational expertise and by their wisdom, warmth and caring -- and that was virtually every member of the congregation.

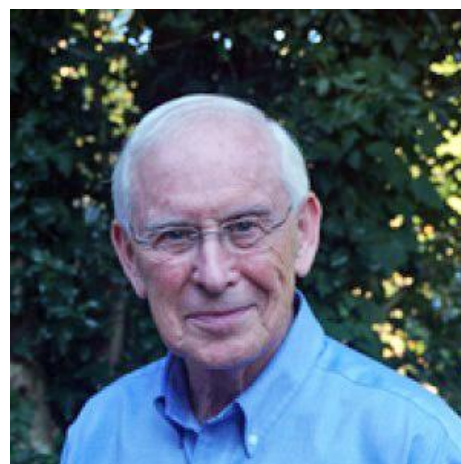
To honor them, the fund was established to provide scholarships for the Temple's youth for informal Jewish educational experiences outside the walls of the Temple and religious school, a purpose which continues Bob and Marsha's

legacy in a meaningful way.

The fund has been used for need-based scholarships to our URJ camps – Kutz, Eisner, Crane Lake, and 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, as well as for financial assistance for our youth to attend NFTY in Israel programs, including Heller High (formerly Eisendrath International Exchange – EIE). The fund has also assisted students attending on-campus programs for teens at the North American campuses of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion as well as NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) regional and national programs. There could be no better way of honoring the many lasting contributions of Bob and Marsha Gillette to our Congregation than by helping to provide these significant Jewish experiences for our Temple's youth.

The **Yakhani Caring Fund**, established in 2018 by the Temple's Board of Trustees, was suggested by Temple member Barbara Solomon and her children as a way of honoring their beloved husband and father Derek Solomon, who was tragically killed in a bicycling accident in August, 2017.

As Barbara said when the fund was initiated, the Yakhani (Zulu for "build up") Caring Fund honors Derek's spirit and generosity in lending both a practical and creative hand to people encountering bumps in the road, and therefore the fund is to be used for financial assistance for the B'nai Israel community.



Bob Gillette

"Whether this means emergency medical, educational or housing needs or unexpected expenses around childcare, adult daycare, food, utility costs, and beyond – the idea is to be able to provide resources to allow an individual or family to make their way through challenging moments."

Congregants who might benefit from the fund can contact any member of the clergy team. All requests and allocations are kept strictly confidential. As Barbara noted, "The fund only becomes meaningful and honors Derek's memory if the members of the congregation know about it and start to consider it as a helpful resource."

Donations to both funds would be most welcome, as would donations to all of the Temple's special purpose funds. Donations can be made on-line by going to www.cbibpt.org and clicking on the "Donate" button. You can also send your donation to the Temple office with necessary information, including the name of the fund to which you are donating, the reason for your donation, and who should be notified of your donation.

Bob and Marsha were beloved by all those who were touched by their educational expertise and by their wisdom, warmth and caring.

MAY/JUNE DONATIONS

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

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Barbara Abraham, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion for their significant efforts in keeping B'nai Israel gathered together with their support in this age of Corona.

Elaine Appellof and Jerry Saunders, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz for his commitment to the City of Bridgeport.

Diane Bader, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

Carol Barsky, in honor of Rabbi Schultz, for keeping everyone connected during this difficult time.

Lori Berger, in memory of beloved mother, Cecelia Davis.

Marilyn Bissell, a thank you to Rabbi Schultz.

The Dizney and Masch Families, in memory of Shirlee Masch.

Gail and Gary Felberbaum, a donation for microphones for your homes and offices.

Jim and Lisa Greenberg, in memory of Myriam Greenberg Krieger.

Bernie and Jan Jacobs, in memory of sister, Sally Rosenblum.

Barbara Kauders, in honor of Rabbi Schultz' outreach to members of the congregation during these trying times.

George and Alice Kelly, in memory of mother, Annette Kelly.

Joan and Alan Newman, in memory of father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Gabriel Steinbach.

Ted and Debbie Portnay, in honor of Samantha Portnay's Bat Mitzvah.

Jane and Jerry Pressman, with thanks to Rabbi Schultz for officiating at Harold's funeral.

Beth and Randy Reich, with thanks to Debbie and Michael Weisman for a lovely evening.

Patti and Samuel Rosenberg, in memory of Michael Rosenberg.

Margie and Michael Rosten, with gratitude to Rabbi Schultz.

Barbara and Gil Saltman, in memory of brother, Ernest Schleifer.

Nancy and Irv Silverman, in fond memory of Marvin Gelfand, husband of Joann Gelfand.

Dr. Robert and Ellen Sheiman, in memory of Stephen Leonetti.

Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund

Barbara Abraham, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion for their significant efforts in keeping B'nai Israel gathered together with their support in this age of Corona.

Carol Barsky, in honor of Rabbi Marion, for keeping us all together during this uncertain

time.

Marilyn Bissell, a thank you to Rabbi Marion.

Gail and Gary Felberbaum, a donation for microphones for your homes and offices.

Laurel Greenberg, and Sue & Andy Greenberg, in honor of the beautiful, loving and caring burial service that Rabbi Marion performed for beloved husband, Hank Greenberg.

Ted and Debbie Portnay, in honor of Samantha Portnay's Bat Mitzvah.

Margie and Michael Rosten, with gratitude to Rabbi Marion.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Donations in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, on the birth of granddaughter, Winnie Noa Gleeson Prosnit were made by:

Mark and Barbara Edinberg

Jim and Lisa Greenberg

Stacy and Rob Giglietti

Alice and George Kelly

Barbara Kauders, in appreciation.

Marci Lavine Bloch, Elizabeth Lavine Russell and Aaron Shellow-Lavine, with deep appreciation to Rabbi Prosnit and Rabbi Schultz.

Music Fund

Donations in honor of the birth of Cantor Sheri Blum's granddaughter, Elz Jiana Schaap were made by:

Claire Baker

Judi and David Beier

John and Ronnie Dubrowin

Alice and George Kelly

The Krauss Family

The Portnay Family

Caren and Bill Schwartz

Miriam Caston, in memory of father, Charles Feinstein; in honor of many events for the music fund.

Geoffrey and Melanie Kooris, in memory of Rosalyn Pinsker.

Ted and Debbie Portnay, in honor of Samantha Portnay's Bat Mitzvah; in honor of Cantor Blum.

Rhea Spiegel, in honor of Mark Edinberg and his musical contributions to B'nai Israel.

Enhancement Fund

Barbara Berkowitz, in memory of father, Irving Toss.

Marty and Alayne Burger, a donation.

Dale and Jerry Demner, a donation to help offset the costs of the current situation; in

memory of Joseph Greenfield, father of Dale Demner; in memory of Anna and David Slive, grandparents of Dale Demner; in memory of Ted Slive, uncle of Dale Demner; in memory of Irving Jacob Demner, father of Jerry Demner; in memory of Morris Hirsch, brother-in-law of Jerry Demner.

Mark and Barbara Edinberg, a donation to help maintain the synagogue during these difficult months.

Jill and Steve Elbaum, congratulations to the Nerreau family on Brad's engagement to Samantha; in memory of Richard Sacks, father of Debbie Viens; in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

Phyllis Feld, a donation.

Diane Fried, a donation.

Joni Greenspan, in memory of mother, Anna Levowich.

Anne Lampert, in memory of mother, Fay Lampert.

Ruth Madwed, in memory of husband, Jack Madwed, and brother-in-law, Albert Madwed.

Irving and Wilma Mark, in memory of mother, Anna Metz Mark.

The Ringelheim Family, in memory of Walda Sue Mantell, mother of David Mantell.

Abigail Schine, in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

Twody and Bob Schless, in memory of Joy Stile, mother of Twody Schless.

Emily Ann Stutz, a donation to help out with the current crisis.

Judy Zeisler, in memory of Ignatz Zeisler, father of Bob Zeisler.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund

Donations in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, on the birth of granddaughter, Winnie Noa Gleeson Prosnit were made by:

Ellen and Larry Dinkes

Paula and Bob Herzlinger

Cleo and Jon Sonneborn

Nursery School Scholarship Fund

Chris and George Markley, in honor of the birth of Cantor Sheri Blum's granddaughter, Elz Jiana Schaap, daughter of Rachel Ginsburg and Noam Schaap.

Beth and Randy Reich & Children, special Happy Birthday wishes to Peter Weinstein.

Rabbi Martin Library Fund

Samuel Miller and Family, in memory of Jennie Kot.

Barbara P. Rifkin, in memory of Tiba Terry, Jeanette Schine, Nathan H. Schine, Eunice S. Postol and Sidney S. Postol.

MAY/JUNE DONATIONS

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

Slepian Floral Fund

Susan Rosenblitt, in loving memory of beloved father, Harry Weintraub; in loving memory of beloved mother, Sylvia Weintraub, will love you forever.

Religious School Scholarship Fund

The Goldberg Family, in appreciation of Claire Baker.

Carol Krim, with love to Laurie Greenberg and family.

Ted and Debbie Portnay, in honor of Samantha Portnay's Bat Mitzvah, in honor of Claire Baker.

Margie and Michael Rosten, with gratitude to Ira Wise.

Bill and Lorraine Smith, in memory of Hank Greenberg, husband of Laurel Greenberg.

Religious School Enrichment Fund

William and Lorraine Smith, in memory of Charles Gursky, husband of Carol Gursky.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Donations in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, on the birth of granddaughter,

Winnie Noa Gleeson Prosnit were made by:

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Laurie and Dan Schopick

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David and Deborah Abbey, in memory of Irving Abbey.

Carol Barsky, in memory of sister-in-law, Mildred Greenberg; in memory of dear husband, Nate Barsky; in memory of Lisa Greenberg, cousin of Beth Lazar.

Carson and Robert Berkowitz, in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

Ellen and Larry Dinkes, in honor of Marilyn and Hank Banach, on the birth of granddaughter, Juliet.

Mark and Barbara Edinberg, in honor of Cantor Sheri Blum, on the birth of

granddaughter, Elz Jiana Schaap.

Michelle Friedland, in honor of Jonah Hourihan's Bar Mitzvah.

Ruth and Eric Gross, in memory of grandmothers, Sarah Gross and Margaret Rosenberg.

Peter and Beth Levin, in honor of his significant birthday.

George Markley, with gratitude to Anat Shiloach for her wonderful Hebrew classes.

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Joel Zabin; in loving memory of Aram Nahabedian.

Rabbi James Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, in appreciation of George Markley.

Naomi Schaffer and Roger Jackson, in memory of Lisa Greenberg, cousin of Beth Lazar.

Laurie and Dan Schopick, in honor of Marilyn and Hank Banach, on the birth of granddaughter, Juliet.

Jeffrey Schwartz, in memory of Karin Newman.

Jon and Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of grandmother, Hannah Hofheimer; in memory of Marvin Gelfand, husband of Joann Gelfand.

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B'nai Israel Brotherhood, for the recovery of Covid 19 Assistance.

Dale and Jerry Demner, a thank you to Ken Rabine for all of his help.

Jim & Lisa Greenberg, a donation.

Beth Lazar, in loving memory of beautiful, fun loving cousin, Lisa Greenberg, whose life was cut short due to Covid-19,

George and Chris Markley, a donation; in loving memory of Ludwig Markley; in memory of Wilbert Wettenstein, father of Bruce Wettenstein.



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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.

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BIFTY JUNE 2020



BIFTY would like to thank and acknowledge our graduating seniors who have served on the BIFTY board!

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Sophie Lipset- Programming Vice President

Henry Szuchman- Co-President

Alex Weisman - NFTY-NE Regional Board NFTY Representative

Vanessa Weiss- Social Action Vice President

We wish you the best on your journeys next year and thank you for being part of BIFTY! You will be greatly missed!

BIFTY will resume in September. Look out for information posted on our Instagram “cbi.bifty”, in the Bulletin, and through email. We look forward to seeing you all soon! Have a great summer!

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE — SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All services at this time can be viewed by going to our website, www.cbibpt.org and clicking the Zoom link

Friday, June 5

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom
Torah Portion – Naso 11, Num. 6:1-7:89
Haftarah – Judges 13:13-25

B’haalot’cha, Num.

13:1-15:41

Haftarah – Zechariah

2:14-4:7

2:1-24

Saturday, June 20

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom

9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom

Saturday, June 6

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom
9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom
10:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Goldberg, son of David and Jessica Goldberg
11:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Hakim, daughter of Barry and Francine Hakim.

Saturday, June 13

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom

9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom

11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Patricia Greene, daughter of Peter Greene, Jr. and Liane May

Friday, June 26

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom

Torah Portion – Korach, Num. 19:1-22:1

Haftarah – 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22

Friday, June 12

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom
Torah Portion –

Friday, June 19

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom

Torah Portion – Sh’lach L’cha, Num.

16:1-18:32

Haftarah – Joshua

Saturday, June 27

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service on Zoom

9:30 a.m. Torah Study on Zoom



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STUCK AT HOME? TRY MAKING BUREKAS



Alexa Cohen, our Early Childhood Director, has been offering baking lessons online during the pandemic. Here is a recipe she recommends for burekas, a baked filled pastry that is popular in Israel. This serves 20.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds of puff pastry
- 2 cups of cottage cheese
- ¼ cup pound feta cheese (without any liquids)
- ½ cup parmesan
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 2 ounces of sesame seeds
- 1 whole egg

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat the oven to 450 degrees
2. Flatten the puff pastry dough to 1/8 inch and cut into 4-inch squares.
3. Mix the cheeses, egg yolks, salt and flour together.
4. Put 1 ½ tablespoons of filling inside each square and close it to the shape of a triangle. (fold it in half)
5. Brush the top of the burekas with beaten egg and sprinkle sesame seeds on top.
6. Put the burekas on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Put them in the oven (450 degrees) for 8 minutes.
7. Reduce the temperature to 350 and bake for 35-40 minutes.