

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

Rabbi Schultz recommends a list of books to nourish souls and spirits this late summer and upcoming fall. Page 3

Rabbi Marion shares recent congregational efforts to support the important work of tikkun olam from her remarks at the B'nai Israel annual meeting. Page 5

Alexa Cohen offers a glimpse into Bonim summer camp's fun in the sun. Page 6

Michele Serlin, a B'nai Israel congregant and Green Team co-founder, reveals through her own composting journey how easily each of us can begin composting at home. Page 11

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MAZEL TOV TO RABBI SCHULTZ ON HIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

B'nai Israel was lively and filled with music for the Gala honoring Rabbi Evan Schultz on Friday evening, June 10. First, congregants were treated to a special Shabbat service with speeches from former and current temple staff and clergy and a special performance by his family. Next, attendees moved outdoors to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, dessert, and drinks under a tent while listening to special musical guest Michelle Citrin. Rabbi Schultz even joined in the musical celebration onstage. Special thanks to committee chairs Debbie & Ted Portnay and Tracey & Jeff Taylor and tribute journal chairs, Jaclyn & Asher Epstein and Emily & Jonathan Green.



EXPANDING ACCESS TO VOTING IN CT

Expanding Access to Voting in CT

The Congregation B'nai Israel Voting Committee, which began in 2018, advocates for 100% voter turnout among eligible voters from Congregation B'nai Israel. We'll also continue to help register voters and work alongside state and national campaigns to protect every citizen's right to vote. See below on how you can get involved and what to know about two initiatives in the state that affect us all.

Early Voting is on the November 8 Ballot

This Election Day, November 8, there will be a question on the ballot: *Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?*

Connecticut is one of six states that only allows in-person voting on Election Day. Voting in person before Election Day makes voting more accessible. This is particularly important for essential workers and hourly employees, as well as others who are not able to vote on Election Day but want to exercise their right to vote in person. If the referendum passes, the state legislature will establish how early voting will work (how early, where, etc.) – but first, it needs to be approved by Connecticut's voters.

Eligibility for absentee ballots in Connecticut

State legislators have extended eligibility for absentee ballots to include caring for someone who is sick* or disabled or

SHARING OUR JOY...

In Celebration of:

Janet Rosen & George Sanders, on the birth of granddaughter, Josephine Reese Rosen, daughter of Matthew & Dani Rosen

Sara Laden and Jim Grutzmacher, on the engagement of son, Ernie Laden, to Cory Cerritelli

Rachael & Michael Chappa, on the birth of Sydney Faye Chappa, sister of Gabriel, Teagan & Xander

Marcie and David Slepian, on the birth of grandson, Youssef, son of daughter and son-in-law Susannah and Mohamed Adel

Kim & Jordan Herzog, on the birth of son, Sawyer Levi Herzog, brother of Jonah & Ryder

Patti & Samuel Rosenberg, on the marriage of daughter, Rachel Rosenberg, to Kevin Lustig, and on the engagement of daughter, Sarah Rosenberg, to Elliot Kaufman.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Irwin Abraham Cohen, father of Randi Cohen

Frances Furst, mother of Alicia Wettstein
Gail Appell Nickowitz

Heather Conway Liberman Smith, sister-in-law of Rob Liberman and Lynn Blueweiss

Jeanne Schimmel, mother of Linda Koski
Ferne Meadowcroft, mother of Renee Beitman

Nancy Sullivan Murray, mother of Meg Murray

Julius Green, father of Dan Green, grandfather of Anne Green

Ramon Veras, father of Maggie Walowitz

Rona Berezin, mother of Charles Berezin

Barbara French, mother of Anna Lawrence

Robert Winter, father of Jeff Winter

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.

Annie & Beck Fineman, Levi & Jules
Fairfield, CT

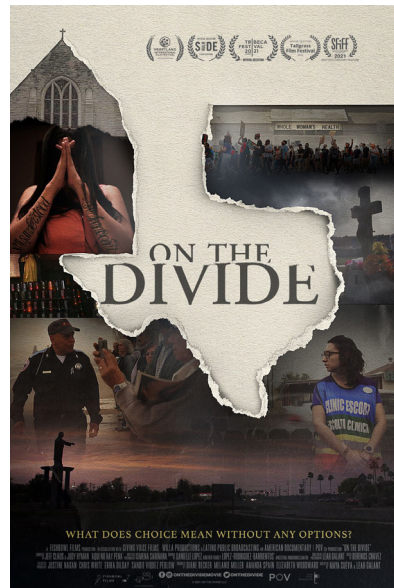
Rachel Davidson & Ben Tornatore,
Nate & Miles
Fairfield, CT

Rhea Farbman
Stratford, CT

Valerie Montrose
Bridgeport, CT

BULLETIN BOARD

Summer Film Series



Save the date for a Tikkun Olam Film under the stars! On August 15 at 7:15 p.m., we'll show *On the Divide* (a film about reproductive justice issues); the directors will join us for a Q & A and refreshments will be served on the Prosnit Patio.

Mitzvah Morning is Back!

Help us kick off the 2022-2023 season of Mitzvah Mornings! Join us on Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. at B'nai Israel, where we will meet for coffee, compliments of Buena Vista Coffee Roasters. Then, at 10:00 a.m., we will head to B'nai Israel's cemetery at 117 Kings Highway East in Fairfield to clean headstones. Feel free to meet us directly at the cemetery if you prefer.

Over the past several decades, the headstones at the cemetery have

endured nature's harsh elements and are in need of some serious refreshing. We will spend some time scrubbing and cleaning these headstones in honor of those who came before us. One of the highest forms of good deeds we can do is to perform mitzvot for those who are unable to thank us. This Mitzvah Morning event certainly meets that standard. It will also be a nice opportunity to work with others in the B'nai Israel community.

We will have cleaning supplies available, including buckets and sponges. Feel free to bring your own gloves, as we will be using a bleach solution on the headstones.



All ages are welcome to join.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all B'nai Israel volunteers who either showed up at Mitzvah Mornings last year or contributed with generous donations... or both! Mitzvah Mornings are a key pillar of our Tikkun Olam principles, and we would not be able to carry on without you.

Please contact Nina Silberman at ninahv@aol.com or Mitch Weinstein at mitchellew@yahoo.com for more information.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

SUMMER READING FOR THE SOUL AND THE SPIRIT

As we begin to wind down the summer months and look to the fall, I wanted to share some of my favorite books from this past year that might especially feed both your soul and your spirit as the New Year begins to descend. This time of year is about introspection, thinking about both who we are and our relationship to the world and people around us. I hope that you find these books nourishing to the soul and spirit as you (hopefully!) enjoy some quiet mornings or afternoons with a good book and beautiful sunshine!

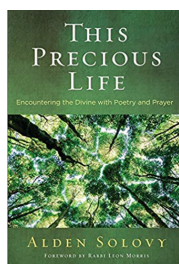
***People Love Dead Jews* by Dara Horn**

The title may be a bit jarring and the subject matter difficult, but this is one of the most impactful books I've read in recent years. In my opinion, Dara Horn has her pulse on the landscape of the American Jewish community better than almost anyone else right now. The book is structured as a series of vignettes, from Ellis Island to the Pittsburgh shooting and the antisemitism in our country that has so deeply shaped our identities as American Jews. I have referred to this book often and highly recommend it.



***This Precious Life* by Alden Solovy**

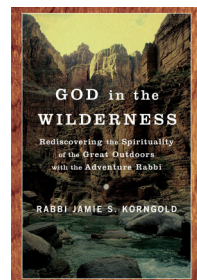
Alden Solovy is our generation's poet and liturgist. I have seen poems from



this collection shared by Jewish leaders, both in our highest moments and in times of tragedy and sadness. This series of poems, prayers, and meditations is inspired by encounters with God. Solovy reimagines moments from the Torah to speak to us as modern Jews. This is a wonderful collection to open up on a quiet Shabbat evening or when seeking prayer and words of comfort.

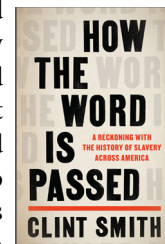
***God in the Wilderness* by Rabbi Jamie Korngold**

Rabbi Korngold, also known as the Adventure Rabbi, offers a book for all of the outdoor enthusiasts in our congregation, and I know there are many! This is part autobiography, part theology, and part nature writing. I recommend it to anyone who loves to hike, walk, or take in the beauty of nature. Rabbi Korngold's writing will guide you to think about the incredible Jewish theology embedded in the mountains, trees, and lakes!



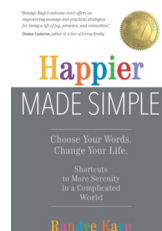
***How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith** Our CONECT leaders, Emily Lehrman

and Jeff Schwartz, have been leading a month-by-month read of this recent book by author Clint Smith, and I highly recommend it if you haven't yet read it. Similar in style to Dara Horn's book, this is a series of vignettes on slavery in America. Smith travels around the country, from New York City to Monticello to Louisiana, to engage with the different places and stories told about slavery in our nation. This, too, was one of the more impactful books I have read in recent years; if you wish to fill in the gaps about the stories many of us have been told about slavery, this is the book to read.



***Happier Made Simple* by Randye Kaye**

I must give a shoutout to our own Randye Kaye, who spoke about this book with the congregation in May at Mental Health Awareness Shabbat. Randye is an incredible writer and storyteller and crafted a book to help us find simple ways to use words to increase our happiness.



This is a great opportunity to support one of our congregants and nourish our spirits!

Rabbi Evan Schultz:

Congratulations and Best Wishes as you begin your 11th year as a Spiritual Leader of our Community!

With Sincere Gratitude,

The 2021-2022 Board of Trustees

Rebecca Gordon Blondin
Judy Green Blumenthal
Rod Brown
Scott Casher
Naomi Erwich
Sarah Fridman
Laurie Gaugler

David Herbst
Dan Kasov
Andy Kern
Larry Levine
Abby Levis
Ivan Maisel
Luise Mann
Perry Molinoff

Shari Nerreau
Mark Nigrosh
Heather Oberhand
Richard Pearlberg
Amy Pressman
Laurie Renzulli
Kelle Ruden
Jerry Saunders

Jeff Schwartz
Nina Silberman
Michael Soltz
Debbie Viens
Susan Walden
Ken West
Julie Winn

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, August 5

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion –
Devarim, Deut. 1:1-3:22
Haftarah – Isaiah 1:1-27

3:23-7:11

Haftarah – Isaiah 40:1-26

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

Saturday, August 6

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

Saturday, August 13

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service - in person and on Zoom
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood
Breakfast – in person
9:30 a.m. Torah Study - in person and on Zoom
10:30 a.m. Havurah – Shabbat in the Yard (offsite)

Friday, August 26

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion –
Re'eh, Deut. 11:26-16:17
Haftarah – Isaiah 66:1-24

Friday, August 12

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – at Lake Mohegan (no service at the temple) – **(please note new date)**
Torah Portion –
Va'etchanan, Deut.

Friday, August 19

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion –
Ekev, Deut, 7:12-11:25
Haftarah – Isaiah 49:14-51:3

Saturday, August 27

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

Saturday, August 20

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – in

HELLO FROM THE CHESSED COMMITTEE

Hello from the Chessed Committee. The “What?” committee you say. We are the committee that tries to help people in need of little things that can make a difference and mean a very lot to someone. We can deliver meals for someone just getting out of the hospital or having a baby, we can provide comfort with a phone call, and many other helpful things. We are having a meeting of the Chessed Committee on September 12 at 7 p.m. at the temple, nosh included. Weather permitting, it will be held outside in the patio area. Weather not permitting, it will be a Zoom meeting. ALL are welcome to attend: current members, new members, and interested people who would like to be members. If you have any questions please email Sara Laden at sara.laden1988@gmail.com or Jim Grutzmacher at jamesgrutz@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there.

Thanks,

Sara Laden and Jim Grutzmacher

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The High Holy Days will be here before you know it! Please look for the Yizkor Book of Remembrance letter/form to be in your mailbox in the beginning of August.

The Yizkor Book of Remembrance is created every year for the High Holy Days to honor our loved ones who have passed away. The booklets are given out at the Yom Kippur Yizkor Service and this year we will be mailing hard copies of the memorial booklet to anyone who requests one.

Yizkor Book of Remembrance forms will be sent out in early August and the deadline to return them is **Wednesday, August 31**. Please send in your form as soon as possible, or you can visit our website www.cbibpt.org to complete the form online once it is available.



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

MY REMARKS FROM THE JUNE 2022 B'NAI ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING

Our sacred texts beg us to resist the temptation towards despondency and despair. Over and over again, in one way or another, we read that we must not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. No matter the brokenness, no matter the pain, our Torah and Talmud cry out to us: Do justice, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. Because, as we read in Talmud, "*lo alecha hamlacha ligmor*: we are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to abandon it."

In my role at B'nai Israel, I strive to uphold this value each and every day. And over this past year, in particular, I've been involved with a handful of new and ongoing initiatives, grounded in the foundational Jewish principle that our actions matter...even after the deepest communal and societal devastations, and even amidst all the suffering and pain of this profoundly wounded world, our actions matter. Each little thing that we do, *even the smallest of steps*, has the power to bring more healing, more hope, more love, and more light, to the people and the places that are in need of it the most.

And so, because *lo alecha hamlacha ligmor*, it is not up to us to complete the work, but neither are we free to abandon it, last fall I appointed Michelle Serlin and our resident temple Eco Dude, Brad Kerner, to lead our newly formed B'nai Israel Green Team. The team began its work shortly after the High Holidays, when Brad and Michelle jumped in, at full strength and full speed, to lead a group of about a dozen congregants interested in environmental action and advocacy. I am so moved and inspired by all that the team has accomplished so far.

And because *lo alecha hamlacha ligmor*, it is not up to us to complete the work, but neither are we free to abandon it, I could no longer sit by and watch the

devastating collapse of our reproductive rights. And so, this past fall, I invited others to join me in brainstorming ways to work together, as a temple community, to help support and safeguard our Jewish values of reproductive choice and bodily autonomy. What began as a small group conversation led to the formation of a Reproductive Justice Team, with over 30 members on my email list.

This past spring, our team met with CT state Rep. Jennifer Leeper, who informed us of two critical pieces of pro-choice legislation on this year's state legislative agenda. With Representative Leeper's help, and with expert advocacy and organizing guidance from our very own team members Ilana Ofgang and Barbara Edinberg, our team wrote and submitted written testimony in support of these two bills. By June, we learned that both bills had passed and were signed into law, and our team received a wonderful thank you note from Rep. Leeper, which read:

*Dear Team,
I've been thinking about you all, your phenomenal group of action-oriented individuals, and your courage to use your voices and I want to say the most sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU. Because of you, and others like you in our state, we are now the leaders in protecting women's autonomy and reproductive health care across the nation. I couldn't be prouder of our little state and I want you to know that you played a big role in this legislation getting over the finish line. We did it!!!!*

And because *lo alecha hamlacha ligmor*, this past year I continued working with our amazing Chesed Committee, under the expert guidance of our Chesed Chair, Ronnie Dubrowin. This past June, Ronnie stepped down from her Chesed position in anticipation of a very bittersweet move to be closer to family. Over the past two years, Ronnie has guided the Chesed

Committee with an incredible amount of dedication, wisdom, and grace, and I am so grateful for her partnership and leadership. I know that this wonderful committee will continue to thrive under the new leadership of Sara Laden and Jim Grutzmacher. Thank you, Ronnie, for truly giving your heart and soul to this initiative, and thank you to Sara and Jim, for taking this important committee forward into the days ahead.

And, finally, in order to muster the strength and the resolve to turn to the important work that needs to be done, we need community. We need others to help lift us when we are broken, we need others to *encourage us* to continue to put one foot forward...and then another... and then another. This is why I have continued the Rosh Chodesh program, our monthly initiative that uses study, schmoozing, and social action to build community and deepen relationships. Some Rosh Chodesh highlights from the past year include: a sunset potluck dinner on the patio, a "Jewpanese" cooking class, and a service project with our local Federation called "Dignity Grows," in which we assembled bags of menstrual and other hygiene products for those unable to afford these essential items. And, of course, the intergenerational Women's Seder that we shared together in April was truly extraordinary. With over 100 participants of all ages and stages, we showcased the power of women and girls of *all ages* joining together for prayer, community, and celebration.

At B'nai Israel, you allow me to pursue my passions, and you empower me to follow my heart. And you encourage to reach out my hand and invite others to join in. I could not ask for more. I am enormously, endlessly, and exceedingly, grateful.

I want to express my deepest thanks to my
Continued on page 7



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

BONIM IN THE SUN – SUMMER CAMP FUN



4th of July Parade



Loving the water table



Outdoor picnic with Miss Bianca



Sprinkler



The flowers smell so good



The toddlers love the wind tunnel



Twos Tea Party



Celebrating Shabbat



The log flume is so much fun!

When Do We Meet?

Our *Gan – Kitah Gimel* (K – 3rd grade) learners meet Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – noon

Our *Kitot Daled – Vav* (4th – 6th grade) learners meet on Sundays from 9:30 – 12:00 p.m. **and** Thursday afternoons from 9:30 a.m. – noon

Our *Kitot Zayin* and *Chet* (7th & 8th grade) learners meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Merkaz, the Community High School for Jewish Studies, serves *Kitot Tet – Yud Bet* (9th – 12th grade). These teens are joined at B'nai Israel by teens from other congregations in the community. Merkaz meets Tuesday evenings from 6:50 – 8:50 p.m. Sophomores from B'nai Israel are enrolled automatically in the Confirmation class taught by Rabbi Schultz.

What Will Your Kids Learn?

Jewish Values – things like Community, Respect, Menschlichkeit, World Repair and a love of Israel (for example) – rather than focusing only on content areas like History, Holidays and Hebrew. We will certainly learn about those and other content areas. However, we do it by using values as our context, rather than trying to implicitly teach values when we learn the fact-based material. We believe that values better help our kids get a sense

of what kind of person and Jew they want to be than simply absorbing knowledge. We also believe that focusing on Jewish Values gives us a greater opportunity to create experiences – both in and out of the classroom – that create learning that is deeper and longer lasting.

How Will Our Kids Learn?

Our faculty has been learning and working on how to implement our new curriculum over the past few years. Two major approaches worth mentioning as we have invested a great deal of time and effort into them:

- **Experiential Jewish Education** — We strive to make the learning experience more concrete and hands on, rather than abstract with lots of listening and reading. We believe that the more immersive the experience, the deeper and longer lasting the learning will be.
- **Social, Emotional and Spiritual Learning** — Social Emotional Learning is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.” (CASEL) Adding Spiritual Learning to the mix responds to our need to help learners develop social relationships that are embedded within Jewish values. We

seek to create Jewish learning that nurtures the soul, honors spiritual curiosity, and is relevant to their lives. (Kress)

- **Having fun and getting to know one another.** While we have been learning some essential pedagogic skills, we know that there has to be an element of joy in everything we do. And part of that is having a group of peers with whom to have fun, explore, and discover what it means to each of us to be Jewish. **We need our community – our Kehilah!**

For more information, please contact Alexa Cohen, Interim Director of Kehilah at acohen@cbbpt.org or call (203) 335-5058. For kids enrolled in Kehilah last year, enrollment emails have been sent.

We look forward to seeing you all soon on the first day of school.

1st Sunday for Kindergarten through 6th grade - September 11th

1st Tuesday for 7th and 8th grade– September 13th

1st Thursday for 4th through 6th grade – September 15th

MY REMARKS FROM THE JUNE 2022..... FROM P 5

amazing colleagues here at B'nai Israel, as well as to our board and lay leadership, led by our outgoing President Larry Levine; our incoming President Susan Walden; and, of course, my profound

gratitude goes to the incomparable Rabbi Evan Schultz – thank you to *all of you*, for supporting my wildest dreams, and beyond.

Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor. Together,

we will continue to do the work, finding purpose, meaning, fulfillment and love, each and every step of the way.

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS

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

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Keri Adwin, in appreciation of Alex Adwin's Bar Mitzvah.

Jon August, in memory of Milton August.

Claire L. Baker, Mazel Tov on Rabbi Schultz's 10th Anniversary at B'nai Israel.

Renee Beitman, in appreciation to Rabbi Schultz for my mother's shiva.

Lisa & Joav Burger, in honor of Rabbi Shultz's 10th Anniversary.

Linda & Barry Diamond, in memory of Julius Green, father of Dan Green.

Gail Felberbaum, in memory of Ferne Meadowcroft, mother of Renee Beitman.

Terri & Dan Green, in honor of Alex Adwin's Bar Mitzvah.

Judith & Michael Katz, in honor of the 10-year anniversary of Rabbi Evan Schultz.

Alice & George Kelly, in memory of father, Sol Zimroth.

Cristie & Stan Krauss, in honor of Rabbi Evan Schultz's 10 years with B'nai Israel.

Aleksey & Raisa Ledvich, in memory of father, Peter Ledvich; in memory of grandfather, Rahmiel Ledvich; in memory of aunt, Noemi Dovolskaya.

Patty Levine, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of my wonderful grandson, Teddy Sklar, and with deep gratitude for Rabbi Schultz's spiritual guidance.

The Mallon Family, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz for the beautiful and meaningful memorial service for Marvin Strow.

Luise Mann, in memory of Julius Green, father of Dan Green; in memory of Paul Silberman, father of Nina Silberman; in memory of Ferne Meadowcroft, mother of Renee Beitman.

Alan & Joan Newman, in honor of Alex Adwin's Bar Mitzvah.

Beth & Randy Reich & Family, in memory of our mother, grandmother, and great grandmother Vivienne Zimmer Goldstein.

Gladys & Barry Robbins, Mazel Tov

to Carolyn & Perry Wasserlauf, on the Confirmation of Gavin Wasserlauf.

Elaine & Marty Schwartz, in memory of Ferne Meadowcroft, mother of Renee Beitman; in memory of Julius Green, father of Dan Green.

Cherrie Sherman, in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Marion, and Cantor Rubel.

The Shoenthal Family, in memory of Leah Cohen & Samuel Cohen.

David & Marcie Slepian, in honor of Rabbi Schultz.

Jon Sonneborn, in memory of father, Dr. Walter Sonneborn.

Judi Stern, in loving memory of father, Herbert Edelson.

Laura Sydney, in memory of Nancy Sullivan Murray, mother of Meg Murray.

Karen & Peter Tolk, in memory of Gail Nickowitz.

Debbie & Michael Weisman, in memory of Julius Green, father of Daniel Green.

Barbara & Larry Yuridin, in honor of Kylie Yuridin's Bat Mitzvah and Bryce Yuridin's Confirmation.

Scott & Rachel Yuridin, in appreciation of Kylie Yuridin's Bat Mitzvah.

Fredric Zinn, in memory of mother, Ruth Zinn.

Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund

Donations made in memory of Gertrude Lorraine Merle, mother of Carol Merle-Fishman, grandmother of Rabbi Sarah Marion, were made by:

Carol Barsky

Sherry Fogel

Laurel Greenberg

Janet Jurow

Luise Mann

Nancy & Irv Silverman

Debbie & Dan Viens

Keri Adwin, in appreciation of Alex Adwin's Bar Mitzvah.

Linda & Barry Diamond, in memory of Jeanne Schimmel, mother of Linda Koski.

Jack & Sandy Germain, in memory of Ramon Varas, father of Maggie Walowitz.

Laurel Greenberg, in loving memory of parents, Ruth C. Silverman and Sol H. Silverman.

Andrew Lelin, in honor of Rabbi Sarah Marion.

Luise Mann, in memory of Stan Lessler, husband of Judy Lessler.

Beth & Randy Reich, in memory of our mother and grandmother, Beatrice Reich Burchman.

Jon & Cleo Sonneborn, in honor of Andrea Goodman & Jeff Ackerman's son Michael's engagement to Dylan Marc Aurela.

Scott & Rachel Yuridin, in appreciation of Kylie Yuridin's Bat Mitzvah.

Suzie & Arte Weissman, in memory of Julius Green, father of Dan Green.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Alice & George Kelly, in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit for the beautiful baby naming ceremony of our grandson Nate Browne Landry.

Martin Schwartz, in honor of Mark Schiff receiving the Dentist of the Year Award.

Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund

Patti & Samuel Rosenberg, in honor of the marriage of Rachel Rosenberg to Kevin Lustig, and in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit officiating the wedding.

Cantor Rubel Discretionary Fund

Keri Adwin, in appreciation of Alex Adwin's Bar Mitzvah.

Music Fund

Donations made in memory of Jeanne Schimmel, mother of Linda Koski, were made by:

Randy Dorfman & Richard Post

Barbara & Mark Edinberg

Ruth & Eric Gross

Anne & Mark Kirsch

Marcia Tubin

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS

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

David Abbey & Deborah Goodman, in memory of Beth Slepian.

Miriam Caston, in memory of Dorothy Blaustein; in memory of Shirley Winnick.

Richard & Barbara Feldman, in memory of Gail Nickowitz.

Barbara & Mark Edinberg, in honor of the birth of Maggie Lily Tropp-Pacelli, daughter of Sarah Tropp-Pacelli & Eric Pacelli.

Abe & Sarah Fridman, wishing Cantor Michelle a Happy Birthday.

Milton Jacoby, in honor of 50 Year membership.

Alan & Joan Newman, in honor of Alex Adwin's Bar Mitzvah.

Janet Rosen, in honor of the birth of new granddaughter, Josephine Reese Rosen.

Laura Sydney, in memory of Beth Alper Slepian, sister-in-law of David Slepian.

Carolyn & Perry Wasserlauf, in memory of Robert Sheiman, husband of Ellen Sheiman.

Debora & Michael Weisman, in memory of Stanley Lessler, husband of Judith Lessler.

Enhancement Fund

Donations made in memory of Jeanne Schimmel, mother of Linda Koski, were made by:

Debbie & Lanny Boles

Lynn & Brian Duchan

Andrew & Virginia Koski

Twody & Bob Schless

Ellen Sheiman

Donations made in memory of Stanley Lessler, husband of Judith Lessler, were made by:

Rose Bombero

David Krassner

Sally Melzer

Shirlee Schwarz & Bernard Perry

Sandra Rosenberg, Jane Rosenberg, & Ellen Livingston

Carson & Robert Berkowitz, in

memory of George Markley, husband of Chris Markley; in memory of Lee Kirsch, mother of Mark Kirsch; in memory of Bob Sheiman, husband of Ellen Sheiman.

Annie & Mark Block, in memory of Jeanne Sales.

Myron Blumenfeld, in honor of Barbara Kauder's Bat Mitzvah.

Linda & Ken Colman, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Molly Kresse, daughter of Andrea & Joe Kresse, granddaughter of Gail & Peter Weinstein.

Jim & Lisa Greenberg, in memory of Nancy Murray, mother of Meg Murray.

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Judith Lessler, in memory of Julius Green, father of Dan & Terri Green.

Joanne & Neil Lippman, in honor of Joan & Marc Levy, Mazel Tov on Jenn's marriage to Conor.

Janet & Dennis Magid, in honor of the marriage of Nicole Berkowitz and Alex Karas.

Sandra Rosenberg, in honor of Lilla Cooper's granddaughter Madeline Cooper on her Ordination.

Laura Sheiman & Aaron Glick, in memory of Julius Green, grandfather of Annie Green.

Judith Stern, in loving memory of Bruce Stern.

Norman Solomon, in memory of mother, Lillian Solomon.

Eileen & Howard Tolk, in memory of our dear friend Gail Nickowitz.

Carolyn & Perry Wasserlauf, in memory of Marvin Strow, father of Lisa Mallon.

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Lori & Ken Berger, in memory of Maggie Walowitz's beloved father, Ramon Veras.

Joan & Marc Levy, in loving memory of Ramon Veras; in honor of Carly & Caleb's wedding, Mazel Tov!

Luise Mann, in memory of Ramon Veras, father of Maggie Walowitz; in honor of Joan & Marc Levy's daughter Jennifer Levy's marriage to Conor O'Neill.

Beth & Randy Reich, in honor of Gail & Peter Weinstein's granddaughter, Molly, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Lois Ross, in honor of Shelley Levy's birthday.

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Continued on page 10

JULY/AUGUST DONATIONS

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

Religious School Scholarship Fund

The Cimmino Family, we honor Ira Wise for the dedication and service that he has provided for so many years for the families of B'nai Israel.

Religious School Enrichment Fund

Lisa & Joav Burger, in memory of uncle.

David Abbey & Deborah Goodman, in honor of Ira Wise's dedication to B'nai Israel.

Luise Mann, in honor of Ira Wise for his many years of service to B'nai Israel; in honor of Lynn Lynch for always being there; in honor of Larry Levine for 2 years of leadership; in honor of Susan Walden as she assumes the presidency.

Bob & Helen Natt, in honor of the Confirmation of Lillian and Sydney Borofsky; in honor of Amber Borofsky graduating from Merkaz.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Donations made in memory of Jeanne Schimmel, mother of Linda Koski, were made by:

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Carson & Robert Berkowitz, in memory of Sue Angel; in memory of John J. Murray & Nancy Sullivan Murray, parents of Meg Murray; in memory of Ferne Meadowcroft, mother of Renee Beitman; in memory of Ruth Goodman, mother of Andrea and Debbie Goodman.

Bari Dworken, in honor of Barbara Kauder's Bat Mitzvah.

Elaine & Robert Friedman, in memory of Stanley Lessler, husband of Judith Lessler.

Ruth & Eric Gross, in memory of Sue Angel; in memory of Julius Green, father of Daniel Green.

Samuel Miller & Family, in memory of Harry Miller; in memory of Joseph Kot.

Nancy & Charlie Needle, in memory

of Stanley Lessler, husband of Judith Lessler.

Beth & Randy Reich, in honor of Emmitt Moss, grandson of Elaine & Marc Silverman, becoming a Bar Mitzvah; in memory of Suzanne Salatan's mother.

Ben Rottman & Robin Isaacson, in memory of Julius Green, father of Dan Green.

Serena & Arnie Sher, in memory of Nancy Sullivan Murray, mother of Meg Murray.

Jon & Cleo Sonneborn, in memory of Henry Hofheimer, Jon's grandfather.

Wendy Swain, in memory of Stanley Lessler, husband of Judith Lessler.

Etz Chaim Living Torah Fund

Vision Loan Reduction Fund

Ellen Sheiman, a personal thank you to Dr. Glen Reznikoff, as well as to honor him for all he does for our community; to honor our summer rabbinical intern Chelsea Feuchs – great job.

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Anne & Mark Kirsch, in memory of Nancy Sullivan Murray.

The Mallon Family, in appreciation of Janet Jurow for leading a beautiful Shiva service.

Luise Mann, in honor of Barbara Soloman's new home; in honor of Wendy & Ralph Michel's new home.

Becky & Rich Rosen, in memory of Jeanne Schimmel, mother of Linda Koski.

Debbie & Dan Viens, in memory of Jeanne Schimmel, mother of Linda Koski.

B'NAI ISRAEL GREEN TEAM (BGT) AUGUST 2022

By Michelle Serlin

My concerns about the environment have led me to recycle as much as I can, use less plastic, and drive an electric vehicle. But there was one thing I just couldn't bring myself to do—compost. The idea of old food sitting on my counter, not to mention managing the scraps in my back yard, was overwhelming to me.

That all changed when Karen Blau, who is on the B'nai Green Team with me, told me about using a curbside compost pickup service. I signed up online and, within a few days, a large paint can-sized container and a smaller plastic box with biodegradable liners to place on my counter arrived. Over the next weeks, our family quickly learned to divert our food scraps including bones, eggshells and even napkins and paper towels into this little box on our counter. My seven-year-old daughter often reminds me that I should be throwing that banana peel into the compost and not the trash!

Every two days or so, we empty the countertop box into the larger sealed container we keep in the garage that gets picked up weekly. Much to my amazement, there are no odors! There's a great perk that comes with the service—once a year you can get a free bag of compost soil delivered back from the company. My daughter and I used the soil in our garden, which was a great learning experience. There is also a cool dashboard on the website that lets me know how much waste we've diverted, currently 238 lbs. in the six months since we started. It all costs a few hundred dollars per year. (You could go in with a neighbor to share the cost.) For me this is worth it. On average, about 20% of what goes into the trash nationally is food scraps. Here in our community, it all goes to be incinerated at the Wheelabrator facility in Bridgeport, which then goes right into the air we breathe, generating a large carbon footprint. Imagine what a

difference we could make if all the food scraps in our community were no longer being incinerated, but were instead going back to farms and gardens.

Action Waste Solutions and Curbside Compost are two companies that provide curbside composting locally. If you have any questions about curbside composting, feel free to contact me at mserlin@mac.com.



Congregation
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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 Co-Editors, Amy Pressman at apressman@cbibpt.org or Lauren Tropp at ltropp@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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At B'nai Israel we...

- ...TREAT each person in our community as created b'tzelem Elohim, in the image of the divine,
- ...DEVELOP, foster and nurture vibrant and meaningful Jewish lives in accordance with the values of our Torah and sacred texts,
- ...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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commuting out-of-town. Other valid reasons are: being out-of-town on Election Day; active service in the U.S. Armed Forces; religious reasons; and working at a polling place that is not your own.

**NOTE: "Sickness is determined by the individual voter and includes identified and widespread diseases such as COVID-19 which poses a risk to a voter's health." (Vote411.org)*

If you need to vote by absentee ballot, you must request an application – it can be downloaded at: portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting. Complete it and return it to your town clerk.

Reminder: Be Sure to Register to Vote

If you aren't already registered – maybe you've recently moved from out-of-state or will be turning 18 by Election Day (November 8) – please do it! If you've moved in-state, you need to change your address. You can register to vote and change your address online: voterregistration.ct.gov; you must have a valid CT driver's license or state ID. To check if you are registered: myvote.ct.gov/lookup.

Join a Postcard Writing Party at B'nai Israel

Tuesday, August 9, 7:00-8:00 p.m., outside (weather permitting).

All ages welcome

Help us write postcards as part of the Religious Action Center (RAC) Every Voice Every Vote Campaign. We will supply the postcards, pens, mailing labels, and refreshments. We need you to help us write nonpartisan messages (provided by the RAC) to voters in other states. RSVP to Barbara Edinberg (bedinberg@gmail.com) or Jeff Schwartz (jeff.schwartz2991@gmail.com).

If you have questions or would like more information about B'nai Israel's Voting Committee, contact Barbara Edinberg or Jeff Schwartz .



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