

## JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Rabbi Schultz suggests five ways for us to connect Jewishly with nature this Tu B'shevat. Page 3

Rabbi Marion shares an article she co-authored with Rabbi Schultz on a Jewish viewpoint of reproductive rights. Page 5

Alexa Cohen announces the return of enrichment classes at Bonim Preschool. Page 6

Ira Wise recounts a recent experiential learning program undertaken by the Kehilah's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class to help recent refugees in our area. Page 7

### Also inside

Bulletin Board.....	p. 2
Donations.....	p. 4
Shabbat Services.....	p. 4
Adult Learning.....	p. 8
BIFTY.....	p. 16

**2022**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



## Shabbat Shira 2022

**WITH RADIO KLEZ**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 14TH  
6:00PM**

Join us for a joyous Shabbat of music  
featuring B'nai Israel's Klezmer ensemble.  
All are welcome!

## MAKING SPACE DURING AN ONGOING SEASON OF GRIEF

**Friday, January 28, 2022**

**Sermon at Shabbat services, and  
program from 8:00-9:00 p.m.**

**In person and on Zoom**

(Shabbat dinner TBA, please check Hashavua for more information)



Join Rabbi Schultz in conversation with Rebecca Soffer, cofounder of Modern Loss, for this necessary event on how we can acknowledge and creatively navigate individual and shared grief

during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond – and, as important, how we can meaningfully support others. Participants will have the opportunity to share in conversation and ask questions.

Rebecca Soffer is cofounder of Modern Loss, which offers creative, meaningful, and encouraging content and community

addressing the long arc of grief. She is also coauthor of the book *Modern Loss: Candid Conversation About Grief. Beginners Welcome* (Harper Wave, 2018), which *The Strategist* named a best book on loss for a younger generation, and the author of the forthcoming *The Modern Loss Handbook*, an interactive guide through loss and resilience (Running Press, 2021). Rebecca also runs the Modern Loss Substack newsletter, a longform, monthly deep dive into various themes stemming from grief. She has been featured across media, including on CBS Sunday Morning, NPR, NY1, MSNBC, Fox, and CTV; led retreats at Kripalu; and spoken nationally on loss and resilience at Chicago Ideas Week, HBO, and Amazon. Her writing has appeared in outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Marie Claire*, *Glamour*, and NBC. Rebecca is a former producer for *The Colbert Report* and a Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism alumna.

## SHARING OUR JOY...

### In Celebration of:

**Gail Schriffert**, on the birth of granddaughter, Ariel Cara Mandre, daughter of Dustin & Maris Mandre.

**Sharon & Scott Harris**, on the birth of granddaughter, Remi Sutton, daughter of Sarah and Michael Mark.

**Nina Silberman & Mitch Weinstein**, on being named Congregation B'nai Israel's Mitzvah Heroes.

**Sasha Bacon**, on her engagement to Roie Rennert.

**Carol Barsky**, on the birth of great-grandson, Landon James Ryalls, son of Lyndsie and Jennifer Ryalls.

## SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

**Peter Zimroth**, brother of Alice Kelly  
**Dr. Robert Sheiman**, husband of Ellen Sheiman

**Ruth Germain Edinberg**, mother of Mark Edinberg

**Lee Kirsch**, mother of Mark Kirsch  
**Carmen Jo Barwikowski**, mother of Joy Herbst

**Jane Joan Rona**, mother of Susan Rona Kasson

## 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.

**Suzanne & Joshua Allen, Brendan, Ryan & Cole**  
Westport, CT  
**Emily & Sam Joseph, Quentin & Talia**  
Fairfield, CT

## BULLETIN BOARD

### January Mitzvah Morning Thursday, January 20, 3:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

January's Mitzvah Morning will actually take place on a Thursday evening when we will be working with Nourish Bridgeport to provide meals for the hungry in the greater Bridgeport community.

B'nai Israel volunteers will meet at the Nourish Bridgeport office at 2200 North Avenue in Bridgeport on January 20 at 3:00 p.m. to prepare and package hot meals. From there, we will deliver the meals to the local "food deserts" in Bridgeport, accompanied by the Nourish Bridgeport team.

Volunteers can participate in the meal preparation only, if they so choose, from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., or they can choose to help only with food delivery from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet has been posted in Hashavua. We are looking for 6 people per shift.

Established in 2009 and Incorporated in 2010, Nourish Bridgeport's mission is to bring hope to Bridgeport through direct service programs designed to answer a specific need within the city of Bridgeport. With ten (10) programs focusing on education, food, and health, Nourish Bridgeport strives to mitigate the effects of food scarcity and food insecurity.

This is a wonderful opportunity to provide much needed assistance to our local community while also connecting with your B'nai Israel family.

For further information, please reach out to Nina Silberman (ninahv@aol.com) or Mitch Weinstein (mitchellev@yahoo.com).

### Judaica shop



The Judaica boutique stocks many gifts as well as beautiful items for your home. For personal appointments please contact: Karen Sanger (203-767-0830) or Sylvia Neigher (203-895-7348)



## AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



**American  
Red Cross**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2022,  
11:00-4:00 p.m. at B'nai Israel**

Please call 1-800-REDCROSS or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appointment today. Every day, blood donors

help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. There's no substitute for blood. When a patient receives blood, it was given in advance by a generous donor.



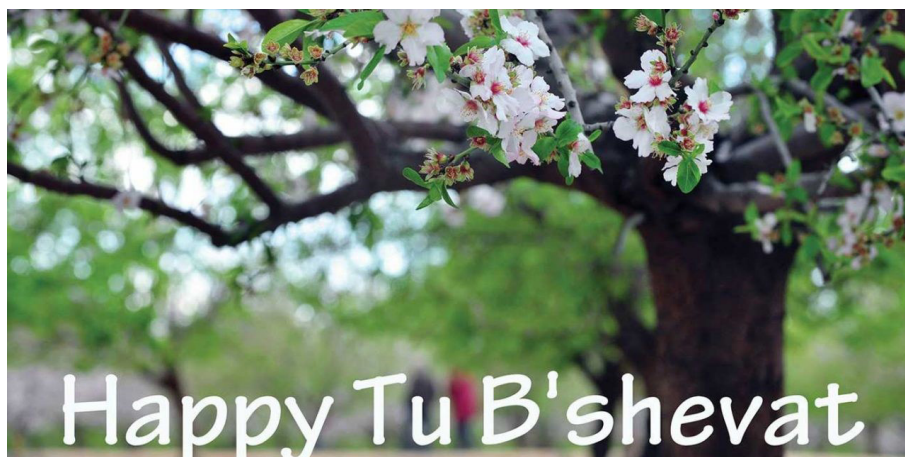
FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

## FIVE WAYS TO CONNECT JEWISHLY WITH NATURE THIS TU B'SHEVAT

It's cold! It's snowy! It's dark at 4:30 p.m.! What a perfect time to connect with nature. Of course, it may sound just a little bit funny to talk about connecting more deeply with the outdoors in January, but on our Hebrew calendar it is the month of Shevat, and within it, the festival of Tu B'Shevat. Tu B'Shevat is often referred to as the birthday of the trees. As Rabbi Avi Strausberg of Hadar notes, "In Israel, Tu B'shevat is said to mark the time when the early trees awaken from their winter slumber and begin to flower."

More recently, Tu B'Shevat has blossomed into somewhat of a Jewish "Earth Day;" an opportunity for us as Jews to think about our relationship to nature and to focus on our responsibilities as stewards of the Earth. It is a topic that I have been quite interested in for some time, and, more recently, I have been studying and engaging with Jewish books and texts on nature and the outdoors. Below you'll find some of my favorite ways to connect Jewishly with nature this month and on the festival of Tu B'Shevat, which falls on January 17, 2022.

1. Read Jewish Nature books If you're interested in reading more about the Jewish connection to nature, there are two books in particular that I'd recommend. The first is *God in the Wilderness* by Rabbi Jamie Korngold. This personal exploration by the "Adventure Rabbi" is really excellent for those of us who find deep spiritual connections in the woods. The second book I'd recommend is *A Wild Faith* by Rabbi Mike Comins. Rabbi Comins is founder of Torah Trek and offers a pretty comprehensive look at the ways in which nature is embedded in Jewish tradition, from the Bible to contemporary Jewish texts.



2. Have a Tu B'Shevat Seder You may be thinking, "Oy another seder?" It has in fact become a wonderful tradition on this festival to have a Tu B'Shevat seder. It's a great opportunity to taste some of the wonderful flavors of Israel, including dates, figs, olives, and more. There are many Tu B'Shevat haggadahs out there; I'd recommend Hazon's haggadah, which you can download here — <https://hazon.org/commit-to-change/educational-materials/> — along with many other great educational nature resources.
3. Advocate! I recently learned about the work of a fairly new Jewish organization called Dayenu. According to their website, "Dayenu is building a movement of American Jews confronting the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action. We mobilize Jewish support for climate solutions, build our collective power with national and global movements, and raise up a spiritual, religious, and moral voice." You can learn more about their work at [www.dayenu.org](http://www.dayenu.org).
4. Join the B'nai Israel Eco Team Recently, Rabbi Marion partnered with co-chairs Michelle Serlin and

Brad Kerner (aka The Eco Dude) to form a B'nai Israel Eco Team. The team met to brainstorm ways we can have an impact locally, both in Greater Bridgeport and right in our own building. If you're interested in joining the team, I'm sure they'd love to have you! You can contact [theecodude76@gmail.com](mailto:theecodude76@gmail.com) to learn more or get involved.

5. Check out The Shmita Project Online Every seven years, we are prompted to give the earth and the land a sabbath, in Hebrew known as a *shmita*. We are currently in a *shmita* year; many farms in Israel (and some Jewish farms around the world) let their land lie fallow to observe this biblical obligation. As part of the *shmita* year, you can go online and explore The Shmita Project, which is a collection of art, photography, essays, and poems (including one by this very author), all centered around the topic of *shmita*. You can visit the website at <https://shmitaproject.org/>.

Have a wonderful Tu B'Shevat, everyone! And most importantly, if it's not too too cold, I hope you'll spend just a little time outdoors to celebrate the birthday of the trees. Chag Sameach!

## SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

In person on Fridays at 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. where indicated.  
All services at this time can also be viewed on Zoom. The link is sent out in our weekly email.

### Friday, January 7

5:00 p.m. Havurah  
6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom – Torah Portion – Bo, Exod. 10:1-13:16  
Haftarah – Jeremiah 46:13-28

### Saturday, January 8

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – only on Zoom  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – only on Zoom

### Friday, January 14

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – on Zoom – Shabbat Shirah with Radio Klez Torah Portion – B'shalach, Exod. 13:17-17:16  
Haftarah – Judges 4:4-5:31

### Saturday, January 15

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – in person and on Zoom

### Friday, January 21

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Yitro, Exod. 18:1-20:23  
Haftarah – Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6

### Saturday, January 22

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – only on Zoom  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – only on Zoom

### Friday, January 28

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom – Guest Speaker Rebecca Soffer, Co-founder and

CEO of Modern Loss  
Torah Portion – Mishpatim, Exod. 21:1-24:18  
Haftarah – Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25-26  
7:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner (in person, subject to change)  
8:00 p.m. Conversation with Rebecca Soffer

### Saturday, January 29

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – only on Zoom  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – only on Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Cole Landsman, son of Eileen & David Landsman

## BOOK TALK WITH IVAN MAISEL: *I KEEP TRYING TO CATCH HIS EYE*

**Saturday March 26, 4:00 p.m.**  
**in person at B'nai Israel and on Zoom**



Join with B'nai Israel member Ivan Maisel for an intimate conversation about his recent book, *I Keep Trying to Catch His Eye*. The book is a poignant

exploration of a father losing his dear son Max in 2015. Ivan is an incredible writer and speaker as well as a member of our community. Copies of the book can be purchased in the synagogue office for \$30.

## JANUARY DONATIONS

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

### Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Donations made in memory of George Markley, husband of Chris Markley, were made by:

Carol Barsky  
Linda & Barry Diamond  
Eileen & Dean Dobensky  
Linda & Mike Epstein  
Deborah Goodman & David Abbey  
Arin & Dayna Hayden  
Alice & George Kelly  
The Ledvich Family  
Jeff & Jackie Madwed  
Carol & Rick Offenbach  
Abbe & David Smerling  
Rita Weinstein

Donations made in memory of Lee Kirsch, mother of Mark Kirsch, were made by:

Jan & Bernie Jacobs  
Jack Kadden  
Elaine & Marty Schwartz  
Nina Silberman & Howard Weisman

Bonnie Alterman, in memory of Miriam Payess.  
Lori Berger, in memory of father, Lester Davis.

Linda & Barry Diamond, in memory of Virginia Post, mother of Richard Post, mother-in-law of Randy Dorfman; in honor of the wedding of Nicole & Ryan Lestrang; with thanks to Rabbi Schultz for a beautiful wedding ceremony; in memory of Robert Sheiman, husband of Ellen Sheiman.

Randy Dorfman, in memory of Helen Weiner; in memory of Ginny Post, mother-in-law of Randy Dorfman, mother of Richard Post.

Andrea & Dennis Feinberg, with special thanks to Rabbi Schultz for his compassion during this difficult time, and in appreciation for making the memorial service for mother, Arlene Kay, so meaningful.

Kim & Mike Feinstein, in appreciation of Tyler Feinstein's Bar Mitzvah.

Marj Freeman & Hal Levine, in memory of Bob Sheiman, husband of Ellen Sheiman.

Stacy & Rob Giglietti, in memory of stepdad, Bernie Lipin.

*Continued on page 9*



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

## STANDING TOGETHER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

*With a case before the Supreme Court that poses a direct threat to decades of reproductive freedom, it is more important than ever to emphasize our sacred Jewish values that mandate the right to choice and bodily autonomy. In May of 2021, Rabbi Schultz and I co-authored an Op-Ed in the Connecticut Post that affirmed the Jewish stance on reproductive rights and advocated for more partnerships across gender lines in the ongoing struggle for basic, reproductive healthcare. Our piece is reprinted below. In addition, we have a new Reproductive Justice Working Group here at B'nai Israel that is exploring how our congregational community can help support and protect reproductive choice, both locally and nationally. Individuals of all genders are invited to join this critical conversation. If you are interested in joining our efforts, please contact Rabbi Marion at [smarion@cbibpt.org](mailto:smarion@cbibpt.org).*

**By Rabbi Sarah Marion and Rabbi Evan Schultz**

In our Jewish tradition, every life that enters this world is considered sacred. Both the Old Testament and our ancient Rabbinic texts place extraordinary emphasis on human dignity, prompting us in the Reform Jewish Movement to advocate for the notion that each human being should have agency and autonomy over their own bodies. We understand our sacred texts as a call to us to support reproductive rights, because to us, life begins at birth. We, too, advocate for the vital need for medically accurate sexuality education, affordable family planning services, and high-quality reproductive health care in our country.

On Tuesday, May 25, we joined with Jewish clergy around the country to

participate in the first ever Clergy for Repro Virtual Lobby Day, organized by the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). Founded in 1893, NCJW is the oldest Jewish women's grassroots organization in the country, guided by Jewish values to improve the lives of the most vulnerable women, children, and families across America.

The Jewish mandate for reproductive rights is not simply a women's justice issue. Rather, this is a *human justice* issue — and we must always approach it accordingly. Because it is an affront to human justice when a victim of sexual assault is forced to carry a child, especially when she is still a child herself. And it is an affront to human justice when an employer can deny birth control coverage, even when millions of women rely on birth control bills for reasons having nothing to do with preventing pregnancy. And it is an affront to human justice when deliberate, debilitating obstacles prevent women from receiving routine and medically necessary reproductive health care procedures. And it is an affront to human justice when anyone, of *any gender*, is stripped of the ability to make a personal medical decision because a far-off politician has already decided it for them.

Within our Jewish tradition, some of our most historic battles for women's rights were achieved as a result of strategic, allied partnerships. One of our earliest examples of progress occurs in the Book of Deuteronomy, when the Five Daughters of Zelophehad advocate for their right, as women, to claim their deceased father's property. Their lawful inheritance of the land would solve an apparent loophole in Israelite land ownership: When a

father with no male heir passes away, to whom does his land belong?

The Five Daughters, justifiably, argued to Moses that the land should belong to them. And because Moses viewed their plight as a critical human issue and not as something trivial, he immediately took the matter up with God. Soon after, the first law granting women the right to own land, under certain circumstances, was established. Notably, the Daughters recognized that they could not go it alone. They needed Moses and his power, privilege, and position as a male leader in their society. They needed Moses to create the space for their story and their voices to be heard.

In our ongoing struggle for reproductive rights, we, too, need more partnerships across gender lines. We need more instances of male leaders using their power, privilege, and positions in order to create spaces for the voices of women or other marginalized individuals to be heard and for basic human rights, primarily impacting those groups, to be taken seriously. This partnership is crucial because inadequate reproductive health care affects people of *all* genders. Our co-authoring of this piece is a deliberate and hopeful model of working across gender lines to advocate for the basic and fundamental care and support that all people deserve. And, too, our joining with organizations like NCJW helps us to use our voices to further the call for justice, not only for women, but for all human beings in our nation.



## BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR ENRICHMENT CLASSES ARE BACK AT BONIM



After a very long hiatus, we are so happy to announce that all our fun extracurricular classes have returned to Bonim Preschool.

These enrichment classes take place between 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. at B'nai Israel. In our effort to keep the kids as safe as possible, we have opted to hold as many classes as we can outdoors on the Prosnit Patio and in Hannah's Garden. The kids happily don their coats and hats for some active fun outdoors.

Some of the classes are taught by professionals in their field, while others are taught by our own Bonim teachers. See below for descriptions of some of the classes:

**Gymnastics** with Miss Cathy and Miss Harriet – our friends from the former JCC. Improve motor skills and hand-eye coordination and build self-confidence. This class includes tumbling, gymnastics, balancing, jumping, playing games and is loads of fun.

**Sports** with Miss Cathy and Miss Harriet. Improve motor skills and hand-eye coordination and build self-confidence. Students play soccer, tennis, kickball, baseball, bowling, and more.

**Yoga** with Miss Jackie – former Bonim 2's teacher. This class explores different poses through stories and song while using the students' imaginations.

**Acting Out** with Miss Karen/Drumming with Mr. Kevin.

- Local author and storyteller Ms. Karen Hall along with her prop and costume-filled trunk, "Chester", are sure to spark the imagination by bringing stories to life.
- Kevin Makarewicz uses group drumming, movement, and other musical activities to enrich the lives of children. While having fun, kids



are learning musical skills as well as developing social and emotional skills.

**Little Tennis** with Mrs. Kirsch – Bonim 3's teacher



- Based on *The Complete Guide - USPTA* (United States Professional Tennis Association)
- Warm-up skills/games, stretching, motor and eye-hand coordination games, and racquet skills
- Students utilize a net and use the dance floor of the social hall as their court.
- Learn/practice basic tennis skills — forehand, forehand volley, backhand, back-hand volley — and toward the end of the whole session, we might try to toss the balls in the air to try a serve. Mostly, it is fun fun fun!!

## HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL DONATIONS

**Pillar of Congregation**  
Steve and Jill Elbaum

**Benefactor of Congregation**  
Elaine and Juda Chetrit  
David and Alexa Cohen

**High Holy Day Appeal Contribution**  
Dale and Stew Barcham  
Marilyn Bissell  
Melissa and Perry Molinoff  
Deborah Weinstein

## GIFT OF LIGHT



Over 600 boxes of Gift of Light Chanukah candles were delivered this past November, including 21 boxes to those who have expressed interest in becoming part of the B'nai Israel community.



## FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER LIVING OUR VALUES

We talk a lot about Jewish Values. We try to instill them in our kids. In Kehilah, our focus on experiential learning means that we need to do more than talk about them. And our Temple Tikkun Olam (World Repair) team exemplifies what it means to live our values out loud. Led by Nina Silberman and Mitch Weinstein, our members gather each month for a Mitzvah Morning, where we learn about an organization that is working to make our community better and then engage in some of that actual work. So, it is a natural progression for Kehilah to plug into that. One of our teachers — and the first vice president of the congregation, Susan Walden — came up with one way to do that. The words that follow are hers.



“In November, Kitah Vav (6<sup>th</sup> grade) had the great opportunity to work hand in hand with our Mitzvah Morning crew to help our partner Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) stuff and deliver backpacks of school supplies and toiletries to some of the new Afghani refugees who have settled in Bridgeport.

My fellow Kitah Vav teacher, Karin Beitel, and I chose this mitzvah as part of the new values-based curriculum to demonstrate to our students that we were all once strangers in a strange land as well as the value of *Hachnasat Orchim* — being welcoming. Our kids are learning about the destruction of the second Temple and Jews being expelled from Jerusalem starting the diaspora, so this project fit in perfectly.

We teach our students that Jews wandered the world, always being new and not belonging and that many left swiftly with only the shirts on their backs. It was the perfect opportunity teach our kids that this still happens today, and that we, as Jews, are responsible for one another and for paying it forward to welcome the stranger.”

Not only did Kitah Vav students help stuff the backpacks with our congregants, they also promoted the Amazon wish list and donated many of the supplies. Some students were very creative. I had one student who advertised to a neighborhood Facebook group that they were collecting and had people drop items off at their house.

Two other students tagged onto a charity group from their school and asked people to bring in donations, resulting in five large bags of supplies. Other students looked through the Amazon wish list with their parents and chose items that they felt kids new to American schools could really use.



Our kids also had the wonderful chance to hear from Christian and Kinga, two of the CIRI volunteers, about all of the wonderful things that CIRI does for refugee families in our area. The kids were shocked that refugees don't even have the simple things we take for granted like toothpaste and pencils. Students were able to ask questions and wanted to know what more they can do to help refugee families to feel at home in the greater Bridgeport area. When all of the backpacks were stuffed, kids and parents loaded the backpacks in cars and drove them down the street to the CIRI office where they would be distributed.

Kitah Vav is planning to do another Mitzvah for CIRI later in the winter and hopes to perhaps meet some of the families they helped once COVID protocols are lifted. For more information about CIRI please visit <https://cirict.org/>.

L'shalom,

Ira



***Thank you to all our Mitzvah Morning volunteers who turned out on December 12 to sort and wrap holiday gifts for Al's Angels. These gifts will make all the difference for many children in our community. Your good work is so very appreciated.***



## ADULT JEWISH LEARNING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

**Key Jewish Texts of the 20th Century**  
**Fridays, December 3, 10, 17 from Noon**  
**– 1:00 p.m. In person and on Zoom.**

*"The beginning of our happiness lies in  
the understanding that life without  
wonder is not worth living."*

*Abraham Joshua Heschel*

Based on a recent book by Rabbi David Ellenson, this course with Rabbi Schultz will explore some of the most important texts written over the past eighty years on Jewish identity, belief, and theology. Their messages certainly hold much weight and meaning for us as we continue to wrestle with and explore those topics today. Open to all! <https://bit.ly/CBJAJThought>.

**Women's Rosh Chodesh Shevat/  
January Gathering**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022**  
**from 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**In person at B'nai Israel**

*"Dignity Grows" Packing Party in  
partnership with the Federation for  
Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield  
County and Schoke Jewish Family  
Services*

Help us make period poverty a problem of the past! The newly launched "Dignity Grows" program of our FJP aims to support

women, girls, and individuals assigned female at birth who lack the resources to afford basic feminine hygiene necessities. At our Rosh Chodesh packing party, we'll learn about the ubiquity of period poverty, assemble tote bags filled with feminine products, and explore some of Judaism's various perspectives on periods, menstrual taboos, red tents, and more. The bags we assemble will go directly to our CBI/Schoke JFS Food Pantry recipients.

Packing party participants are asked to underwrite the cost of one or two tote bags, at \$10/bag. To participate, please send an email to Chris Rocha at [chris@cbibpt.org](mailto:chris@cbibpt.org) by January 6, letting her know how many bags you would like to underwrite. Then, please mail a check to B'nai Israel (attn Chris Rocha) for the number of bags you are underwriting. Checks should be made out to the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy.

**Women's Rosh Chodesh Adar/  
February Gathering**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022**  
**from 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

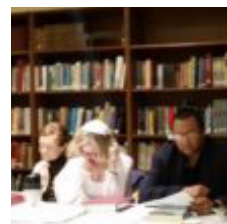
**In-person at B'nai Israel and on Zoom**  
*Mastering the art of "Jewpanese"*  
*Cooking with Guest Chef Aya Nishikawa*  
*Forster*

More information coming soon!

### ONGOING CLASSES

**Torah Study**

**Saturdays, January 8, 15, 22, and 29**  
**from 9:30-10:30 a.m.**



Each week we read from the Torah. Each year at Simchat Torah, we start over from the beginning. Each time we revisit a portion, we learn something new. Some of us have

The Torah is so many things to so many people: law book, guidebook, moral compass, history, mythology, genealogy, and so much more. Each

been learning together for decades. Some of us joined recently. All of us are teaching and learning from one another! Join us as we slowly make our way through the entire Torah! Please see Hashavua to confirm if we are meeting at temple in addition to on Zoom as well as for the link.

**Talmud with Training Wheels**

**Monday, January 10, 17, 24, and 31**  
**from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom**

We have a small but loyal band of people exploring how Talmud and other classic Jewish texts can help us make sense of our world today. We don't always agree with them (or even with each other), but we are able to learn and wrestle with the values they teach us. Ira Wise is our guide as the group decides on topics of interest; then he finds us the texts and we dig in. No prior knowledge or political leaning is required, just a sense of adventure and a willingness to have an opinion! Please see Hashavua for Zoom info or email [info@cbibpt.org](mailto:info@cbibpt.org) for the link.



**From the Union for Reform Judaism  
(URJ)**

**Learn to Read Hebrew for Adults is  
now enrolling! January-March 2022**

10 one-hour sessions, \$180.

A true beginner's course! Familiarity with Hebrew can be a key to feeling at home in the Jewish community. Ten live online class sessions with our experienced Hebrew educators and a community of learners, coupled with independent practice between sessions, will enable students to master the *alef-bet*. <https://reformjudaism.org/learning/judaism-classes/Learn-to-Read-Hebrew> to enroll.

### CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE

B'nai Israel Cemetery  
472 Moose Hill Road  
Monroe, CT

For information please contact  
Bernie Jacobs at  
[bjacobs@cbibpt.org](mailto:bjacobs@cbibpt.org)  
or call the temple office at  
(203) 336-1858.

*Continued on page 15*

# JANUARY DONATIONS ..... FROM P.4

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

## Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers

**Association, Inc.**, in honor of Rabbi Schultz for the memorial service and luncheon.

**Paula & Bob Herzlinger**, in memory of Peter Zimroth, brother of Alice Kelly.

**Alice & George Kelly**, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz, and in memory of brother, Peter Zimroth.

**Aleksey & Raisa Ledvich**, in memory of grandfather, Eli Goldshteyn; in memory of grandmother, Feiga Vengerovskaya; in memory of aunt, Shelya Sotnik.

**David Levine**, in memory of Lee Kirsch, mother of Mark Kirsch.

**Amy & Jeff Pressman**, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz officiating at Jacob Pressman's Bar Mitzvah.

**Jane & Jerry Pressman**, a thank you to Rabbi Schultz for officiating at Jacob Pressman's Bar Mitzvah, and with thanks for being a part of our lives.

**Beth & Randy Reich**, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ella Braverman, granddaughter of Laura & Bruce Braverman.

**Jeffrey & Kelle Ruden**, with thanks to Rabbi Schultz for my mother Carole Ruden's unveiling.

**Elaine & Marty Schwartz**, in honor of the birth of Asher Samuel Traub Prosnit; in memory of Ruth Edinberg, mother of Mark Edinberg.

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**Mark & Deena Spector**, in memory of Josh Spector, on what would have been his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Linda Spero Deitchman & Jeff Spero**, in appreciation to Rabbi Schultz for officiating at our mother, Miriam Spero's funeral.

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**Barbara & Gil Saltman**, in memory of George Markley, husband of Chris Markley; in memory of Peter Zimroth, brother of Alice Kelly; in memory of Dr. Robert Sheiman, husband of Ellen Sheiman.

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**Lindsay, Adam & Lily Gottfried**, with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit for a lovely naming ceremony for Lily Gabrielle.

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**Ellen Sheiman & Family**, with thanks to Cantor Rubel for leading such a beautiful and soulful funeral service, as well as leading a meaningful Shiva service for husband, Dr. Robert Sheiman,

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Continued on page 11

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Mitzvah preparation.

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**Kim & Mike Feinstein**, in appreciation of Tyler Feinstein's Bar Mitzvah.

**Don & Wendy Hyman**, in honor of the birth of Micah Prosnit, grandson of Rabbi Jim Prosnit & Wendy Bloch.

**Jack Kadden**, in memory of Dr. Robert Sheiman, husband of Ellen Sheiman.

**Luise Mann**, congratulations to Sheryl & George Santiago, on the marriage of daughter Arielle, to Lindsay Albright.

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- ...BUILD and deepen sacred relationships both within the synagogue community and the broader Greater Bridgeport community,
- ...ACT justly with a sacred obligation to tikkun olam (repair the world),
- ...FOSTER and deepen a love, commitment and connection to the land and people of Israel.



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Permit No. 171  
Fairfield, Conn.

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## BIFTY JANUARY 2022

What better way to start the new year than with BIFTY? BIFTY meets on Thursdays, from 7:15-8:45 p.m. in the BIFTY Lounge. Membership forms will be given out when teens attend their first program. Follow us on Instagram @cbi.bifty for an update on our programs. You may reach out to advisor Marisa Underberger at [munderberger@cbibpt.org](mailto:munderberger@cbibpt.org) with any questions.

Our January Events will be held on:

January 13

January 20\*

January 27

\*On January 20, we will be going ice skating at The Rink at Longshore in Westport, CT, from 7:15-8:45 p.m. (regular BIFTY time). It costs \$14 to skate and \$5 to rent skates. Teens are responsible for all costs and transportation to and from ice skating.



*BIFTY had fun painting while blindfolded!*