

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Shabbat With the Emissaries

Our Israeli Emissaries – Ella, Noya and Ido – will help lead the Friday night service on March 6, with a dinner and discussion to follow. Details on Page 2.

Making Connections

Rabbi Schultz offers some thoughts about finding ways to build connections among members of the congregation. Page 3.

Inspired by Cantor Blum

Rebecca Blondin and Adam Rosen tell how Cantor Sheri Blum persuaded them to take up their musical instruments again after a long hiatus. Page 4

Bridging the Generations

Rabbi Marion calls for a greater effort to bring together people of different generations. Page 5.

Rethinking 'Hebrew School'

Ira Wise describes an effort to rethink religious education at B'nai Israel for a new era. Page 7.

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CELEBRATING PURIM!

Come celebrate the first time we stood up against anti-Semitism, led by a young woman named Esther! Among the many activities are the annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 8, and a very special reading of the Megillah on Monday, March 9, preceded by crafts and pizza!

Here is a list of all the Purim events:

Wear costumes to Kehilah (Religious School) Sunday, March 8

We will begin our celebration Sunday morning in our classrooms with all kinds of exciting activities for our students. All are encouraged to wear a costume – any costume!

Kehilah Purim Carnival Sunday, March 8, Noon – 1:30 p.m.

As soon as Kehilah is over we will have all kinds of fun! Older students are helping to run games for the younger students (and playing themselves!). We have a bounce house! We have pizza! We have face painting. There will be a special carnival for children under the age of five!

Bonim In-School Purim Carnival

Monday, March 9, during school hours

The Social Hall will be transformed into a carnival with face-painting, bowling, bounce house and many other games!

Pre-Purim Pizza and Crafts

Monday, March 9, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

No time to get dinner or a costume before the Purim service? No problem! Join us at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall for pizza and crafts, where kids (and adults!) can grab a slice and make a mask or crown in time for our service!

Purim is Frozen!

Monday, March 9, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Thaw your frozen heart! For the first time since forever we will have nearly all new melodies as we read from the Megillah to the tune of Disney's Frozen! Wear a costume (kids too)! And if you would like to join the Not-Ready-For-Purim-



Time-Players – a group of adults joining in the fun – contact Rabbi Schultz at eschultz@cbibpt.org.

A MAGICAL EVENING

The entire congregation is invited to join together for a Magical Evening with celebrated magician Evan Northrup! The temple Social Hall will be the place to be on Saturday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. for a night of community and entertainment

All proceeds will go to a new playground for the Bonim Preschool. The playground is an important space for our preschoolers and a wonderful teaching source in so many ways.

Co-chairs Sarah Fridman and Amy Pressman and their committee have been busy planning this spectacular magical event.

Be prepared for a silent auction and raffle as well delicious cocktails and wonderful food! Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased on the temple website or by calling the main office or the education center office.



BULLETIN BOARD

Israeli Emissaries



Our Federation Israeli Young Emissaries – Ella, Noya and Ido – will help lead the Friday night service on March 6 at 6 p.m. The service will be followed by dinner and round table discussions about the role of women in the Israeli Defense Force, personal perspectives of Arab/Israeli co-existence in Israel, and the post-election reality in Israel.

Dinner is \$25 per person. Reservations are needed. To sign up, please contact Chris@cbibpt.org

Conversations Over Dinner

Join us for our first “Conversations Over Dinner” Shabbat dinner on Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m., geared for congregants in ReConnect, our affinity group for adults. After services, participants will have three “conversation tables” to choose from while they dine. We’ll all join back together for dessert and socializing.

The conversations will be facilitated by our clergy and staff. The three topics this year are: an open conversation about aging and getting older; the challenges and joys of parenting kids in college and beyond; and how we find hope and light in a world that feels broken.

Dinner is \$25 per person. Sign up at <http://www.cbibpt.org>, or email Chris@cbibpt.org

Tiny Miracles

For the March Mitzvah Morning on Sunday, March 22, we will again be making fleece isolette blankets to be distributed by The Tiny Miracles Foundation to local neonatal intensive

care units and families of premature babies. These blankets protect fragile preemies from harsh lights and sounds while adding bright color to the NICU. No sewing skills required! Just cutting and knotting fleece. This is a great, hands-on mitzvah activity for congregants of all ages – adults, teens and kids. We will gather at the temple at 9:30 for coffee and bagels and then get to work until noon, or until all the blankets are made! To learn more about The Tiny Miracles Foundation and the support they provide families throughout Fairfield County, visit their website at tmf.org. Please bring a pair of scissors to the event. Email Lisa Broder with questions, at broderlisas@gmail.com.

Torah Yoga

Consider a new experience for your Shabbat morning. “The Jew is in the Lotus: Hatha Yoga & Jewish Meditation for Beginners” will be offered on Saturdays at 10:45 in the Chapel on March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4 and 11. For this class, we will focus on specific Hebrew words and symbols from Jewish Meditations and Kabbalah. The instructor, Alan Dressler, began practicing Hatha Yoga and Meditation in 1994 after a traumatic car accident. He has taught Yoga at the Jewish Community Center in Bridgeport and the Jewish Home of Fairfield County.

Active Shooter Training

We will be conducting training on how to respond to an active shooter on Wednesday, March 25, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This training, led by SSC, Inc., a private security firm, is available through a grant from the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County

All B’nai Israel congregants 16 years of age (with parental consent for 16-18 year olds) and above are invited

to participate in this training. More details and instructions for how to register can be found on the temple website.

The Story of ‘Fiddler’

The documentary film “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles” will be screened at our synagogue on Sunday, March 22, at 2:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by the JCC Stamford Jewish Film Festival, the program is free and open to all in the community,



Views of the Border



On Friday night, March 27, David Weisberg, C.E.O. of the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, will speak at Shabbat services about his recent trip to the Arizona border and what he witnessed during his time there.

Seats at the Seder

Passover is coming and we want everyone to be at a Seder! If you are looking for a seder or have seats to offer at your seder, please let us know. You can email Rabbi Schultz, eschultz@cbibpt.org, to let us know.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

LET'S CREATE SPACE TO CONNECT

Just a few weeks ago I gathered with a room full of B'nai Israel congregants for an open conversation about our community and where we are going. How energizing to sit together, dreaming big about what our community can be as we look to the future.

One of the major themes that emerged is that many members of our community are truly seeking deep and real connections here within the synagogue: connections with one another, with their families, even with the divine.

One congregant shared that she would love to be able to reach out to families who have lost a loved one to offer words of condolence. Another asked how we can create more multigenerational spaces for congregants to mark key life moments together. It affirmed that we want to be a congregation based in sacred relationships, where we create space to connect with one another, value one another, hear one another, and celebrate one another.

Dr. Ron Wolfson writes about this idea in his book "Relational Judaism," where he teaches, "What really matters is that we care about the people we seek to

engage. When we genuinely care about people, we will not only welcome them; we will listen to their stories, we will share ours, and we will join together to build a Jewish community that enriches our lives."



One way to accomplish this is to create space to connect whenever we gather. At a meeting, take a few minutes to go around and check in with the group.

Rabbi Marion and I have started offering sermons that lend themselves to group conversation and people sharing about their own lives.

In our classes as well, we always try to make space for participants to share about their own lives in concert with the topic or text that we are studying. Just a few weeks ago at my class on American Jewish Identity, we juxtaposed texts on identity with stories from participants about their own family history and Jewish identity. These are the powerful ways that we can strive to deeply connect with one another and celebrate one another's

stories.

One other idea that we are piloting is "Conversations Over Dinner" (See description on Page 2) on Friday, March 20. After services we'll offer three different dinner conversations for congregants to talk about topics and issues that really matter to them.

At our first gathering on March 20, participants can speak about the topic of aging and getting older, parenting kids who are in college and beyond, and a third table just to talk about how to have hope in a world that feels increasingly broken. These conversations will be facilitated by our staff and clergy, and we hope it will be a powerful space to share our stories and connect with one another on a sacred and deeper level.

Lastly, don't be shy about introducing yourself to someone you don't know in the synagogue. Perhaps when waiting to pick up kids after Kehilah on Sunday mornings. Or someone you're sitting next to at Shabbat services or the High Holy Days. Or even a B'nai Israel person you might recognize while shopping at Trader Joe's! (I always see multiple B'nai Israel folks every time I'm there.)

Many members of our community are truly seeking deep and real connections here within the synagogue.

Let's see if we can commit to create spaces to connect every time we gather as community so that we may deepen our relationships with one another, hear one another, and together build sacred Jewish community.

ONE TEMPLE, ONE BOOK

We encourage you to read this important book, "Antisemitism: Here and Now," written by one of the preeminent scholars on modern Jewish history and Holocaust studies, Deborah Lipstadt.

Join with our rabbis on May 4 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for an important

conversation on antisemitism and what we can do to combat the rising tide of acts of hate and violence towards Jews in our country. We will also be offering sessions in March where we will do a close reading study of parts of the book (See Page 8).



Deborah Lipstadt

RETURNING TO MUSIC

After college, Rebecca Blondin and Adam Rosen set their musical instruments aside.

Both had been serious, well-trained musicians. Rebecca played the clarinet and majored in music and psychology at Wesleyan University; Adam played the cello, earning a “cello scholarship” to the University of Mary Washington in Virginia.

But their lives got busy and their careers went in a different direction. (Rebecca is a psychologist and Adam is a school principal.) They both thought they had put the musical part of their lives in the past. Then Cantor Sheri Blum stepped in.

“My wife told Sheri that Adam plays the cello,” Adam recalled, “and she said, ‘You’re playing with me.’”

“Sheri can be wonderfully blunt. I really appreciated that forwardness and confidence,” he said.

Rebecca has a similar story. “At the bagel breakfast after services one Saturday morning, I mentioned to Sheri that I used to be good on the clarinet, and she said, ‘We have to get you on the calendar to play at Friday night services.’ Sheri is very good at getting people involved.”

With Cantor Blum’s retirement approaching after 26 years at B’nai Israel, the Bulletin is taking a look at a few of the people who were influenced by her enthusiasm for music and the synagogue.



She will be celebrated at a special Friday night service on June 12. At the cantor’s request, rather than a traditional gala, it will be a potluck dinner.

**‘If it wasn’t for Sheri,
the cello probably
would have stayed
in the case.’**

Both Rebecca and Adam are delighted to be playing music again, and besides performing at several Friday night services each year, they are members of the congregation’s klezmer band, Radio KLEZ.

“I’m very happy to be playing again,” Rebecca said. “The best part of my week



is rehearsal for Radio KLEZ. It’s very upbeat, fun music to play.”

Adam, who said he was taken aback when Cantor Blum first suggested he perform on Friday nights, said there was also a welcome spiritual aspect to his return to the cello.

“For me personally, it was a way to participate in the service, to be part of the service in my own way,” he said. “I really genuinely loved it.”

Adam noted that Cantor Blum is very organized, scheduling musicians months ahead of time and providing a set list and music long in advance.

“If it wasn’t for Sheri,” he added, “the cello probably would have stayed in the case.”

HONORING CANTOR BLUM

On Friday June 12th we will be honoring Cantor Sheri Blum for her 26 years of dedicated service to the B’nai Israel community.

Please save the date for a special 6:00 p.m. service and a potluck dinner following. A special tribute songbook will also be created to honor Cantor Blum.

In preparation for this spring celebration, please forward a photograph of Cantor Blum with any of her past B’nai Mitzvah students to lynn@cbibpt.org.



Cantor Blum instructing Lexi Sutton.



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

A TIME OF REBIRTH

A recent study on Jewish communal trends indicated the exciting reality that our synagogue communities now encompass *five generations* of members.

As we think about the ways we might reform and reshape our community to keep it alive and relevant for the 21st century and beyond, I see so much possibility in the various ways we can connect and engage with one another across generational bounds. I so believe that building and strengthening our intergenerational relationships will ultimately make us into a stronger synagogue community.

Below is an excerpt from a sermon that I delivered a few months ago:

This past summer, I turned 33. Though I certainly cannot relate to the literal and figurative aches and pains that accompany the senior years of life, I *can* relate to challenges of looking a certain age...on the other end of the spectrum.

Because in my line of work, being young and looking youthful are not always the most helpful or most ideal attributes. Even though all rabbis were once 30 something years old, I've come to learn that the image of a young, youthful looking 30-something year old is not, usually, what comes to the average person's mind when imagining a rabbi.

Though being a young and youthful-looking rabbi can certainly have its merits, sometimes I feel that I need to convince those who do not know me, that even though I may look young and I may *be* relatively young, nonetheless I *am* knowledgeable, I *am* competent, and I *am* capable of guiding you through the most precious moments of your lives.

For those of you on the *opposite* end of the age spectrum – I wonder if you, too, can relate to the feeling of wanting to be

trusted, wanting to be needed, wanting to be valued and wanting to be taken seriously as you go about *your* daily lives, in a world in which youth is often revered and prized, and old age is often cast aside.

**I see so much possibility
in the various ways we
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generational bounds.**

Perhaps you have experienced this, or perhaps you know someone who has. Perhaps you or someone you know has, in some way or another, received the message that you are past your prime; that you no longer have anything to give or anything to contribute to society. Feeling left behind as the world continues to advance and evolve, knowing you are capable of more, but being told, otherwise, all of this must weigh heavily on the soul.

Indeed, our world is such a complicated place. And that is precisely why we need *this* place.

Because here, in our congregation, we can model the world as it should be. Here, we can be a beautiful microcosm of intergenerational synergy and connectivity. Here, we can be a place where everyone is needed, a place where everyone has something to bring and a place where everyone has something to give – from the very young to the very young at heart – and every age in between. Being a microcosm of intergenerational synergy means trusting and believing that anyone, regardless of age, can teach and inspire and connect with anyone else, at any time.

There are so many ways we already experience this dynamic within our congregation. Our Rosh Chodesh gatherings unite women of all generations for learning, community building and conversation. As we continue this initiative, I hope to showcase the tremendous wisdom and power that can arise when women of all ages share their stories and their experiences with one another.

And on Saturday mornings, it is so beautiful to watch as our preschool kids arrive for Havurah, our Saturday morning Shabbat programming for families with young children. As our Havurah kids run into the Pavilion, where our 8:00 a.m. service attendees are enjoying their bagel breakfast, the kids are always greeted with warm smiles and open arms. Some of our 8:00 a.m. “regulars” have gotten to know the Havurah kids by name and now look for them on Saturday mornings.

In the spirit of intergenerational connectivity and support, I hope all facets of our community will support our Bonim preschool and attend “A Magical Evening” on March 28 as we aim to reach our highest visions for our preschool community. It will truly be a “magical evening” if we witness the magic that can occur when 5 generations unite together towards a common goal.

As I look outward to our community – to those who are both older and younger than me – I am reminded that our outward signs of age remind us of all the various gifts and all the kernels of wisdom that each one of us has to offer. I look outward, and see that I am so different from you, and you are so different from me, and not only is that a reality, but it is also the most precious, the most beautiful thing that we can give to one another, and I would not trade that, for anything.



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

L'DOR V'DOR AND SO MUCH MORE!

We are so lucky to have the opportunity for our children to take part in intergenerational programs with our neighbors from Jewish Senior Services (JSS).

For many years now, the 3, 4 and 5-year-olds from Bonim Preschool have been lucky enough to spend Friday mornings at JSS. During their visits, the children interact with the residents singing, playing games, doing crafts and celebrating Shabbat.

In 2018 the program was expanded to include Bonim families along with their children for a Friday evening Shabbat experience. In the last two years, the

Our hope is that the children build a connection to the residents they see on Friday mornings.

Women's Auxiliary of Jewish Senior Services has invited the children and their families to participate in a special Hanukkah Service and Oneg. During the service, the children have sung popular Chanukah songs. Afterwards, families came together with the residents to enjoy a dessert Oneg.

Our hope is that the children build a connection to the residents they see on Friday mornings with their class and at the special celebrations. It has been

such a positive experience for both the residents and the Bonim families; we have added two additional dates. We will be celebrating Purim on March 6 with the kids in costumes (see invitation below) and Israel in May. We begin each celebration with dinner in the JSS Café, followed by the service with the children singing, and we end with the special Oneg. Please join us if you can.

For more information on this event please contact the Bonim Preschool office.



Congregation B'nai Israel Bonim Preschool and the Women's Auxiliary of Jewish Senior Services invite you and your family to participate in our

SPECIAL SHABBAT

Purim Celebration

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

6:00 PM - DINNER
6:50 PM - PURIM SONGS
7:15 PM - DESSERT ONEG

Bennett Hall, Jewish Senior Services, 4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport
Please bring your family and friends for a Purim Celebration! Costumes welcome!

Please RSVP no later than March 4 to Elicia Kusnitz at ekusnitz@cbibpt.org

 **Jewish Senior Services**
excellence in our home and yours

 Bonim Preschool
Congregation
B'nai Israel



FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE

KEHILAH/COMMUNITY: YOURS, MINE AND OURS

I have shared in this space that our Religious School Vision Team has been working to evolve Jewish learning at B'nai Israel, to take it to the next level. We are looking at what we teach (curriculum), how we teach it (pedagogy) and how we talk about what we are doing (branding and marketing). A few dozen members and all our teachers are engaged in the process of transformation.

This process has led us to change the name of what we are doing from "Religious School" to "*Kehilah*," which means "community." We know that a new label does not mean a new experience. We are working to change that as well.

One of the things we are doing is adjusting much of our teaching methodology to an experiential model. We want to make sure our learners' memories of these years are vastly different from many of those held by their parents. That means lesson plans that engage learners more with one another than with a text book. We may learn fewer facts, while immersing ourselves in the material in ways that touch us socially, emotionally and spiritually.

How to describe this? At a seminar I attended with the Institute for Jewish Experiential Education, they challenged me to define one of the tensions inherent in the idea of *Kehilah* and create an art project around it. It was suggested that

We want to make sure our learners' memories of these years are vastly different from many of those held by their parents.

community represents a tension between the universal and the individual. That felt pedantic and inauthentic.



I am a bit of a Hebrew language geek. I believe that Hebrew, as the central language of the Jewish people, has innate value. And I believe that when we use the Hebrew "*Kehilah*" to describe our learning model, the Hebrew says a great deal about the community we are trying to create. So I used Hebrew to explore the tension.

The Hebrew word *Etzel* (אצל) means "by," "at" or "near." It can be merged with pronouns and the meaning alters slightly. And that will give us the nuance and the tension that I think will work for us.

Add the first person singular (*Etzli*) and it is translated "by me" or "at my place." It can refer to your person or your home. So one lens to view our *Kehilah* – our school which is our community – is as *Etzli*. We want each of our children to view B'nai Israel as "my place." We want it to be a place where they can meet their



Etzli/Etzlenu

individual needs.

Add the first person plural (*Etlenu*) and it reads as "by us" or "at our place." This gives us our second lens. *Kehilah* is a place or idea where we

come together to be an "us" and not just an "I."

I hope you will help us build *Etlenu* – our *Kehilah*. We need this place to be *ours* collectively, and at the same time for each of us to view it as *mine*, because it meets the needs of each individual. Join one of our working groups, our vision team or our faculty. Engage in conversations about what we are trying to become. Tell your friends who are not currently part of a synagogue or religious school community about what we are doing and how it is different from what came before. Make this *Kehilah* YOURS.

L'shalom,

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

BREAST CANCER SEMINAR

The Norma Pfriem Breast Center will present a Women's Health Seminar titled "Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer in the Ashkenazi Jewish Population" on Sunday, March 29, from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45.

The event is open to the entire community.

It will be presented by Amy Killie, a Smile Cancer Hospital genetic counselor and moderated by Jenny McCollum, member of the President's Council of the Norma Pfriem Breast Center.





ADULT JEWISH LEARNING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



Torah Study

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

in the Natt Family Library
Rabbi Ben Bag Bag said "Turn it (the Torah) over and over, for everything is in it." Each week we read from the Torah. Each time we revisit a portion, we learn something new. Some of us have been learning together for decades. Some of us joined recently. All of us are teaching and learning from one another! Join us!

Adult Round Table

Thursdays, March 5 and April 2 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.

Rosh Chodesh

Thursday, March 19, 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 4/16, 5/14 and 6/25.

Fearless Females in the Bible! Twenty Minutes of Torah

Sunday, March 8 at 9:35 – 9:55 a.m. in the Natt Family Library

Rabbi Marion is leading this month's bite-sized Torah with a brief but meaty Jewish conversation! Come join her in the Natt Family Library to learn about Esther and Vashti! Our final session this year will be April 5.

How to Be a Friend

to a Friend Who's Sick

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

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, and we will discuss practical ways to best comfort, help, and even simply talk to a friend who is sick. No need to read the book in advance,

Security in Israel – The IDF and Israelis

**Lifelong Learning: Fridays, March
13, 20 and 27 at Noon**



Here in America, we only see the Israel Defense Force (IDF) as depicted by the media. We only see the part of the story that the presenters want to share. Join our Young Israeli Emissaries, Noya, Ido and Ella for a first-hand exploration. They will all be serving in the IDF next year. They will teach us about the values behind the IDF, help us wrestle with issues that make us uncomfortable and hopefully give us a chance to speak with soldiers currently serving or who have recently completed their service.

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. Drop your kids at Kehillah and head on over! We will view the mikvah up close, learn about the customs and origins surrounding this ritual, and explore the ways that ritual immersion has been reimagined and redefined to support our modern values. *Due to space limitations at the mikvah, this opportunity is limited to the first 12 participants who RSVP. If interest is high, we will offer an additional session at a later date.* Please RSVP to Rabbi Marion at smarion@cbibpt.org if you would like to attend.

Antisemitism – Digging Deeper

**Mondays, March 30, April 6 & 13,
7:00 p.m.**

We hope you will be reading Deborah Lipstadt's *Antisemitism: Here and Now* as part of the One Temple One Book event on April 20. Join Ira Wise and Susan Walden for a three-session class designed to dig into some of the issues raised by the book and have a conversation about things like the language people use, anti-Semitism and racism, Holocaust denial and do people really mean what they say? Ira is our Director of Education and Susan is an anti-Semitism program coordinator for the ADL.

MARCH DONATIONS

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

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Donations in memory of Shirley Goldstein, grandmother of Jenny Goldstein, were made by:

Barbara Abraham

Alexa and David Cohen

Ellen Hyde Philips

Lauren, Jon, Rachel and Gabby Tropp

Debbie and Dan Viens

Donations in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine, were made by:

Jan and Bernie Jacobs

Ellen Hyde Philips

Serena and Arnie Sher

The Silberman/Weisman Family

Alice Baron, Barbara Barton & Evelyn Hirshorn, in memory of Estelle Baer, sister of Beryl Kaufman.

Renée and Rick Beitman, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

Jan and Bernie Jacobs, in memory of Bernard Gerber; in memory of Phyllis Weisblatt.

Alice and George Kelly, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marge Krubiner; in memory of Bernard Gladstein, father of Geoff Gladstein.

Carol Krim, in honor of Rabbi Schultz.

Beth Lazar, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz's decision to marry interfaith couples.

The Liotta Family, in honor of Campbell Liotta's Bat Mitzvah.

Jeffrey and Kelle Ruden, in appreciation of the support we received from Rabbi Schultz as we navigated through the death of father, Morton Ruden.

Richard and Susan Walden, with thanks to Rabbi Schultz for all you do.

Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund

Beth Lazar, in appreciation of Rabbi Marion for reviving Rosh Chodesh.

The Liotta Family, in honor of Campbell Liotta's Bat Mitzvah.

Ellen Hyde Philips, in honor of Rosh Chodesh.

Jeffrey and Kelle Ruden, in appreciation of the support we received from Rabbi Marion as we navigated through the death of father, Morton Ruden.

Cleo and Jon Sonneborn, in honor of Beth Lazar giving a d'var Torah.

Richard and Susan Walden, with thanks to Rabbi Marion for all you do.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Susan Bauchner, in memory of mother, Bobby Kaplan.

Lisa and Jim Greenberg, in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

George and Chris Markley, Mazel tov to Joanne and Richard Krantz, on the birth of grandson, Cameron Allan Gillies.

Serena and Arnie Sher, in honor of the birth of Rafael Galon Sufian Krubiner, grandson of Marge and Paul Krubiner.

Marilyn S. Weinstein, in memory of beloved husband, Dr. Norman Weinstein.

Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund

Jeffrey and Kelle Ruden, in appreciation of the support we received from Rabbi Prosnit as we navigated through the death of father, Morton Ruden.

Music Fund

Stacey and Duane Berlin, in honor of Mark Edinberg, for his contributions to the musical life of Congregation B'nai Israel.

Sharon and Scott Harris & Family, in memory of Muriel Mann, mother of Luise Mann.

David and Judy Pressler, in honor of Mark Edinberg's tribute.

Enhancement Fund

Donations in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine, were made by:

Elaine Clayton

Julie and Steve Pressman

Caren and Bill Schwartz

Richard and Susan Walden

Wendy and Jeffrey Bender, in memory of Fred Bender.

Alida and Al Kleban, in memory of mother, Elizabeth Shulkin.

Ruth Madwed, in memory of mother, Eva Dolid; a thank you to Brian and Shari Nerreau.

Alan and Harriet Nelson, in memory of Hyman Blatter, father of Marge Krubiner.

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Donations in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine, were made by:

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Richard and Susan Walden, with thanks to Ira Wise for all you do.

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MARCH DONATIONS

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

David Abbey and Deborah Goodman, in honor of Mark Edinberg, with gratitude for his musical contributions; in honor of the birth of Rafael Krubiner, grandson of Marge and Paul Krubiner.

Sherry Fogel, in memory of Allen Ross, father of David Ross.

Andrea Goodman and Jeff Ackerman, in honor of Mark Edinberg, for his outstanding musical contributions to B'nai Israel.

Beth Lazar, in appreciation of Ronnie Dubrowin's work with the Tent of Abraham, and for being a midwife.

Debbie and Ted Portnay, in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

Serena Sher and Ona Cohn, in loving memory of father and grandfather, Charles Fishman.

Debbie, Dan, Jaime and Matthew Viens, in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

Vision Loan Reduction Fund

Patti and Samuel Rosenberg, in memory of Harvey Levine, husband of Geraldine Levine, father of Larry Levine.

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Carol Barsky, in honor of Beth Lazar's birthday.

Jack and Sandy Germain, in honor of Mark Edinberg, for his musical contributions to B'nai Israel.

Andrea Goodman and Jeff Ackerman, in honor of the birth of Rafael Galon Sufian Krubiner, grandson of Marge and Paul Krubiner.

Carol Krim, in appreciation of Jerry Saunders and Paula Herzlinger.

George and Chris Markley, in memory of Norman Suslock, husband of Joan Suslock.

High Holy Day Appeal

Andrea Kern

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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 MARCH 2020

Thank you to everyone who came to our Creative Friday Shabbat Service in February! We meet on Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. in the BIFTY Lounge! 8th Graders are officially welcome to attend all programs! It is never too late to join!

Our March Programs will be held on:

March 12

March 19

March 26

We hope to see you there!

Follow us on Instagram at “cbi.bifty”

Questions? Email advisor Marisa Underberger at munderberger@cbibpt.org



BIFTY cooked up some creative dishes at our recent Chopped program!

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Friday, March 6

6:00 p.m. Service – Led by our Israeli Emissaries (followed by dinner and program – See pg. 2 for details)
Torah Portion – Tetzaveh, Exod. 27:20-30:10
Haftarah – Ezekiel 43:10-27

Exod. 30:11-34:35
Haftarah – 1 Kings 18:1-39

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

Saturday, March 14

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 – Purim Celebration

Friday, March 27

6:00 p.m. Service with Special Guest Speaker: David Weisberg – Reflections from the Arizona Border
Torah Portion – Vayikra, Exod. 38:21-40:38
Haftarah – 1 Kings 7:51-8:21

Saturday, March 7

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
11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Julia Plager, daughter of Charles and Kate Plager

Friday, March 20

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Vayakhel, Exod. 35:1-38:20
Haftarah – 1 Kings 7:40-50
7:00 p.m. Dinner: Conversations over Dinner (see pg. 2 for details)

Saturday, March 28

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
11:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Hourihan, son of Stephen and Molli Hourihan

Friday, March 13

6:00 p.m. Service
Torah Portion – Ki Tisa,

Saturday, March 21

8:00 a.m. Service



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The World Zionist Congress elections are here, and it is time to have our voices heard in Israel! Each vote from our congregation is crucial to maintaining a strong Reform presence in Israel.

This is our chance to combat the discrimination that the Reform Movement faces in Israel, and advance the causes important to us. Together we can grow our Reform Movement and work towards making progress on the issues we care about: religious freedom, gender equality, advancement of Reform clergy, and many more.

Voting is open now until March 11, 2020. Your vote is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society. You can exercise your right to vote by going to www.zionistelection.org, Vote Reform: ARZA Representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism.



Please be aware there is a fee of \$7.50 to vote (\$5 for those 18-25), which helps offset the administrative costs of running the election.

To vote, you must be 18 or older by June 30, 2020, self-identify as Jewish, agree to the Jerusalem Program, and agree to the fee.

Steps to vote:

1. Go to www.zionistelection.org
2. Click voter registration button on bottom of page
3. Fill in personal information and click

submit

4. Enter verification code from e-mail or text message
5. Proceed to payment (\$7.50) and click submit
6. You will receive a second e-mail or text with voter PIN number
7. On voter page, enter your e-mail and PIN, and click submit
8. Vote Reform: ARZA Representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism
9. You will receive a confirmation e-mail

To volunteer for our congregation's election initiatives, please contact Jeremy Kortmansky (jskortmansky@yahoo.com) or Mitch Weinstein (mitchellew@yahoo.com)