

## SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

As the High Holy Days approach, Rabbi Schultz explains how the machzor – the special prayer book reserved for these Days of Awe – have the power to truly transform us. Page 3

Rabbi Marion shares a folktale that reminds us all of the true meaning of the High Holy Days message of *t'shuvah*, a return to our best and truest selves. Page 5

Alexa Cohen, our Bonim director and interim director of education, provides information on fun fall activities for families with children. Page 7

Cantor Rubel announces exciting news about the return of our adult and junior choirs. Page 8

The B'nai Israel Green shares updates on their first sustainability initiatives. Page 10

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## FROM PRESIDENT SUSAN WALDEN'S DESK

By the time you read this, you will probably already be settling into your fall routines; school is starting, summer vacations are ending, and you are preparing to welcome in the new year. Here at B'nai Israel, the feel of fall and all of its newness is definitely in the air. And newness is the word of day. So many new things are happening, but I'll share three with you. If you have any questions or just want to chat, please reach out to me at [swalden@cbibpt.org](mailto:swalden@cbibpt.org).

### New Member Software

Introducing ShulCloud. What is ShulCloud? It is a web cloud-based synagogue management software system that offers billing features along with detailed membership management. Everyone in the community has their own online member portal to pay bills and update their records. Why the switch? Our previous system, MM2000, was not cloud-based, was antiquated (note the name) and it no longer allowed us to manage congregant information in the way we needed. With all new systems there is a learning curve, but our amazing staff spent the better part of the summer training and troubleshooting this product. Please bear with us if there are some hiccups – we are all learning, and everyone wants to help you if you have questions. A special thank you to Mark Nigrosh and Perry Molinoff for volunteering many hours to research software systems and help us through this transition.

### New Office Staff

As most of you already know, Chris

Rocha became our office manager in June. She is doing an outstanding job greeting you when you come to the Temple



and helping you with all of your B'nai Israel needs. We are grateful to have her warm, can-do personality as the face of our synagogue. We also welcome Susie Hallman as our newest staff member. Susie is our part-time office assistant and works from morning to early afternoon in the main office. Although Susie is not a congregant, she came to us from Bonim where her son just graduated and is moving on to kindergarten. We are still on the hunt for a second part-time office assistant to work afternoons (1-5, M-F) in the main office. If you know of anyone looking for part-time office work that has experience with Microsoft Office, likes to greet people and is highly organized, please send them my way. To respect the confidentiality of our member's information, this position is for non-congregants only. You may also see another new face on Sunday mornings, as Elicia Kusnitz takes on the role of Kehilah Sunday morning coordinator. Elicia has been Bonim's Judaic education coordinator for many years and is excited to be part of the Kehilah team. She will be the one in the office greeting you and your kids and helping Alexa Cohen and the teachers with everything they need so they are ready and organized for a great day! Please stop by and

*Continued on page 3*

## SHARING OUR JOY...

In Celebration of:

**Alicia & Bruce Wettenstein**, on the birth of granddaughter Iris Cooper Wettenstein, daughter of Steven & Alyson Wettenstein

**Amanda & Phil Small**, on the birth of daughter Sadie Luz Small Chiappa, sister of Oscar

## SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

**Helen B. Weinstein**, mother of Ken Weinstein

**Claire Katz**, mother of Norci Kochman, grandmother of Kimberly Kochman

**Lenny Glantz**, father of Ronit Glantz

## 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.

**Leslie & David Anson**  
Fairfield, CT

**Natalie & Steven Fried**  
Shelton, CT

**Elizabeth & Elliot Miller, Harrison and Madeleine**  
Fairfield, CT

**Sharon Tessler**  
Fairfield, CT

**Susan & Arnold Zuckman**  
Trumbull, CT

## BULLETIN BOARD

### September Mitzvah Morning reminder

Please 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 245 Kings Highway East in Fairfield to clean headstones. Feel free to meet us directly at the cemetery if you prefer

### Mitzvah Morning

For our October Mitzvah Morning, we will be focusing on getting out the vote for the upcoming election in November. We will meet at B'nai Israel on Sunday, October 2 at 10:00 a.m., where we will work as a team, writing and addressing postcards, to encourage people to vote in their respective local, state, and national elections.

This is a non-partisan event, and we will not lobby for any one particular party or political cause.

The act of voting for government representatives is such a key pillar of our democracy, and by getting

out the vote, our congregation will be playing a big role in ensuring a vibrant and functioning society. This Mitzvah Morning event is open to all ages. We will be supplying postcards, pens, and mailing labels to all volunteers. The only thing we need is your help!

Please reach out to Nina Silberman ([ninahv@aol.com](mailto:ninahv@aol.com)) or Mitch Weinstein ([mitchellew@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchellew@yahoo.com)) with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Judaica Shop

The Judaica Boutique will reopen in time for the High Holidays. Look for further announcements and think of us for your High Holiday shopping needs. The boutique will be open by appointment and on Sundays during Kehilah from 10:30 a.m. – noon, beginning on September 11. Please call the temple office or call or text Sylvia Neiger at 203-895-7348 to set up an appointment.





FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

## BRINGING THE MACHZOR TO LIFE

The High Holy Day machzor. What do all of those books do throughout the year when they're not being used? For the most part they sit quietly in cabinets behind the bimah, silent, static, "frozen," awaiting their big moment in the fall, when they are opened up, their prayers beautifully sung, and their words read aloud by congregants looking to start anew in the coming year.

The prayers and the words in the High Holy Day machzor are so incredible, so majestic. Prayers of yearning, asking forgiveness, and deep self-reflection. Within those prayerbooks are melodies that our people have sung for hundreds of years, from Bridgeport to the great synagogues of Europe, to the tiny little shtetl along the ancient streets of Jerusalem.

And most powerfully, these prayerbooks truly have the power to transform when we take them off the shelves each year for the High Holy Days. Hopefully, they give our lives added meaning,

just as we, when we open them up, give meaning to the word and prayers printed on their pages.

As author Iain McGilchrist writes about the power of books (which I think applies to the machzor as well), "Books cannot have meaning without life... life goes into books and books go back into life... what is in them not only adds to life, but genuinely goes back into life and transforms it. On the shelf, the contents of the book are dead: they come back to life only in the process of being read. No longer static, boundaried, 'frozen', the contents of the book are taken up into the world." (The Master and His Emmissary, p 196)

In just a few weeks we'll hold these very books in our hands, and by turning the pages, in a sense, give life to these books that have sat quietly in the cabinets for almost a year. McGilchrist's words invite us to see our interaction with these books as a two-way relationship. There's so much that we glean from the poetry, the writings,

the calls of the shofar, that stirs our very souls each and every year.

And at the same time, when we read and sing these prayers, we are bringing the contents of these books to life. We bring the *t'kiyah*, *truah*, and *shvarim* to life. We bring to life the words of the *al cheyt* and *kol nidrei*, the *unetaneh tokef* and *Avinu Malkeinu*. Without us, those words become simply frozen, static, and boundaried. We're the ones to bring them to life, just as they in return bring us to life and transform us over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

In just a few weeks on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as we hold these prayerbooks in our hands, may we realize the incredible opportunity and responsibility of the moment. May we be transformed by the words and poems upon the page, and may we transform those words and prayers from static and frozen to alive!

Shanah Tovah.

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## FROM PRESIDENT SUSAN WALDEN'S DESK..... FROM P 1

say to hello to Susie and Elicia and congratulate Chris!

### **The Senior Staff Relations Committee (SSRC) Is Back**

We heard you, and after a hiatus, the SSRC has been revised and relaunched! The SSRC serves as the link between our professional staff and the congregation. Its mission is to evaluate and advocate for our clergy and education directors (including Bonim and Kehilah). The

SSRC meets with our professionals twice a year to help set goals, review their progress, address any challenges, and hear their needs. When contracts are up for renewal, the SSRC makes a recommendation to the board of trustees and its officers, using feedback gathered from the Senior Rabbi, the congregation, and their ongoing discussions with the staff member. Our leadership, lay and professional, engage in this partnership to strengthen the congregation and the Jewish

people while upholding the values of both the synagogue and the Reform Movement. The first vice president chairs the SSRC which has three additional members; the president, another lay leader (either a current or previous board or executive committee member) and a congregant at large. *The SSRC represents you.* To evaluate our professional staff impartially, respectfully, and confidentially, we need your voice! Please share your feedback at [input@cbibpt.org](mailto:input@cbibpt.org).

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# CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5783

All Sanctuary services will also be available over Zoom and advanced registration will be required to receive Zoom link.

## **September 17**

**Slichot Service** and Program with Congregations B'nai Israel Beth El, B'nai Torah, and Rodeph Sholom at Congregation B'nai Torah, 5700 Main Street, Trumbull  
8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. — All are invited to join

## **Sunday, September 25**

### **Erev Rosh Hashanah Services\***

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. — service at Jennings Beach and on Zoom

## **Monday, September 26**

### **Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Morning Services**

**Rosh Hashanah Havurah Service\***, geared toward children ages 0–5 and their families, with Alexa Cohen, Rabbi Schultz and Cantor Rubel  
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. — on the Rabbi James Prosnit Outdoor Community and Prayer Space

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service**, with Rabbi Schultz and Cantor Rubel  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. — in the sanctuary and on Zoom

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service**, with Rabbi Marion and Liz Nigrosh  
10:00 a.m. – noon — in the tent

**Rosh Hashanah Children's Programming & Babysitting**, with Alexa Cohen: ages 0–5 years — first floor education wing; ages 6–11 (grades K–5) — 2nd floor education wing  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Rosh Hashanah Family Service\***, geared toward elementary school age children grades K–5 and their families, led by Rabbi Marion, Cantor Rubel and Alexa Cohen  
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. — in the tent and on Zoom

## **Tuesday, September 27**

### **Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Morning Service**

**Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service**  
10:00 – noon — in the tent and on Zoom with Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Marion and Cantor Rubel

**Tashlich** on Brooklawn Parkway (off Stratfield Road)  
12:30 p.m.

## **Sunday, October 2**

### **Cemetery Memorial Service**

1:00 p.m. — Fairfield

2:00 p.m. — Monroe

## **Tuesday, October 4**

### **Kol Nidre**

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. — in the sanctuary and on Zoom

## **Wednesday, October 5**

### **Yom Kippur Morning Services**

**Yom Kippur Havurah Service**, geared toward children ages 0–5 and their families, with Alexa Cohen and our clergy  
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. — on the Rabbi James Prosnit Outdoor Community and Prayer Space

### **Yom Kippur Morning Service**

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. — in the sanctuary and on Zoom with Rabbi Marion and Cantor Rubel

### **Yom Kippur Morning Service**

10:00 – noon — In the tent (in person) with Rabbi Schultz and Liz Nigrosh

### **Children's Programming & Babysitting**, with Alexa Cohen: ages

0–5 years — first floor education wing; ages 6–11 (grades K–5) — 2nd floor education wing  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Yom Kippur Family Service\***, geared toward elementary school age children grades K–5 and their families, led by Rabbi Marion, Cantor Rubel and Alexa Cohen  
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. — in the tent and on Zoom

### **Study Session with Rabbi Prosnit**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. — in the library

### **Meditation with Al Dressler**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. — in the chapel

### **Afternoon Cello Concert**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. — in the sanctuary

### **Walk with Rabbi Schultz**

2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

### **Yom Kippur Afternoon Service**

3:30 – 4:45 p.m. — in the sanctuary and on Zoom with Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Marion and Cantor Rubel

### **Yizkor Service\***

4:45 – 5:45 p.m. — in the sanctuary and on Zoom with Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Marion and Cantor Rubel

### **Children's Programming & Babysitting (ages 0–11 Years)**

**4:45–5:45 p.m.** — 1st floor education wing

### **Neilah**

5:45–6:30 p.m. — in the sanctuary and on Zoom with Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Marion and Cantor Rubel

### **Closing Havdalah**

6:30 p.m. — in sanctuary and on Zoom with Rabbi Schultz, Rabbi Marion and Cantor Rubel

*Please note all in person gatherings require participants to follow our COVID-19 guidelines. For information about our COVID-19 protocols, please visit our website.*

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## **The High Holy Days are coming--help usher them in!**

Being a High Holy Days usher is a fun and rewarding way to welcome in the new year and welcome our community

as well. Share our B'nai Israel warmth and hospitality by signing up to usher for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

services! Look out for the SignUpGenius link in Hashavua in the next few weeks.





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

## "TURNING YOUR SHOES AROUND:" A STORY FOR THE MONTH OF ELUL

Once again, we have reached the Hebrew month of Elul, the month leading up to our High Holy Days. The month of Elul is the official start of our journey towards deep introspection and significant personal reflection in order to start the year anew. Each year, over the course of the High Holiday season, we aim for t'shvuah. In Hebrew, t'shuvah means "turning" or "returning." From the start of Elul, right up until the final shofar blast at the conclusion of Yom Kippur, this is a time of turning: turning back, to our best and our truest selves, turning back, towards the people and the places that are in need of us the most.

I love the way that the famous folktale "Turning Your Shoes Around" imaginatively illustrates the kind of "turning" that we all might want to strive for throughout these upcoming High Holy Days, and beyond:

*Once upon a time, there was a man who had grown very unhappy with his life. He found no joy in his work, no joy in his community, and no joy in his family. And he cried out, "Dear God, please take me to Paradise! I'm ready to go on into the next life and leave this life behind."*

*And God said to him, "Are you sure you're really ready?" And the man said, "I am so unhappy in this life. There is no joy, there is nothing here for me. I'm ready to go to Paradise, where there will be great joy."*

*And God said, "OK. But you should know, once you go to Paradise, there is no going home again." The man said, "Yes, yes, that's fine, that's what I want!" God said, "Well, you're in luck! Because Paradise is only about a two-day journey from here!"*

*Upon hearing this, the man's heart swelled. He was so excited! He packed up a few things for the journey, got up the*

*next morning, and left everything behind. And he set off for Paradise.*

*After walking for a while, he decided that it was time to lay down to sleep, and so he found a tree on the side of the road. He went to lie down, and before he fell asleep, he took off his shoes, and pointed them in the direction of the road to Paradise. He didn't want to forget where he was going when he woke up in the morning!*

*But overnight, while he was sleeping, something funny happened.*

*Perhaps it was some mischievous passers-by, or maybe some creatures from the forest came and started playing, or perhaps, it was an angel. But, one way or another, during the night, while he was sleeping, the man's shoes got turned around.*

*The man woke up in the morning, rested from a beautiful sleep, and he slipped his feet into his shoes that were pointing towards Paradise, just as he had left them...or so he thought...because, little did he know, that his shoes were now actually pointing back towards home.*

*And from there, after putting his shoes back on, the man set off, continuing his journey to Paradise.*

*He walked for another full day, and just as darkness began to descend, he reached the top of a hill, looked down into a valley, and saw a gleaming village – and his heart leapt. He couldn't believe it — he had finally made it to Paradise! He ran down the hill, ran into the center of the village, and it was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen. It was so clean and bright. He sat down in the town square, and watched the townspeople finishing their workday, smiling and full of joy and laughter. He remembered the village where he came from, and how the people were always so unhappy, so tired*

*at the end of the day. He looked down at Paradise and saw children finishing school, playing in the streets, beginning to head home for dinner, and he reveled in their joy. The children in his village were always just loud and noisy!*

*From that day on, every day for the man was a joy. Every day of Paradise was like waking up anew. Every day, he gave back to his community, and every day, he found meaning and delight in his beautiful town. Every day, he continued on this way, up until his very last.*

*And there was not a single person who could ever convince him that he was not truly living in Paradise.*

From Elul to Yom Kippur – this is a time of turning. During this time, we "turn our shoes around," back towards ourselves, so that we might travel inwards, taking a deep and close look at who we are, and who we want to be. During this time, our shoes point the way.

Throughout this High Holiday season, as we turn our shoes and as we turn ourselves, may we see ourselves and may we see our lives in a completely new way. Though journeying inwards might cause us to see flaws we wish to change and errors we might wish to amend, perhaps our inward journeys might also offer glimpses of our own personal "Paradise." As we turn into ourselves, may we find strength and resilience that we never saw before. Maybe we will see love and gratitude that we never saw before. Maybe we will see the chance for a new beginning or a new mindset that we didn't think was possible before. And, maybe, just maybe, by that final shofar blast on Yom Kippur, we might feel that we are a little closer to "Paradise" than we ever were before.

It all starts with our shoes.



BONIM BUZZ/ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

## NEW BEGINNINGS



It has been a summer filled with fun here at Bonim in the Sun Summer Camp. We have welcomed many new families and staff members and are so excited to start the 2022-2023 school year. Bonim Preschool is at full enrollment (with a waitlist) for all age groups. We are so honored to be “the place to be” and are humbled by our excellent reputation. This coming school year we are looking forward to moving forward from the COVID-19 pandemic as many of our students will be fully vaccinated when the school year begins. We can’t wait for all the fun and learning that the school year will bring. While I have

taken on the role as Interim Director of Education as the synagogue begins their search for a new director for Kehilah, I want to reassure you that Bonim is my first love and will always remain my number one priority. With the support of the Education Office Staff (Sarrah, Beth, Elicia and Rebekah), the clergy (Rabbi Evan, Rabbi Sarah and Cantor Michelle), the front office staff (Chris, Marie and Susie), and, of course, Eric, who keeps the whole building running safely and efficiently, we will make sure the children and families of Bonim Preschool are well taken care of.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS –  
**September 9 at 5:00 p.m. –  
Havurah Shabbat Play and Pray**

**September 18th at 2 p.m.  
– Apple Picking for All.**  
(details to follow)



**September 26th at 9:00 a.m. – Rosh  
Hashanah Havurah Services for  
Young Children**

## BONIM PRESCHOOL HONEY FUNDRAISER



Looking for a way to sweeten someone’s Rosh Hashanah this year?

You can now purchase a 6 oz. jar of local honey from Bonim Preschool for only \$18!

All proceeds go to Bonim Preschool’s garden project.

Check (made out to B’nai Israel) or cash only to the B’nai Israel office or the Education Center office.

Please email Elicia at [ekusnitz@cbibpt.org](mailto:ekusnitz@cbibpt.org) for more information.

We are so excited for the first day of Kehilah on September 11th for grades K-6 and September 13th for grades 7-8. If you have not yet signed your children up, please reach out to Alexa Cohen at [acohen@cbibpt.org](mailto:acohen@cbibpt.org). You don't want to miss out on all the fun new holiday programs, social action opportunities, Shabbat dinners, and, of course, learning!

We have even scheduled a few parking lot coffee "schmoozes" for the parents.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS –

**Sunday, September 11th – 1st Kehilah Parent Coffee Schmooze and Parent Committee Meeting** at 9:30 a.m. followed by an all-school picnic at noon.

**Sunday, September 18th – Apple Picking** for all at 2:00 p.m.

**Monday, September 26th – Rosh Hashanah High Holiday Express Children's Programming** is back! 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for children in kindergarten through 5th grade.

To sign up, please email Bethann Prybylek at [beth@cbibpt.org](mailto:beth@cbibpt.org).

**CALLING ALL TEENAGERS (AGES 12-18)** — Kehilah is looking for a few fun-loving students to join our Hadrahanik team to help out on Sunday mornings during Kehilah (9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.). Please email [acohen@cbibpt.org](mailto:acohen@cbibpt.org) for more information.

## It's Back!!!!!!!

### High Holy Days 5783/2022

### High Holy Day Express – Children's Programming

#### For Children in Kindergarten—5th grade

**Rosh Hashanah, Monday, September 26**

**Yom Kippur, Wednesday, October 5**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m**

Join us for lots of High Holiday fun and learning, including art, music, snack and games.

We will meet on the second floor of the Education Wing.

To sign up, please email Bethann Prybylek – [beth@cbibpt.org](mailto:beth@cbibpt.org).

## FREE MEDICARE ADVICE AVAILABLE

For those of you who are unaware, I am a Choices Volunteer Counselor. I provide free Medicare advice to seniors and their caregivers. I served as a Medicare Part D counselor in NY from 2004 till 2011, when I moved to Fairfield. In CT I have been affiliated with the Southwest Connecticut Agency for the Aging since 2012. I am certified by Connecticut and SHIP (State Health Insurance Plans) as an **unpaid volunteer** to do this work.

Everyone on Medicare is required to have a drug plan that is considered a credible Part D plan.

Everyone's plan should be reviewed annually, as premiums and drugs included in the program constantly change. Insurance companies negotiate individually with each pharmaceutical company for each drug they cover. Surprises are the rule, not the exception.

There is an open enrollment period from October 15 to December 7 that permits you to change your plan and possibly save a significant amount of money.

There are also other options that are available during this enrollment period. They have to do with Part C Advantage Plans and Traditional Medicare. If you have any concerns regarding any Medicare situation, please feel free to connect with me.

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## ADULT JEWISH LEARNING

### High Holy Days Deep Dive!

Fridays, September 9, 16, and 23

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

B'nai Israel Natt Library

Join with Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion to explore three of the key sections of the High Holy Day service:

September 9: Kol Nidrei

September 16: Yizkor

September 23: Ashamnu and Al Cheyt

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## JOIN OUR HIGH HOLY DAY ADULT AND JUNIOR CHOIRS

We are so excited to be bringing back our adult and junior choirs for the High Holy Days this year. The adult choir will be singing in the sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Mornings and at the Kol Nidre service on Erev Yom Kippur. If you're interested in joining the choir, no prior experience is necessary. In addition, the ability to read music is helpful, but not required. All participants will receive their own binder of music and access to a library of audio recordings to help them learn.

The adult choir will be rehearsing throughout August and September. To learn more, please reach out to Cantor Michelle as soon as possible.

Our children's choir will be participating in the Family Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur afternoons. All young people entering grades 4–6 are invited to participate with a special treat for each performance! Rehearsals with Cantor Michelle will take place on Thursdays during Kehilah and ad-

ditionally on the following dates and times: Thursday, September 1st from 4:30–5:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 8th from 4:30–5:00 p.m. If your child is interested, look out for a special email with a link to sign to sign them up. In addition, we are looking for parent volunteers to assist with junior choir (no singing involved!). Please contact Cantor Michelle at [mrubel@cbibpt.org](mailto:mrubel@cbibpt.org) if you are able to help.





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## SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

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

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### **Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund**

**Andrea & Dennis Feinberg**, in memory of beloved mother, Arlene Kay.

**Tom & Carmen Moloney**, in memory of Helen B. Weinstein.

**Margaret & William Pendagast**, in memory of Helen Weinstein, our sincerest condolences.

**Nina & Ken Rabine & Family**, in memory of Claire Katz, mother of Norci Kochman, grandmother of Kimberly Kochman.

**Deena & Mark Spector**, in honor of Rabbi Schultz's 10 years at B'nai Israel.

**Eileen & Howard Tolk**, in loving memory of father, Samuel Tolk.

**Judy Weinstein**, in memory of Helen Weinstein.

**Marilyn S. Weinstein**, in memory of Dr. Stuart Jacobson.

### **Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund**

**Bonim Parent Committee**, Happy Birthday! We are all so thankful for you. We love you so much!

**Deena & Mark Spector**, in memory of Gertrude Lorraine Merle, grandmother of Rabbi Sarah Marion.

**Eileen & Howard Tolk**, in memory of Helen Weinstein, mother of Kenneth, Richard, and Jeffrey Weinstein.

### **Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund**

**William L. Smith**, in memory of Lorraine R. Smith, and in appreciation of Rabbi Prosnit.

**Judy Weinstein**, in memory of Stuart Jacobson.

**Marilyn S. Weinstein**, in memory of Helen B. Weinstein.

### **Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund**

**Julie & David Chivo**, for the recovery of Allan Shumofsky.

### **Music Fund**

**Carol Barsky**, in memory of Claire Katz, mother of Norci Kochman.

**Karen and Wayne Kennan**, in appreciation of Liz & Mark Nigrosh, for your care, concern and ongoing support.

### **Enhancement Fund**

**Mr. & Mrs. Charles Albert and Family**, in memory of Helen Weinstein.

**Susan Bauchner**, in memory of father, Arnold Kaplan.

**Jeff & Wendy Bender**, in memory of Ruth Bender, mother of Jeffrey Bender.

**Berkeley College**, in memory of Helen Weinstein.

**Richard E. Bernstein**, in memory of David Bernstein, father of Richard Bernstein.

**Mark & Ann Block**, in memory of Helen Weinstein; in memory of Stanley Block, father of Mark Block.

**Dale & Jerry Demner**, in memory of Jean Slive, aunt of Dale Demner.

**Michael & Ellen Goldman**, in memory of Helen Weinstein.

**Goldman, Gruder & Woods, LLC.**, in memory of the passing of Helen Weinstein.

**Alida & Al Kleban**, in memory of our beloved father, Joseph Shulkin.

**Judith Rankell**, in memory of my mother, Mae Hoefflich.

**Caren & Bill Schwartz**, in memory of Claire Katz, mother of Norci Kochman.

**Melissa Schwartz**, a donation.

**Gerald & Holly Swirsky**, in honor of Alan Neigher's 81st birthday.

**Eileen & Howard Tolk**, in loving memory of mother, Justine Tolk.

**Phyllis & Jerry Zarkin**, in memory of Helen Weinstein.

### **Bonim Preschool Enrichment Fund**

**Joan & Marc Levy**, in memory of Helen Weinstein.

**Alicia & Bruce Wettstein**, playground donation.

### **Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund**

**Dan & Terri Green**, thank you to Rabbi Marion.

**Michael Blumenthal & Judy Green**, in honor of Larry Levine, with appreciation and gratitude for his tenure as synagogue President; in memory of Helen Weinstein, mother of Ken Weinstein.

**Ivan Maisel**, in memory of Lee Kirsch, mother of Mark Kirsch.

**Chris & Todd Markley**, in loving memory of Helen Weinstein.

**Kathryn Moloney and Matthew Pechenik**, in honor of Helen Weinstein, honoring her legacy.

**Beth & Randy Reich**, in honor of Willi & Norman Berkowitz, on daughter Nicole's marriage to Alex Karas.

### **Etz Chaim Living Torah Fund**

**Dr. Loryn Lesser**, sending wishes for the recovery of Bernie Jacobs.

### **Jim and Barbara Abraham Education Fund**

**Mark & Elizabeth Nigrosh**, in memory of Lorraine Smith, wife of Bill Smith.

### **Kesher Project**

**Marcy Gollinger**, in memory of Marty Cooper.

**Shelly & Tom Hall**, in memory of Martin Cooper.

**Traci Rusell**, in memory of Martin Cooper.

**Mark & Deena Spector**, in memory of Marty Cooper, brother of Mel Cooper.

*Continued on page 10*

## SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

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

### Daniel Smith Cemetery Fund

Serena Sher, in memory of husband,  
Daniel B. Smith.

### Yakhani Caring Fund

Michael Blumenthal & Judy Green,  
in memory of dear uncle, Julius Green.  
Janet Jurow, in memory of Marshall  
Simon.



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

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Congregation B'nai Israel, founded in 1858, seeks to be a vibrant Reform synagogue dedicated to the perpetuation of Jewish life and values within the framework of contemporary American Judaism. We are a gateway to Judaism for all. The Congregation B'nai Israel Bulletin publishes monthly 11 times a year (except July). To submit an article, announcement or ad to the Bulletin, please contact Co-Editors, Amy Pressman at [apressman@cbibpt.org](mailto:apressman@cbibpt.org) or Lauren Tropp at [ltropp@cbibpt.org](mailto: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.

## B'NAI ISRAEL GREEN TEAM (BGT) AUGUST 2022

We are excited to share our progress on our first sustainability projects at B'nai Israel:

1. We have added recycling bins to Bonim preschool and will be adding more in high traffic areas of the main synagogue.
2. We have launched a B'nai Israel and Bonim Shares Facebook group, where temple members can connect with each other to gift unwanted items or request items. We hope it will encourage reuse of items while fostering connections within our community! Items to be picked up should be labeled with the recipient's name and placed in the synagogue's coat closet. We simply ask that items be picked up promptly to avoid clutter. We already have

over 100 members who've joined the group but hope to get closer to 300 to make it a more robust, successful experience for all. To join, simply log into Facebook and type in Bnai Israel and Bonim Shares and ask to join the group. If you have questions, please contact Anya at: [anyamezak@gmail.com](mailto:anyamezak@gmail.com).

3. We are working on developing ways to encourage waste reduction at synagogue events.
4. We plan to have a kids' clothing swap event in the fall with refreshments and a chance for parents to mingle.
5. We hope to begin to research solar options for the synagogue. The house committee did this about five years ago, but since then technology has improved a lot and prices have

come down, so we are hopeful that solar might be a more attainable option in the near future.

If you would like to learn more about our group, please contact Co-chair Michelle Serlin at [mserlin@mac.com](mailto:mserlin@mac.com).



## B'NAI ISRAEL'S AUGUST POSTCARD PARTY

On a hot August night, 30 of us swarmed the Prosnit Patio (and Pavilion) to pen postcards to 300 Florida voters before their primary on August 23. It was great fun to do this together with kids and adults across generations—new and old friends. AND, we made a difference in spreading democracy through Reclaim the Vote and URJ's nation campaign, Every Voice, Every Vote.



THANKS to our Team:

- **Laura S., Calla, and Benton**
- **Jodi M., Alecks, and Joelle**
- **Randi C., Julia, Jordan, and Jonah**
- **Annie T-B.**
- **Karen B.**
- **Anneli O.**
- **Beth L.**
- **Randy D.**
- **Ilene G.**
- **Betsy A.**
- **Shawn D.**
- **Dale and Jerry D.**
- **Sherry F.**
- **Cristi K.**
- **Janet J.**
- **Emily L.**
- **Artie W.**
- **Judy B.**
- **Barbara E.**
- **Debbie G.**
- **Ellen T.**
- **Jeff S.**

And to the co-organizers:

Judy for supplies,  
Ellen for refreshments,  
Barbara for creating the packets, and  
Debbie who



addressed 300 cards which made it possible for us to reach the deadline for mailing last night!

We will organize another Postcard Party in collaboration with Mitzvah Mornings in October. Watch Hashavua for details. Meanwhile—you can request cards from UJA at <https://rac.org/take-action/every-voice-every-vote>.

And keep spreading the word to vote and to support the November ballot question on **Early Voting**.



## CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL CORE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

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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# 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, September 2

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Shoftim, Deut. 16:18-21:9  
Haftarah – Isaiah 51:12-52:12

9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
– in person

9:30 a.m. Torah Study — in  
person and on Zoom

11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Lilah  
Bausher, daughter of  
Benjamin Bausher &  
Anne  
Tranquilli-Bausher

person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion –  
Nitzavim, Deut. 29:9-  
30:20  
Haftarah – Isaiah  
61:10-63:9

## Saturday, September 3

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  
11:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Lucy Field, daughter of Lauren & Steven Field

## Friday, September 16

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Ki-Tavo, Deut. 26:1-29:8  
Haftarah – Isaiah 60:1-22

## Friday, September 9

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Ki-Tetze, Deut. 21:10-25:19  
Haftarah – Isaiah 54:1-10

## Saturday, September 17

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
11:00 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Eli Jasgur, son of Brian & Alison Jasgur

## Saturday, September 10

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service — in person and on Zoom

## Friday, September 23

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in

## Saturday, September 24

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

## Friday, September 30

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Vayelech, Deut. 31:1-31:30  
Haftarah – Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27

## Saturday, October 1

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



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medications, the process can be considerably shortened. I am still not seeing people face to face during this pandemic. However, I am working with people on Zoom, Facetime, and Skype. I am also available to answer questions over the phone. I will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. As I am a volunteer, there is no charge for this service. I want to help you navigate through this complex process.

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## BIFTY SEPTEMBER 2022

BIFTY is excited for another amazing year!

BIFTY, B'nai Israel's high school youth group, is open to all Congregation B'nai Israel teens. We meet on Thursdays from 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the BIFTY Lounge upstairs in the back of the education wing. BIFTY is a great way for local Jewish teens to meet up and do fun activities run by their peers together. We are looking forward to seeing you at our next event!

Our September dates are:

September 22

September 29

If you have any questions, please reach out to advisor Marisa Underberger at [munderberger@cbibpt.org](mailto:munderberger@cbibpt.org).

