

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Rabbi Schultz addresses rising antisemitism and provides a list of educational reading on the topic as a first step in preparing to combat this disturbing trend. Page 3

Rabbi Marion and Congregation B'nai Israel President Susan Walden share how B'nai Israel's partnership with the ADL Program Kulanu: Synagogues in Action Against Antisemitism will help us to fight the growing antisemitism in our own backyard. Page 5

Alexa Cohen encourages families of preschoolers to make their homes an extension of the Bonim's mitzvah program by taking an active role in identifying mitzvot they can perform outside the classroom. Page 6

Cantor Rubel reflects on her experience with going green by driving an electric vehicle. Page 10

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CHANUKAH IS COMING! CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS WITH CBI!



Congregational Chanukah Dinner and Celebration Friday, December 16

5:30 p.m.: Pre-Service Oneg with snacks and crafts for children ages 0-5

6:00-7:00 p.m.: Festive Family-Friendly Shabbat Service featuring the Junior Choir and Electric Sanctuary

7:00-8:00 p.m.: Shabbat Dinner and Celebration

Our annual community-wide Chanukah celebration is back! Our Shabbat service at 6:00 p.m. will feature a festive service with the Junior Choir, followed by a catered dinner with games, crafts, and more! We hope you and your family will join us! The cost of dinner is \$20 for adults, and \$10 for children 12 and under. **To RSVP for the dinner, please see weekly email for link or please email Ilene Feuerberg at ifeuerberg@cbibpt.org no later than Friday, December 9.**

Chanukah Around Town on Sunday, December 18 (First Night)

4:00-4:30 p.m.

Join our CBI staff and clergy at various locations around town for small group community menorah lightings and singing in celebration of the first night of Chanukah. We will be stationed at B'nai Israel, as well as at locations in Fairfield, Easton, and Trumbull. No need to RSVP — join us wherever is most convenient for you!

Bridgeport Location: Congregation B'nai Israel, 2710 Park Ave
Fairfield Location: Operation Hope/First Church Fairfield Parking Lot, 636 Old Post Road, Fairfield
Easton Loc.: Cantor Rubel's Backyard
Trumbull Loc.: Alexa Cohen's Backyard
(Watch your email for Easton and Trumbull address information, or feel free to call the main office)

B'nai Israel Outdoor Chanukah Candle Lightings



Join us at B'nai Israel throughout Chanukah as we light our outdoor menorah. We will be lighting together each night — no need to

RSVP for these lightings, just come on by!

1st Candle (Sunday, December 18):

Candle Lighting at 4:00 p.m. as part of Chanukah Around Town

2nd Candle (Monday, December 19):

Candle Lighting at 6:30 p.m. with our Bonim Preschool Community

3rd Candle (Tuesday, December 20):

Candle Lighting at 6:45 p.m. with our Kehilah and Merkaz Communities

4th Candle (Wednesday, December 21):

Candle Lighting at 5:00 p.m.

5th Candle (Thursday, December 22):

Candle Lighting at 5:45 p.m. with our Kehilah Community

6th Candle (Friday, December 23):

Candle Lighting at 5:45 p.m. before Shabbat services

7th Candle (Saturday, December 24):

Candle Lighting at 5:00 p.m.

8th Candle (Sunday, December 25):

Candle Lighting at 5:00 p.m.

SHARING OUR JOY...

In Celebration of:

Judy & Michael Blumenthal, on the marriage of their son Jacob to Abby Calish.

Judah & Elaine Chetrit, on the birth of their granddaughter Zephyr Rose Chetrit to parents Michael and Sarah Chetrit.

Anne & Mark Kirsch, on the marriage of their daughter Alison to Zachary Siegel.

Andrea Yaffe-Fatigate and Jon Fatigate, on the birth of their son Elijah Fatigate.

Allison & Assaf Ofir, on the birth of their daughter Emmy Ofir.

**If you would like to list something in Sharing Our Joy, please email the office with any information you would like to share. **

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

Ruth Bortner, grandmother of Jessica (David) Goldberg.

Anita Burger, mother of Allison Burger.

Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal, mother of Suzanne (Artie) Weissman

Laraine Hourihan, mother of Stephen (Molli) Hourihan.

Helen Kaufman, grandmother of Kristen (Kevin) Carley.

Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Lucille Spector, mother of Mark (Deena) Spector.

Joseph Sweedler, father of David (Elora Montrose Sweedler) Sweedler.

BULLETIN BOARD



Mitzvah Morning

For December's Mitzvah Morning, we will be working with Al's Angels to provide gifts and toys for children in Fairfield County in need of some extra love and care. Many in our community

cannot afford holiday gifts for their children, and this Mitzvah Morning event is a great way to help bring hope and cheer to these local families.

On December 11, at 10:00 a.m., we will meet at B'nai Israel to wrap and sort presents for delivery to families in need. Volunteers are encouraged to bring new and gently used unwrapped toys and gifts, as well as wrapping paper and tape. In addition, donation boxes will be set up in the B'nai Israel lobby for those who would like to drop off unwrapped gifts in advance.

This is a great opportunity to bond with your fellow congregants, while performing a very important service for the local community. All ages are welcome.

Al's Angels is an organization that provides support to children and families battling cancer, rare blood diseases, natural disasters, and severe financial hardship. Al's Angels has been operating in Fairfield County for over 24 years. You can learn more at www.alsangels.org.

JUDAICA BOUTIQUE



The Judaica Boutique is ready for Chanukah.

The Judaica Boutique will be stocked with everything you need to make Chanukah special and fun.

The first candle lighting is Sunday, December 18.

Special Chanukkah sales events will take place at the gift shop on: Sunday 12/11 and 12/18.



BIFTY had fun ice-skating last winter!

BIFTY DECEMBER 2022

BIFTY is a great way to meet other teens, engage in friendly competition, try a new activity, and have fun! BIFTY meets on Thursdays from 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the BIFTY lounge, upstairs in the back of the education wing. To stay up to date on upcoming events, follow us on Instagram @cbi.bifty. Please email advisor Marisa with any questions at munderberger@gmail.com. We hope to see you at our next program!

December 8 — Celebrate Winter with BIFTY!

December 15 — Hanukkah Program!

Please note there is no BIFTY on December 22 or 29. After the holiday, BIFTY will resume on January 12.

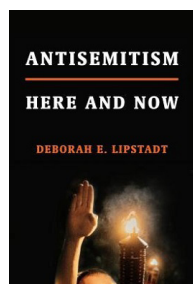


FROM THE RABBI'S DESK | RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

SUGGESTED BOOKS ON CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM

We are seeing a concerning rise in antisemitism in our country. Tweets by celebrities such as Kanye West and Kyrie Irving, threats against synagogues in New Jersey, and banners stating that “Kanye was right” are just a few examples of what we have witnessed in recent weeks across the United States. At B’nai Israel, we are committed to addressing antisemitism and taking action as a synagogue community. We have partnered with the ADL to join their first cohort of Kulanu synagogues, committing to run programs and sessions around combatting antisemitism and raising awareness in our community. Additionally, on December 15, I invite you to join me for my first Jewish Book Club discussion of sections one and two of Professor Deborah Lipstadt’s book, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*.

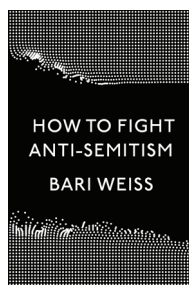
Part of combatting an issue is learning more about it. Below you’ll find several recommendations of books that I have personally found helpful in deepening my understanding of this very complex issue. I encourage you to add them to your reading lists. We will make sure all of these are available in the library as well.



Antisemitism: Here and Now, by Deborah E. Lipstadt. I find Professor Lipstadt one of the most important contemporary voices on Holocaust studies and antisemitism in our country. This book is composed as a series of letters between Professor Lipstadt and two fictional students, asking questions and raising concerns about antisemitism both on campus and in our country. Lipstadt offers helpful definitions of key terms and ideas on the topic of antisemitism. I also recommend watching Professor Lipstadt’s powerful speech at the 2019 URJ Biennial in Chicago. You can watch it here: https://youtu.be/F73sZUQ_0BM.



People Love Dead Jews, by Dara Horn. I have often referenced this book in sermons and from the bimah. I think Dara Horn is brilliant and captures the American Jewish psyche so well. Her thesis is essentially the title of the book. She argues that antisemitism and hate towards Jews often goes unnoticed or ignored unless there is a horrific tragedy, such as the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue four years ago in Pittsburgh. Her book is haunting, well written, and goes deep to the heart of what it means to be a Jew in this country.



How to Fight Anti-Semitism, by Bari Weiss. This is an important book that not only addresses antisemitism on the right, but too tackles the less discussed topics of antisemitism on the left and in radical Islam. Weiss also offers practical ideas and solutions on how to fight antisemitism, as the title of her book promises.

On my reading list: I haven’t yet read ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt’s new book, *It Could Happen Here*, and *#antisemitism: Coming of Age during the Resurgence of Hate* by Samantha A. Vinokor-Meinrath. I will be joining with Rabbi Jeremy Wiederhorn and Samantha A Vinokor-Meinrath for a talk about her new book on Monday, December 5, in Westport. Please check Hashavua for location and times; all are invited to attend.

CHANUKAH EVENTS..... FROM P. 1

Rosh Chodesh Chanukah Paint and Sip

Thursday, December 22 from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

(5th Night of Chanukah, note change of date from originally scheduled date.)

Join with women from across the B’nai Israel community to celebrate the fifth night of Chanukah and the new Hebrew month of Tevet. As we relax and schmooze with a glass of wine, latkes, and other tasty bites, professional artists from Muse Paint Bar will guide us step-by-step in creating our own beautiful, moon-themed paintings that we can each take home. No previous artistic skill or

knowledge required! We will conclude with candle lighting for the fifth night altogether. *The cost of this event is \$30/per person, which covers the cost of paint, canvases, and other supplies. If you plan to join, please be sure to RSVP by Wednesday, December 21 to Ilene Feuerberg at ifeuerberg@cbibpt.org. Checks can be made out to B’nai Israel. (If cost of this event is prohibitive for you, please reach out to Rabbi Sarah and we will gladly help with your fee.)*



TEETERING ON THE RIM OF REALITY: THOUGHTS ON THE VERGE OF A PSYCHOTIC BREAK

BY BETH LAZAR

Like the water main line break
outside my window
that floods the streets
with gushing water
My mind breaks open
Flooding my eyes and ears with
Sights and sounds:

Parallel universe
Music has color
I can hear red and blue swirling into purple
The workers digging up the streets
laying water pipes and cable
are really Nazis and Russians in disguise
shutting off water and power
Disabling the City.
The City is under siege!

Courage is not the absence of fear
but rather doing the right thing despite fear
Everything is fine.
It is just my mind.

Am I crazy or is everyone talking in riddles?
I've been in a mental hospital eleven times
So I do not trust my mind.
On the surface everything seems fine
But there is no TV reception
And the radio sounds crazy.
I want a healthy mind!

It would be a real miracle
If they found a cure
For mental illness...

The B'nai Israel Mental Health Small Group supports CONECT in advocating for a "Third Place" for people experiencing a mental health crisis. Currently, people are taken either to an emergency room or to jail. The B'nai Israel Mental Health Small Group provides a welcoming and supportive community for anyone affected by mental illness and all those who care about raising awareness and advocating for mental health care. We meet once a month via Zoom. For more information, call Beth at 203-336-9781.

REPORT AN ANTISEMITIC OR BIAS INCIDENT

We all have a responsibility to report and respond to antisemitism or hate when we see it.

TO REPORT AN ANTISEMITIC OR HATE INCIDENT, VISIT:

[ADL.ORG/REPORTINCIDENT-KULANU](https://adl.org/reportincident-kulanu)

**IF YOU FEAR FOR YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS,
CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY.**

What should I report?

You should report any incident you perceive as antisemitic, biased or hateful.

Here are some examples:

- Antisemitic or other hateful graffiti in public places, including synagogues and schools.
- Vandalism of religious artifacts such as mezuzahs or menorahs and holy places.
- Online harassment, including hateful social media posts and emails. Remember to take a screenshot!
- Verbal harassment, including emails and voicemails.
- Media-based incidents, including antisemitic or hateful content in a news story.
- White supremacist propaganda.

**Make an impact in the fight against
antisemitism and hate.**

Scan this QR code to
report an incident:



ADL

kulanu
SYNAGOGUES IN ACTION
AGAINST ANTISEMITISM



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

RABBI SARAH R. MARION & PRESIDENT SUSAN WALDEN



Confronting Antisemitism: A New Synagogue Initiative

By Rabbi Sarah Marion and Susan Walden

On Friday, October 28, Rabbi Marion delivered a sermon about the disturbing rise in antisemitism in our country and in our community, and President Susan Walden spoke about “Kulanu,” an important new synagogue initiative in partnership with the ADL designed to give us the tools to better confront and combat hate. Below are their remarks:

Every great flood begins with just one, tiny raindrop.

And then another.

And then, another.

In Torah this week, our eyes are on Noah, and on all the people of his generation, who, I'll bet, were skeptical of Noah's predication for a devastatingly destructive deluge. And, I'll bet that they remained skeptical, even as it started to sprinkle – one small drop, and then another, and then, another.

It's just a little rain – one townspeople said, rather nonchalantly.

What's the big deal?

Life will go on – said another.

Just you wait and see.

It can't possibly happen here – a third one chimed in.

If we just ignore it, *I'm sure* it will go away eventually, another one added...

and they all nodded, together, in unison, determined to convince themselves, that they were right.

But every great flood always begins with just one drop.

And then another.

And then, another.

Indeed, our Noah story could be a parable for so many “floods”

of our time – both literal, and figurative. But tonight, I want to focus on the steady streams of Jew hatred that never seem to subside – within our community, within our country, within our world. Because historically, we know, that the most destructive antisemitic tidal waves always start with just one drop. And then another. And then, another.

It's just one small yellow star, sewn onto a jacket, one townspeople said. It's just one sign on a storefront window. What's the big deal? Life will go on – said another. Just you wait and see. It can't possibly happen here – a third one chimed in. If we just ignore it, *I'm sure* it'll go away on its own. And they all nodded together, in unison, determined to convince themselves, that they were right.

And in today's 2022 version of the tale, the story goes something like this:

It's just one antisemitic tweet from a celebrity.

Who even cares what he has to say, anyway?

It's just one small sign, at a local political rally.

It's just one joke, passed around on social media,

among kids who don't even know what they are talking about.

It's just one swastika, etched onto a desk at the high school.

What's the big deal?

Life will go on – they said.

Just you wait and see.

It can't possibly happen here.

And they all nodded together, in unison,

determined to convince themselves, that they were right.

Drip, drip, drip.

The drips don't always make the news – do they?

We don't always hear about them, especially when they happen far away. When they are out of sight, they are, so often, so out of mind.

But this past week, right here, in our own little Fairfield county community, it rained.

And as the droplets came down, they washed away the watercolors on that picture-perfect painting of our town – that picture-perfect painting that we like to hold up as we say, “See! We are a *haven* from all that stuff. That kind of thing – it doesn't happen here.”

But whether we want to acknowledge it, or not, it does.

It happens here, too.

And it happened, here, last Sunday.

“Make the Nuremberg Code Great Again,” was what the sign said, at the protest on Post Road in downtown Fairfield – at the protest that took place, literally, in the rain.

In response, Stacy Sobel, the Connecticut Regional Director for the ADL,

issued the following statement:

“A disturbing sign was reportedly displayed at a protest outside the Fairfield Democratic Party Headquarters stating, “Make the Nuremberg Code Great Again.” The Nuremberg code was enacted after World War II in response to the horrific medical

Continued on page 7



ALEXA COHEN, EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR



BONIM BUZZ



A Mitzvah Project in Room 202

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” — Warren Buffet

During snack, we discussed the phrase “I am a *mitzvah* kid because.....”

We talked about *mitzvot* being good deeds that we can all do. Being kind, saying please and thank you, sharing and cleaning up toys, giving a hug, patting our pets gently, and placing our plates in the sink are just a few of the examples of *mitzvot* that we can do in our day-to-day lives. We then sang together: “Room 202 is a *mitzvah* class, a *mitzvah* class, a *mitzvah* class. Room 202 is a *mitzvah* class because we shared our toys with each other.” This is a wonderful way to boost confidence and learn by imitating our friends' good behavior. We are excited to continue the home/school connection, building on teaching our children about doing *mitzvot*. We encourage you to help us to start our *mitzvah* program by using this language at home and sharing ideas with your child about how we can perform good deeds outside of the classroom. Please send notes with your children to school about *mitzvot* they have done at home. This way, we can encourage their goodness and build their self-esteem by referring to their good deed from home by devoting a verse to them when we sing in circle time.

VIEWS OF THE EDUCATION CENTER



Our infants love reading together



STREAM is so cool!



Look at my tall tower!



The Shabbat bus is ready to roll!



Shabbat with the class dinosaur!



Drawing my family!



Kehilah Students enjoying music with Rhea and Cantor Michelle and studying the Torah with Rabbi Evan.



Kehilah Cooking Chug makes apple kugel!

experiments
performed on captive victims of the
Holocaust
in concentration camps.
The phrase is apparently now being used
by those who oppose vaccine
requirements.
There is no equivalency - she continued -
between the Holocaust's forced medical
experiments,
and current day policy.
It is outrageous for protestors to spread
fear
and false equivalences.
ADL will continue to call out this
offensive language,
and we ask all people of good faith in
Connecticut
to do the same."

And Rabbi Schultz offered this response,
as well:
"To equate mandated vaccines
to horrific, forced medical experiments
performed on Jews during the Holocaust
is a false equivalency
and trivializes Nazi crimes.
Signs like this should not be tolerated in
the public square.
In recent years we have seen,
right here in Connecticut,
individuals and elected officials use Nazi
imagery
such as swastikas and yellow stars
to advance and bring awareness to their
cause.
Every citizen of our country has the right
to protest publicly
and speak their voice.
At the same time, the use of Nazi imagery
and the equating of one's situation
to that of the Jews
at the hands of the Nazi regime
should be denounced at all levels.
I would hope that our local elected
officials
and my colleagues and neighbors
will publicly speak out about protestors
ever using this type of language
at public events and rallies going
forward."

And while it rained *here* last week,
elsewhere in the country, it poured.
I wonder if you, too, heard about what

happened in LA –
the banners that hung down from an
overpass
above a busy LA highway -
the banners with the words:
"Honk if you know that Kanye is right
about the Jews."
And I wonder if you saw the photos of the
saluting,
Hitler-hailing white supremacists
who stood on the overpass, above the
signs.

I shudder when I think about how many
cars might have honked
as they drove through.

In LA. In America. In 2022.

And then, this afternoon,
just as I was finishing this sermon for
tonight,
I got a message,
telling me that the same white supremacist
group,
with the same disgusting, hate filled signs
–
stood today over the Bronx River Parkway
–
the *Bronx River Parkway*....
Our very own backyard.

The CEO of the ADL, Jonathan
Greenblatt,
confirms that we are not living through a
mere sprinkle
of antisemitic sentiments.
We are living through a deluge.
The floodwaters are rising –
he tells us.
Exponentially.
In ways that I didn't even begin to realize.

"Antisemitism has reached the highest
levels that we've seen
in recent memory,"
he said to a group of synagogue leaders
this past Wednesday.
"Last year, the ADL, which has been
tabulating these incidences for 45 years,
reported 2,727 instances, which is a 34
percent increase year over year,
triple the amount from 2015,
We are living in a time
when political candidates are espousing

Christian nationalism,
when elected officials are disregarding
antisemitic statements,
and when public figures and popular
entertainers feel like,
with impunity,
they can say the most slanderous things,
night after night,
with zero consequences."

Drip or deluge,
I am certain that it is never *just one time*.
Never, *just one thing*.
Never, what's the big deal.
But, rather, it is *always* a big deal.
Always.

Here, at B'nai Israel,
we do so much important work
on behalf of our local, secular community.
And I couldn't be more proud.
In addition to our already established
Social Justice efforts,
it is time to add Combating Antisemitism
to our ongoing list of Social Justice
projects and priorities.
To that end, I am incredibly grateful
that Susan Walden has alerted us
to a new and critically important
synagogue initiative
in partnership with the ADL.
The initiative is called "Kulanu" which
means
"All of us."
Kulanu will give us the tools
to more effectively confront antisemitism
in our community,
and it will help us to be better united
in the ongoing struggle against hate.
We have already committed ourselves to
becoming
a Kulanu congregation,
but we still need more help from members
of our congregation
in order to get this important initiative off
the ground.
And so I've asked Susan Walden
to tell us more about Kulanu,
and the ways that you can help and get
involved:

Susan Walden's Remarks:

A Swastika on a playground. A snapchat
of a gun and a Jewish Star saying "Kill

DECEMBER DONATIONS

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

Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund

Carol Barsky, a donation.

Barry & Linda Diamond, in memory of Sylvia Rosenthal.

Randy Dorfman & Richard Post, in memory of mother, Helen Weiner and mother-in-law, Virginia Post.

Barbara & Mark Edinberg, in honor of Rabbi Schultz's wonderful High Holiday sermons.

Jack & Sandy Germain, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Rachel & David Green, in appreciation to Rabbi Evan for officiating our wedding.

Terri & Dan Green, in memory of Suzanne Weissman's mother, Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal.

Stacey & Robert Giglietti, in memory of Bernard Lipin.

Janice & Bernard Jacobs, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky; in memory of Anita Burger; in memory of Marilyn Gerber.

Alice & George Kelly, in memory of mother Ruth Zimroth.

Aleksey & Raisa Ledvich, in memory of grandfather, Max Dovolsky; in memory of mother, Emilia Ledvich; in memory of grandmother, Adel Dovolskaya; in memory of uncle, Yuri Sotnik.

Alice Madwed, in memory of mother, Frieda Ente.

Helen Natt, a donation.

Glen & Kelly Reznikoff, in memory of Ruth Bortner, grandmother of Jessica Goldberg.

Serena & Arnold Sher, in honor of Kylie's Bat Mitzvah and Bryce Yurdin's confirmation.

Ellen & Steve Tower, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky; in celebration of Leslie Neigher's marriage to Gregory Kaplan.

Suzanne Weissman, thanks for all the love and support when my mom, Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal passed away.

Marilyn Weinstein, in memory of my brother, Edward M. Strogoff.

Fredric & Ronni Zinn, in memory of Hank Silverman.

Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund

Carol Barsky, a donation.

Randy Dorfman & Richard Post, in memory of Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal.

Barbara & Mark Edinberg, in honor of Rabbi Marion's wonderful High Holiday sermons.

Gail & Gary Felberbaum, in memory

of Sylvia Rosenthal, mother of Suzanne Weissman.

Laurel Greenberg, with thanks to Chris Rocha for her help getting me on line in Florida for Rosh Hashana & Yom Kippur services; and with thanks to Al Dressler for his weekly Wednesday Yoga class.

Rozanne Cohen Lancia, in honor of Chris Rocha and Liz Nigrosh.

Beth Lazar, in memory of Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal, mother of Suzanne Weissman; in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky and beloved member of the Saturday morning Torah Study Group.

Marian Levine, in memory of Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal.

Helen Natt, a donation.

Elaine & Marty Schwartz, in memory of Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal, mother of Suzanne (Artie) Weissman.

Suzanne Weissman, thanks for all the love and support when my mom, Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal passed away.

Suzanne Weissman, Allan Smiley, and Family, in appreciation to Rabbi Sarah Marion for officiating the funeral of our mother, Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal.

Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund

Susan Bauchner, in memory of my B'nai Israel Confirmation classmate, Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Mark & Barbara Edinberg, in honor of the marriage of Leslie Neigher.

Susan & Douglas Fink, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

James & Lisa Greenberg, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund

Judith & Michael Blumenthal, with gratitude and appreciation to Rabbi Prosnit for officiating at the wedding of Jacob Blumenthal to Abby Calish.

Elaine & Marty Schwartz, in honor of the marriage of Sylvia and Alan Neigher's daughter, Leslie to Greg Kaplan.

Serena & Arnold Sher, in honor of the marriage of Rachel to Kevin Lustig.

Cantor Rubel Discretionary Fund

Bonnie Cape, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Barbara & Mark Edinberg, in honor of Cantor Rubel for helping make the High Holidays so memorable.

Music Fund

Jeffry Ackerman & Andrea Goodman, in honor of the marriage of Anne & Mark

Kirsch's daughter Alison to Zachary Siegel.
Carol Barsky, in appreciation for the beautiful chanting during the High Holy Day services.

Mark & Barbara Edinberg, in celebration of the marriage of Mark & Anne Kirsch's daughter, Alison to Zachary Siegel.

Enhancement Fund

Carol Barsky, in memory of brother Donald A. Quint.

Ann Sales Block, in memory of Frank Sales.

Maureen Dewan & Stuart Belkin, Mazel Tov on Leslie Neigher's marriage to Greg Kaplan.

Mark & Anne Kirsch, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Loryn, Matt, Micah, Divina, & Rebecca Lesser, wishing a speedy recovery to Bernie Jacobs, Refuah Sh'leimah.

Shawn Maerowitz-DeTroy, a donation.

Jonathan Orleans & Linda Liefland, a donation.

Randy and Beth Reich, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Debora & Michael Weisman, in memory of Claire's husband, Allan Shumofsky.

Grace & Stephen Weitzer, in honor of loved ones for the Yahrzeit at Yom Kippur.

Wallace Zuckerman, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Sylvia Prosnit Adult Education Fund

Bari Dworken, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Rose Myers, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, fellow Saturday morning Torah study-er and a kind, gentle man.

Bonim Preschool Enrichment Fund

The Markley Family, in loving memory of George Markley.

Twody & Bob Schless, in memory of Twody's mom, Joy Stile.

Arnie & Karen Schwartz, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Bonim Preschool Scholarship Fund

Serena & Arnold Sher, in honor of the marriage of Anne & Mark Kirsch's daughter Alison to Zachary Siegel.

Rabbi Martin Library Fund

Robert and Marsha Gillette, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Serena & Arnold Sher, in memory of beloved husband, father, brother, and grandfather Lenny Glantz; in memory of Allan Shumofsky, beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

Prayer Book Fund

Gloria Katz, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Religious School Enrichment Fund

Judith & David Pressler, in memory of Esther Unger Farber, mother of Judith Pressler; in memory of Abraham Unger, grandfather of Judith Pressler.

Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund

Jeff Ackerman & Andrea Goodman, in memory of Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal, mother of Suzanne Weissman.

Carol Barsky, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Judith Green & Michael Blumenthal, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Alexa & David Cohen, in honor of Alison and Zack's Wedding.

Ellen & Lawrence Dinkes, in memory of Lucille Spector.

Susan Edelheit, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Sherry Fogel, in memory of Claire's beloved husband, Allan Shumofsky.

Eric & Ruth Gross, in celebration of Jake and Abby's marriage.

Jack Kadden, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Alice & George Kelly, in memory of Phyllis Feinberg, mother of Dennis Feinberg.

Beth Lazar, in honor of Barb Edinberg and Jeff Schwartz for their work for Voter's Rights, Social Justice, and CONECT; in honor of Nina Silberman for her work for Social Action through Mitzvah Mornings.

Nancy & Charles Needle, congratulations to Alan and Sylvia Neigher on the occasion of the marriage of their daughter Leslie to Greg Kaplan.

Judith & David Pressler, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Laurie & Scott Renzulli, in memory of Sara Brozgal, grandmother of Laurie Renzulli and great grandmother of Samantha and Alex Renzulli.

Daniel & Laurie Schopick, Mazel tov! Congratulations to Richard and Joanne Krantz on the engagement of their son David.

Serena & Arnold Sher, in honor of the marriage of Judy Green and Michael Blumenthal's son Jacob to Abby Calish; in memory of Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal,

beloved mother of Suzanne Weissman; in memory of Anita Burger.

Mady Shumofsky, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Mark & Deena Spector, in memory of our son, Josh Spector.

Vision Loan Reduction Fund

Linda & Gene Koski, with thanks to Rabbi Schultz and Rabbi Marion for the beautiful shiva service for my mom back in May.

Ellen Sheiman, in memory of Allan Shumofsky and thanks for all he did for this congregation.

Jim and Barbara Abraham Education Fund

Jeff Ackerman & Andrea Goodman, Mazel Tov on Leslie Neigher's marriage to Gregory Kaplan.

Sue & Bob Sussman, in memory of Patricia Giglietti, mother of Rob Giglietti.

Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund

Kenneth & Katherine Kingsly, in memory of Laraine Hourihan.

Alan & Joan Newman, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

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Arnold & Doris Tower Fund

Stephen Tower, in memory of Arnold Tower.

Yakhani Caring Fund

Jeffrey Ackerman & Andrea Goodman, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Mark & Barbara Edinberg, in memory of Sylvia Smiley Rosenthal; in celebration of Sarah Kadden's engagement to Josh Sabel.

Janet & Daniel Jurow, in memory of Allan Shumofsky, husband of Claire Shumofsky.

Lawrence Kalman, in memory of Allan Shumofsky and all the lessons he taught and the smiles he provided to Julie, David, Talia and Daniel.

Beth Lazar, in appreciation of Liz Nigrosh's beautiful singing at the High Holidays tent services; in appreciation of Mark Edinberg's musical compositions at Yom Kippur services.

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL DONATIONS

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MY EXPERIENCE WITH AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

BY CANTOR MICHELLE RUBEL

When we moved to Connecticut, from an apartment to a stand-alone house, one of the first things we did was buy a Tesla. We did this because our lease was up and we wanted to reduce our carbon footprint. We already purchased green electricity and we had plans for rooftop solar, so this was one of our last big sources of emissions.

We did look at alternatives, but at the time the Tesla was the only fully electric vehicle easily available on the East Coast with enough range for us to make round trips to the family (on Long Island, in New Jersey or in Massachusetts) without charging. Of course, we always have some range

anxiety, but being able to charge at home means range is almost never an issue.

In 2021, we even took the Tesla on a road trip to North Carolina. We had to stop a little longer to charge than it would have taken to get gas, but we

never spent more than half an hour charging (and then only over lunch). These days we never worry about it; I don't think we've been more than twenty miles from a charger all year. To give you some idea how positive the experience is, I doubt we'll ever buy a gas car again.



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

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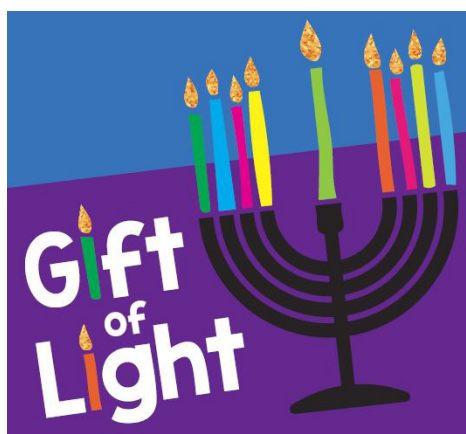
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Congregation B'nai Israel, founded in 1858, seeks to be a vibrant Reform synagogue dedicated to the perpetuation of Jewish life and values within the framework of contemporary American Judaism. We are a gateway to Judaism for all. The Congregation 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.



Only a Few More Days to Place a Gift of Light Order: The Last Day to Order is Sunday, December 4th

Please help make this year's Gift of Light fundraiser better than ever by sending Chanukah candles to your friends and family at B'nai Israel. **THE LAST DAY TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th.** Don't be left out! Place an order and help spread light and warmth throughout our community!

As always, each recipient receives one box of candles with greetings from every sender. If you need your ordering link again, please contact Marcia Cohen at mcohen@cbibpt.org.

The Gift of Light Team needs help! If you can deliver candles on Sunday, December 18th, please let us know. Delivering is a great way to get into the Chanukah spirit! It's fun and easy!

Note: Candles will be left at the front door if the recipients are not home. If you will be away and do not want candles left for you, please let us know. If you receive candles, we will hold them at the temple.

the Jews” sent to a student. Lawns littered with white supremacist flyers. These are only some of the many incidents of antisemitism that have occurred over the course of the last year.

When I am not serving as your President, I work for ADL, The Anti-Defamation League as the Coordinator of Antisemitism Programs and Synagogue Engagement for the Connecticut Regional Office. Sadly, incidents like the ones mentioned did not happen in some rural part of our country, they happened right here in Fairfield County. In fact, antisemitic incidents in the United States have increased almost 40% in the last year, and in the first half of this year alone, Connecticut has seen more incidents than in all of last year.

As Jews, we stand up for others every day. We are taught early that we need to be role models and treat others the way we want to be treated. We march for civil rights, we rally for equality for women, but we feel shame and fear and are reluctant to stand up for ourselves, for the Jews. And then — it begins to chip away at our Jewish pride and our identity. It affects us in powerful ways, some of us get angry, some of us decide to hide our Judaism and some of us, unfortunately, the youngest of us, feel so despondent that it affects our mental health. I have witnessed this firsthand from the dozens of students I have mentored over my last 5 years at ADL. It is rare that we push back against antisemitism, but we must start. If WE don’t stand up for ourselves and say “enough,” who will?

I do believe we don’t stand up because we don’t know how, feel responsible for it, or are afraid. But that can change. I am excited to share that B’nai Israel has been

selected to join ADL in the first cohort of a program called Kulanu: Synagogues in Action Against Antisemitism. This is a free, 9-month framework where we will form a committee to discuss these issues, promote incident response, do some learning, and support one another.

But I can’t do this alone. Kulanu means all of us. And I need all of you to join me in this fight. We are looking for your help to get this off the ground. So how you can help? By volunteering to be a co-chair and working with me and our clergy to coordinate this initiative or by adding your voice to be part of this important committee.

Please reach out to me at Swalden@cbibpt.org if you want to help bring these issues to the forefront as we proudly make confronting antisemitism a *tikkun olam* focus this year. We need to work together to support our students and families and each other; so, when someone hears a Holocaust joke, or a student yells “Heil Hitler” to your kid on the bus, you know your synagogue community cares and knows how to respond. The Jewish people need you. B’nai Israel needs you and I need you.

To quote the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, “The only sane response to antisemitism is to monitor it and fight it, but never let it affect our idea of who we are. Pride is always a healthier response than shame.”

Rabbi Marion’s Closing Prayer:

We are taught that when evil darkens our world,
let us be the bearers of light.

When dissent is stifled,
let our voices speak truth to power.
In places where no one acts like a human being,
let us bring courage;
let us bring compassion;
let us bring humanity.

We may be heartsick over the floods of our time.
But we are not powerless.

And so we will continue, as always.

Nurturing our wisdom,
building our energy,
and fostering our collective strength,

In this way, we will continue on,
with relentless determination,
forging a pathway
towards a better tomorrow.

Because every great flood begins with just one, single drop.

And then another.
And another.
And, another.

Floods of hatred begin this way.

But, then again, so do floods of *hope*.

And so with every single voice...
with every single act...
with every single time we take a stand...

we, too,

can flood the world...

with love.

**B'nai Israel Caregiver Gathering
Sunday, December 4 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

At a private home in Shelton location provided upon RSVP

Caring for an aging parent or a loved one with an illness can feel like an overwhelming and isolating task. This gathering will provide space for our caregivers to come together for friendship, community, and mutual support. With our B’nai Israel clergy and a community social worker, we will share the challenges and joys of our individual caregiving journeys, be witness to one another’s experiences, and then turn to sources from our tradition for comfort and guidance. Coffee and a light breakfast nosh will be provided. This opportunity is ongoing, based on interest. Please RSVP to Ilene Feuerberg at ifeuerberg@cbibpt.org.

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**The following members of the medical community join
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Please stop by anytime and help yourself to: Yahrzeit candles,
Blank condolence cards, and Copies of *Where Grief Resides*

Let us know if there's anything else that might be helpful to you
as a resource or support as you navigate through illness and grief.

Community Sunday Morning Schmooze
Sunday, December 4, 9:30-10:30 a.m., B'nai Israel lobby

Stop by the lobby for a delicious cup of coffee roasted by our
friend Jeff Roy from Sound Coffee (formerly Buena Vista
Coffee). This is a great way to schmooze and meet other B'nai
Israel members!

Lunch, Schmooze and Learn - For our B'nai Israel Seniors
Thursday, December 8, noon-1:00 p.m.

Join with fellow B'nai Israel seniors over lunch to learn about the
recent Israeli elections with our Emmissary, Ofek. Please bring
your lunch. Coffee and tea will be served.

Kibbitzing Over Books with Rabbi Schultz
Thursday, December 15, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Join with Rabbi Schultz to kibbitz about God and nature with
Rabbi Jamie Korngold's book *God in the Wilderness*. All nature
lovers are welcome!

ADULT EDUCATION

LGBTQ 101: An Introduction to Identities & Allyship

December 11, 2022, noon-1:30 p.m.

Congregation B'nai Israel

This training, taught by Cadence Pentheny from the Triangle
Community Center (TCC) in Norwalk, will engage participants
in a thorough overview of the LGBTQ community. It will cover
an understanding of "who" and "what" we're referring to when
we talk about the LGBTQ community. From terminology and
definitions to rethinking historical and traditional assumptions
about gender and sexuality, this training is a must for all those
who wish to be allies to the community.

About the Trainer: Cadence Pentheny is TCC's passionate
Coordinator of Community & Corporate Learning, with a
demonstrated commitment to supporting the LGBTQ community
through training and education. They hold a Bachelor of Arts in
Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from
Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and a
Graduate Certificate in Human Sexuality through the University
of Minnesota. RSVP to eschultz@cbibpt.org. Limited to 25
participants. Lunch will be served.

COAT COLLECTION FOR CIRI NEW WINTER COATS NEEDED

Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
(CIRI) is seeking new coats for its newly arrived
clients. In particular, CIRI is in need of new men's
coats sizes Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large,
as well as new women's coats, sizes Small, Medium,
Large, X-Large, and 3X-Large. We are collecting coat
donations in the temple coatroom, please drop off
donations anytime between now and December 15th.



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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, December 2

5:00 p.m. Shabbat Play & Pray
6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion – Vayetze, Genesis. 28:10-32:2
Haftarah – Hosea 12:12-14:10

Saturday, December 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. Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Chappa, son of Michael & Rachael Chappa

Friday, December 9

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion – Vayishlach, Genesis, 32:3-36:43
Haftarah – Hosea 11:7-12:12; Obadiah 1:1-21

Saturday, December 10

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. B'not Mitzvah of Madeleine & Sadie Minsky, daughters of Gregory & Tracy Minsky

Friday, December 16

6:00 p.m. Chanukah Shabbat Service! – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion – Vayeshev, Genesis, 37:1-40:23
Haftarah – Amos 2:6-3:8
7:00 p.m. Community Chanukah dinner

Saturday, December 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

Friday, December 23

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion – Miketz, Genesis, 41:1-44:17
Haftarah – Isaiah 66:1-24

Saturday, December 24

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

Friday, December 30

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom
Torah Portion – Vayigash, Genesis, 44:18-47:27
Haftarah – Ezekiel 37:15-28 1:1-2:7

Saturday, December 31

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