

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

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Meet our summer rabbinic intern, Morgan Folger. Page 4

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## 2025 Spring Celebration

Join us as we honor  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
Past Presidents

*Mark Schiff*  
*Shari Nerreau*  
*Larry Levine*

**Saturday, June 14, 2025**

Drinks and Appetizers 6:30 pm

Dinner and Program 7:30 pm

\$118 per person  
RSVP by June 4, 2025 at  
[www.cbibpt.org](http://www.cbibpt.org) or by check to  
Congregation B'nai Israel



## BULLETIN GOES DIGITAL A NEW ERA FOR THE BULLETIN

The B'nai Israel Bulletin is going digital! You are holding a collector's item: The last print copy of the temple's monthly bulletin. No, this publication is not going away, but congregation leaders made the decision to modernize delivery for significant cost savings and improved communication.

The bulletin will continue to come out monthly, and it will be sent to congregants via email and readily available on the temple website ([www.cbibpt.org](http://www.cbibpt.org)).

The move will save the congregation thousands of dollars each year in printing and mailing expenditures. More

importantly, it provides greater flexibility and dexterity in delivering crucial information. It will be more timely, less redundant across our various channels, and more robust.

"This actually brings us more in line with where most congregations have gone," temple First Vice President Scott Smith said. "I surveyed other temples in our area and beyond. The collective response was, 'Wow, you still send a print version to every congregant?' They said the reaction to going digital was overwhelmingly positive."

*Continued on page 11*

## SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

**Sydelle Schlesinger**, mother of Amy Rich

**Dr. David Ross Greenberg**, brother of Loren Greenberg

## 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.

**Trevor & Akosua Cassaberry**,  
Madison, Bridgeport, CT

**Barbara Schellenberg & Daniel Nagel**,  
Trumbull, CT

## SHARING OUR JOY

In Celebration of:

**Amy and Michael Moorin**, on the birth of their grandson Adam Keenan Moorin, son of David and Dorothy Moorin.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### MITZVAH MORNING

**June 8**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Congregation B'nai Israel**

For our June Mitzvah Morning Project, we will be working with Camp HOPE, a program managed by The Center for Family Justice ([www.centerforfamilyjustice.org](http://www.centerforfamilyjustice.org))

Camp HOPE is a summer camp specifically for children from Fairfield County who are victims of domestic abuse. The camp provides a clinically proven program designed to help these children overcome trauma in order to lead more hopeful and resilient lives. For two weeks during August, Camp HOPE campers will live at Camp Hi-Rock in the Berkshires, enjoying activities in the outdoors while receiving critical counseling and therapeutic services.

On June 8, at 10:00 a.m., we will meet at B'nai Israel to help pack trunks for the campers. Many of the campers are lacking the essential items they need for their time away, so we are looking for B'nai Israel volunteers to help provide them. Some supplies needed include backpacks, batteries, flashlights, fleece blankets, water bottles, laundry bags, and pillowcases.

Volunteers can bring these items to Mitzvah Morning or are welcome to drop them off in the B'nai Israel lobby the week before the event. In addition, there is an Amazon Wishlist which will be published in our email communications. Any items purchased on the Amazon wishlist will be delivered directly to B'nai Israel. Gently used items are welcome as well.

For any additional questions, contact Nina Silberman at [ninahv@aol.com](mailto:ninahv@aol.com) or Mitch Weinstein at [mitchellew@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchellew@yahoo.com). We look forward to seeing you.

### AARP DRIVING CLASS

**Wednesday, June 11**

**9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

**with Ernie Malecki**

Please join our congregant, Ernest "Ernie" Malecki, on Wednesday, June 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for this one-day class designed by AARP for senior drivers. Please pre-register by calling the Temple office at 203-336-1858 or emailing Ernie directly at [enmalecki113@gmail.com](mailto:enmalecki113@gmail.com). The cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members (checks payable to AARP). Passing this course can save you money on your car insurance.

### AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Wednesday, July 30**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Schedule your appointment by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-448-3543 or visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).



**Congregation B'nai Israel's Annual Meeting**  
**will be held on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**All congregants are welcome to attend.**



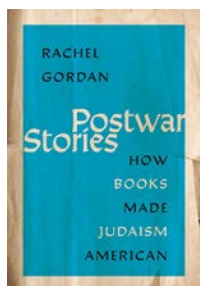
FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

## SUMMER 2025 JEWISH READING RECOMMENDATIONS

I love each June to share some of my favorite books read over the past year. My focus was on Israel, American Jewish identity, and navigating the difficult moral choices of our day. 2024-2025 produced some excellent Jewish writing, from historical analysis to poetry to the texts and wisdom of our ancient rabbis. I would love to hear what Jewish books you read this year, please let me know! I love getting recommendations from our incredible congregants. Happy reading this summer!

### *Postwar Stories: How Books Made Judaism American*

By Rachel Gordan



If you're a fan of literature, I think you'll really enjoy this book. The basic premise is that in the 1950s, post-Holocaust, it was Jewish literature and writing that helped to shape Jewish identity in America. Depictions of Jews in novels and books shaped both how non-Jews saw Jewish Americans and how Jewish Americans understood themselves. Quite a fascinating read!

### *Yochanan's Gamble: Judaism's Pragmatic Approach to Life*

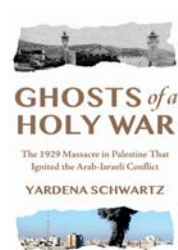
By Rabbi Marc Katz



Rabbi Katz is a close friend and rabbinical school classmate. He will also be speaking about this book here in Bridgeport in June (see description on page 7). Rabbi Katz's basic premise is that our rabbis often thought pragmatically when navigating difficult and complex moral situations. Marc's examples from the Talmud and the rabbinic tradition are quite relevant as we modern Jews attempt to wrestle with contemporary dilemmas and issues.

### *Ghosts of a Holy War: The 1929 Massacre in Palestine That Ignited the Arab-Israeli Conflict*

By Yardena Schwartz

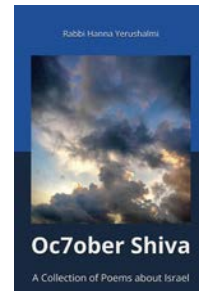


This was an important and difficult read. The book describes in detail 1929 Hebron, where Jews and Arabs lived together quite peacefully until a Saturday morning when 70 Jewish residents

of the city were brutally slaughtered by their Arab neighbors. Schwartz looks at this painful moment in Jewish history that is often untold, and she examines the relationship between Israelis and Arabs post October 7, 2023. Schwartz teaches that we must change our perspectives on the conflict if we ever wish, or hope, to see peace in the land of Israel.

### *Oc7ober Shiva: A Collection of Poems about Israel*

By Rabbi Hanna Yerushalmi



Many of us had an opportunity to meet poet Rabbi Hanna Yerushalmi when she joined us last year for Shavuot. Her writings focus on Israel, especially the hostages, and truly speak to the heart at this moment in time. This is Rabbi Yerushalmi's second book, and she has established herself as one of the key writers and poets of our day. I highly recommend her book, and all proceeds go to tzedakah.

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The High Holy Days will be here before you know it! Please look for the Yizkor Book of Remembrance letter/form 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 **Friday, August 29**. Please send in your form

as soon as possible, or you can visit our website [www.cbibpt.org](http://www.cbibpt.org) to complete the form online once it is available.

## 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.

### Monday, June 2

10:00 a.m. Shavuot Yizkor Service – in person and on Zoom  
Brunch following

### Friday, June 6

5:30 p.m. Oneg  
6:00 p.m. Pride Shabbat Service & Dinner – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Numbers 4:21–7:89  
Haftarah – Judges 13:2-25

### Saturday, June 7

:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – in person and on Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Bet Mitzvah of Teagan Chappa, daughter of Michael & Rachael Chappa

### Friday, June 13

5:30 p.m. Oneg  
6:00 p.m. Special Shabbat Service in Honor of Barbara Rowe – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Numbers 8:1–12:16  
Haftarah – Zechariah 2:14-4:7

### Saturday, June 14

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – in person and on Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Bet Mitzvah of Emma Ringelheim, daughter of Brian & Annie Ringelheim

### Friday, June 20

6:00 p.m. Lake Mohegan Beach Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion – Numbers 13:1–15:41  
Haftarah – Joshua 2:1-24

### Saturday, June 21

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – in person and on Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Bet Mitzvah of Noa Jasgur, daughter of Brian & Alison Jasgur

### Friday, June 27

5:30 p.m. Oneg  
6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
Torah Portion – Numbers 16:1–18:32  
Haftarah – Samuel 11:14-12:22

### Saturday, June 28

8:00 a.m. Shabbat Service – in person and on Zoom  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study – in person and on Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Bet Mitzvah of Aligha Dormont, son of Daniel & Katherine Dormont

Our synagogue Caring Committee is able to help provide rides to and from services to congregants in need of assistance. If you are in need of a ride to temple for Shabbat or another synagogue event, please reach out to Chris Rocha at [crocha@cbibpt.org](mailto:crocha@cbibpt.org) or call the temple office.

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR SUMMER INTERN MORGAN FOLGER!



We are so thrilled to welcome HUC rabbinic student Morgan Folger to B'nai Israel this summer! Morgan is a Tisch Fellow and entering her fourth year at Hebrew Union College. She will be with our congregation in June and part of July. We are excited to welcome her and learn from her! Here is a little more about Morgan:

Morgan (she/her) grew up in Sacramento, California, where she was a regular at Congregation B'nai Israel. Growing up, her cantor and rabbi were incredible teachers and mentors to her. Being a part of such a joyous, welcoming, and caring Jewish community is what inspired

her to become a rabbi. After receiving a Bachelor's degree in English and Religious Studies from University of California, Santa Barbara, she moved to Santa Rosa, California, where she served as the Youth Coordinator at Congregation Shomrei Torah. There, she helped to run all youth and religious school programming and had opportunities to lead Torah study, give sermons, and lead Friday Shabbat services.

During the pandemic, she worked with the associate rabbi and educator to envision and implement a new curriculum for both synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning for the religious school. Morgan worked at URJ Camp Newman every summer for 10 years, with the exception of her first year at HUC, when she was in Israel. In her final summer she served on the director

team running the high school Avodah program, which helped Jewish teens find their Jewish identity and find meaning in the Jewish value of service for others. Her time at camp ignited her passion for creative, joyful, and experiential Jewish education, and reiterated the value of intentional and caring community.

Morgan now lives in Brooklyn and serves as the Rabbinic intern at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue. At HUC, she is honored to be a Tisch fellow and the incoming president of the student body and to serve on the leadership team for the HUC Soup Kitchen. In her free time, she enjoys hosting Shabbat dinners, exploring the city, and learning new crafts. She is an avid TV viewer, reader, crocheter, knitter, and quilter.



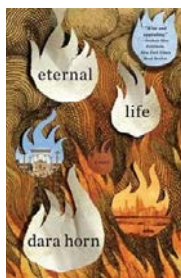


## SUMMER READING WITH THE RABBIS (PART 2): RABBI MARION'S JEWISH FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS

BY RABBI MARION

*Below are some of my favorite novels with Jewish themes, written by Jewish authors. If you read any of these this summer, let me know what you think! What are you reading this summer?*

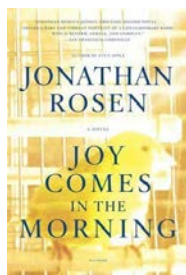
### **Eternal Life by Dara Horn**



*Rachel is a woman with a problem: she can't die. Her recent troubles—widowhood, a failing business, an unemployed middle-aged son—are only the latest in a litany spanning dozens of countries, scores of marriages, and hundreds of children. In the 2,000 years since she made a spiritual bargain to save the life of her first son back in Roman-occupied Jerusalem, she's tried everything to free herself, and only one other person in the world understands: a man she once loved passionately, who has been stalking her through the centuries, convinced they belong together forever. But as the twenty-first century begins and her children and grandchildren—consumed with immortality in their own ways, from the frontiers of digital currency to genetic engineering—develop new technologies that could change her fate and theirs, Rachel knows she must find a way out. Gripping, hilarious, and profoundly moving, *Eternal Life* celebrates the bonds between generations, the power of faith, the purpose of death, and the reasons for being alive. (Review from Amazon.com)*

### **Joy Comes in the Morning by Jonathan Rosen**

*Deborah Green is a woman of passionate contradictions—a rabbi who craves goodness and surety while wrestling with her own desires and with the sorrow and pain she sees around her. Her life changes when she visits the hospital room of Henry Friedman, an older man who has*



*attempted suicide. His parents were murdered in the Holocaust when he was a child, and all his life he's struggled with difficult questions: Can happiness really come after such loss, or does the very wish to profane the dead? Can religious promises ever bring peace? Deborah's encounter with Henry and his family draws her into a world of tragedy, frailty, love, and, finally, hope. (Review from Amazon.com)*

### **Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro**

*Signal Fires opens on a summer night in 1985. Three teenagers have been drinking. One of them gets behind the wheel of a car, and, in an instant, everything on Division Street changes. Each of their lives, and that of Ben Wilf, a young doctor who arrives on the scene, is shattered. For the Wilf family, the circumstances of that fatal accident will become the deepest kind of secret, one so dangerous it can never be spoken. On Division Street, time has moved on. When the Shenkmans arrive—a young couple expecting a baby boy—it is*

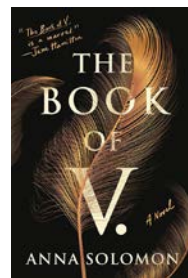


*as if the accident never happened. But when Waldo, the Shenkmans' brilliant, lonely son who marvels at the beauty of the world and has a native ability to find connections in everything, befriends Dr. Wilf, now retired and struggling with his wife's decline, past events come hurtling back in ways no one could ever have foreseen. (Review from Amazon.com)*

### **The Book of V by Anna Solomon**

*Lily is a mother and a daughter. And a second wife. And a writer, maybe? Or she was going to be, before she had children.*

*Now, in her rented Brooklyn apartment she's grappling with her own desires, while also trying to manage her roles as a mother and a wife in 2016. Vivian Barr seems to be the perfect political wife, dedicated to helping her charismatic and ambitious husband find success in Watergate-era Washington D.C. But one night he demands a humiliating favor, and her refusal to obey changes the course of her life—along with the lives of others. Esther is a fiercely independent*



*young woman in ancient Persia, where she and her uncle's tribe live a tenuous existence outside the palace walls. When an innocent mistake results in devastating consequences for her people, she is offered up as a sacrifice to please the King, in the hopes that she will save them all. In Anna Solomon's *The Book of V*, these three characters' riveting stories overlap and ultimately collide, illuminating how women's lives have and have not changed over thousands of years. (Review from Amazon.com)*

## *Shavuot Yizkor Service*

*June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m.  
There will be a special  
Shavuot brunch  
following the service*



## ALEXA COHEN/DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION CENTER A YEAR OF GROWTH AND JOY



As we approach the end of another remarkable school year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that our Bonim Preschool and Kehilah communities have accomplished.

In Bonim, we witnessed the beautiful transformation that happens when young children feel safe, nurtured, and inspired. Our classrooms were filled with laughter, curiosity, and creativity, as students explored Jewish holidays, values, and stories through play, song, and hands-on learning. The bonds formed between children, families, and teachers truly reflect the essence of our community.

In Kehilah, students deepened their connection to Judaism through engaging lessons, meaningful discussions, and joyful celebrations. From learning Hebrew and understanding the value of Tikkun Olam, to exploring Torah stories and Jewish identity, our learners grew not only in knowledge but also in confidence and spirit. We are especially proud of our Bet Mitzvah students who reached important milestones with dedication and grace.

None of this would be possible without our incredible educators, supportive families, and the guidance of our clergy

and synagogue leadership. As we look ahead to the summer and begin planning for the year to come, we remain committed to fostering a warm, inclusive, and vibrant environment for every learner.

Wishing all of you a restful, joyful summer filled with blessings.

B'Shalom,  
Alexa Cohen  
Education Director

## CELEBRATION TO HONOR BARBARA ROWE



Please join us for **Shabbat services on Friday, June 13**, as we honor **Barbara Rowe** on her retirement after 34 remarkable years as accompanist for our congregation.

Barbara began her time at B'nai Israel accompanying Cantor Ramon Gilbert, continued her service with Cantor Sheri

Blum, and most recently, with me, Cantor Harris. She has been with us through many years of High Holy Days working with not only our cantors, but with our choir directors, Gary Rosoff and Janet Rosen. Her presence has been woven into the fabric of our spiritual life of our Adult Choir, and we look forward to celebrating her many contributions together.

Barbara has been the musical heartbeat of our worship services with many Bet Mitzvah families through the years, using her gifts to guide us in praise, reflection, and reverence. Whether accompanying hymns, anthems, or quiet moments of prayer, Barbara's playing has consistently lifted our hearts and deepened our connection to the sacred. Her music has underscored and enriched countless Shabbat, Holy Day, Children's and Holiday Family Shabbats, as well as many of our families' life cycle event services.

More than just a musician, Barbara has been a steady and gracious presence in our community. She has offered her time and talents with humility, always placing the needs of the congregation before her own. Her kindness, reliability, and quiet leadership have made her a part of our synagogue family.

We give thanks for Barbara's years of dedication and the countless lives she has touched through her music. As she steps away from the bench, we honor her legacy and celebrate the next chapter of her life with gratitude and love.

Barbara's music has been a spiritual gift — one that has inspired, comforted, and united us. May her retirement be filled with peace, joy, and the knowledge that her faithful service has left a lasting mark on all of us.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Pride Shabbat and Turkish Dinner

David Weisberg

Friday, June 6

As we celebrate Pride Month, David Weisberg, our former Jewish Federation CEO, discusses how he sees his current work in supporting the LGBTQ community as a continuation of his decades in Jewish communal service and why he believes that inclusion and affirmation of the queer community is an expression of our core Jewish values.

Sign up starting 5/19, see link in Hashavua and on our Website.

**\*Dinner \$25.00 pp, must respond by due date; late RSVPs might not be accommodated**

### Book Talk and Havdalah with Rabbi

Marc Katz

Saturday, June 7

4–5:30 p.m.

Home of Rabbi Schultz

Join with special guest and author, Rabbi Marc Katz, a friend and classmate of Rabbi Schultz, for a discussion about his recent book, *Yochanan's Gamble: Judaism's Pragmatic Approach to Life*. The book examines the ancient rabbis' use of pragmatism to answer the deep moral questions of Jewish life. This event includes a copy of the book and afternoon appetizers. Limited to 25. Please RSVP to ifeueberg@cibipt.org.

### Shabbat at Lake Mohegan with Special Guests Rabbi Micah Lapidus and Melvin Myles

Friday, June 20

6:00–7:15 p.m.

We are so thrilled to welcome guest musicians Rabbi Micah Lapidus and Melvin Myles. They call their style "Music for people of conscience." Melvin is a member of the choir at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Micah serves on the faculty at Davis Academy Jewish day school in Atlanta. Melvin and Micah joined our congregation via Zoom several years ago and everyone loved their music. Please join us at Lake Mohegan with these incredible songwriters and musicians!

### Beach Services

June 20, July 18, and August 15

6:00 p.m.

Join us for summer services at Lake Mohegan at 6:00 p.m. on June 20, July 19, and August 16.

Bring your beach chairs and enjoy Shabbat services overlooking the beautiful scenery of Lake Mohegan! (No Service at Temple or on Zoom.)

### The Mental Health Awareness Team Presents:

**Film: Orchestrating Change**

**Date: Tuesday June 24, 2025**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

Place: Social Hall at B'nai Israel

See page 10 for details.

### Israel Education Series #2

Exploring 1929–1948

June 26, 2025

7:00–8:30 p.m.

The early history of Israel is important to explore and discuss. We'll look at excerpts from the recent book *Ghosts of a Holy War*, which describes the 1929 massacre of seventy Jews in Hebron by their Arab neighbors, after living in peace together for many years. We'll also look at some of the Arab narratives from that time period and the lead-up to the War of Independence. Open to all.



Women of B'nai Israel

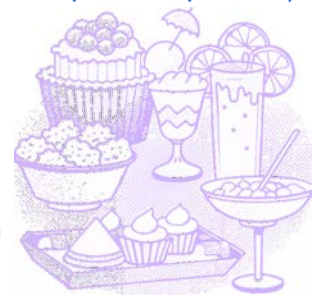
## Women of B'nai Israel Sisters' Schmooze\*

**Tuesday, June 10, from 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Offsite, at the home of Sarah Fridman (address provided upon RSVP)

Our popular sister schmooze returns! Please join the Women of B'nai Israel for cocktails, snacks and intergenerational mingling and conversation. No agenda, simply an opportunity to come together to reconnect, relax and meet other women in the community.

Hope you will be able to make it, and feel free to bring some friends too!



See Hashavua & Website for link to sign up in ShulCloud starting May 20th, or email Ilene [ifeueberg@cibipt.org](mailto:ifeueberg@cibipt.org)

\*Funds from the Women of B'nai Israel help support our Sisters' Schmooze program.



# JUNE DONATIONS

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

## **Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund**

**Ken & Lori Berger**, in memory of my mother, Cecelia Davis.

**Arnold & Erica Cohen**, wishes for a happy Passover.

**Carl & Naomi Erwich**, in celebration of Bands for B'nai.

**Robert & Stacy Giglietti**, in memory of Amy Rich's mom, Sydelle Schlesinger.

**Bernie & Jan Jacobs**, in appreciation to Steve Borden for your help; in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

**Beth Lazar**, in memory of Henry J. Thrower, father of Sherrie Glass. He had a long, well-lived life.

**Aleksey & Raisa Ledvich**, in memory of our family members — aunt Shelya Sotnik, grandmother Sarah Ledvich, grandfather Menashe Goldenfarb, and father Peter Ledvich.

**Gilbert & Barbara Saltman**, with thanks.

**Noah Thaler & Becky Molinoff**, with gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for officiating at our wedding.

## **Rabbi Marion Discretionary Fund**

**Erica Cohen**, in appreciation for the Women's Seder and wishes for a happy Passover.

**Carmela D'Aquila**, in appreciation for the wonderful Passover Women's Seder.

**Barbara Edinberg**, in appreciation of Liane May & Jodi Mantell for all the hard work that went into making the Women's Seder such a wonderful event; in appreciation of Rabbi Marion for the meaningful and inspiring Women's Seder.

**Deborah Glick**, in honor of my granddaughter Josie Dommu's bat mitzvah; in memory of her beloved Gee.

**Bernie & Jan Jacobs**, in appreciation of Rabbi Sarah Marion.

**Beth Lazar**, in memory of Steven Levine, son of Hal Levine. May he rest in peace.

**Glen & Kelly Reznikoff**, in celebration of Beth and Jordan Posner's new granddaughter, Shea.

## **Cantor Scott Harris Discretionary Fund**

**Arnold & Erica Cohen**, wishes for a happy Pesach.

**Carl & Naomi Erwich**, in celebration of Bands for B'nai.

**Bernie & Jan Jacobs**, in loving memory of Sally Rosenblum; in appreciation of Cantor Scott Harris.

## **Rabbi James Prosnit Discretionary Fund**

**Ellen Sheiman**, in memory of Hal Levine's son, Steven, may his memory bring you many blessings.

## **Music Fund**

**Nancy Cohen**, in celebration of Barbara Kauder's milestone birthday.

**Mark & Barbara Edinberg**, in memory of Henry J. Thrower, father of Sherrie Glass.

**Milton Jacoby**, in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

**Margo Schiff**, in memory of Steven Levine, son of Harold Levine.

**William & Caren Schwartz**, in memory of Sherrie Glass's father, Henry J. Thrower.

**Ellen Sheiman**, wishes to Linda Koski for a year of the very best of health; with thanks to Cantor Harris for the honor of chanting.

## **Enhancement Fund**

**Barbara Berkowitz**, in loving memory of my dad, Irving Toss.

**Michael & Joni Greenspan**, in memory of my mother Anna Levowich on her yearzeit.

**Bernie & Jan Jacobs**, in memory of Jen Savader, sister of Jed Duguid.

**William & Caren Schwartz**, in remembrance of Steven Levine, son of Hal Levine; in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

## **Bonim Preschool Enrichment Fund**

**Ken & Lori Berger**, to Joanne & Neil Lippman and Carly & Caleb Engelbourg on the birth of their granddaughter & daughter, Eva Scarlett.

**Terry Kalfus**, in celebration of Adele Josovitz's birthday!

**Bruce & Stacey Kaplan**, in loving memory of Richard Sher, brother of Gail Weinstein.

**Neil & Joanne Lippman**, Mazel tov in celebration of the birth of Brody Bacon, son of Rebecca Siegel Bacon & Alex Bacon, grandson of Mindy & Jeff Siegel & nephew of Jaclyn & Asher Epstein.

## **Slepian Floral Fund**

**Robert & Susan Rosenblitt**, in loving

memory of beloved parents Harry & Sylvia Weintraub & niece Ann Migler; will love you forever.

## **Religious School Enrichment Fund**

**Erica Cohen**, in appreciation of Kehilah and the Women's Seder.

**Benjamin Mack & Jeni Cook-Mack**, in memory of the yearzeit of Esther Mack.

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

**Susan Bauchner**, in loving memory of my sister, Ellen Kaplan Gittleman.

**Mark & Barbara Edinberg**, in celebration of the birth of Shea Posner Lamont, granddaughter of Beth & Jordan Posner.

**Sherry Fogel**, mazel tov to Debbie Goodman and David Abbey on the birth of their precious grandchild, Noa.

**Dennis & Jan Magid**, wishing a speedy recovery to Louise Bobrow, in memory of Steven Levine, son of Hal Levine; in loving memory of Harvey Blomberg, husband of Susan Blomberg.

**Mark & Liz Nigrosh**, mazel tov to Mary-Megan Marshall on becoming bat mitzvah, chanting beautifully, and giving a meaningful d'var Torah.

**Jeffrey & Amy Pressman**, in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

**Steve & Yvonne Zeisler**, in memory of Rabbi Arnold Sher.

## **Lee & David Lester Keshet Fund**

**Howard Weisman & Nina Silberman**, in memory of Steven Levine, son of Hal Levine.

## **Keshet Project**

**Joseph & Louise Bobrow**, in honor of Hal Levine's birthday; in memory of Steven Levine.

**Rhea Farbman**, in memory of my mother, Bella Guzik; in memory of Hal Levine's son, Steven Levine.

**Mark & Liz Nigrosh**, to support the Keshet community.

**Jodi Simons**, in honor of Rhea's dedication and kindness.

**Claudia Wolen**, in memory of Steven Levine, my heart goes out to Hal Levine & Marj Freeman.

*Continued on page 9*



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## JUNE DONATIONS

(CONTINUED)

### **The George Markley Chesed Fund**

**Mark & Barbara Edinberg**, in memory of Steven Levine, son of Harold Levine.

**Eric & Ruth Gross**, in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

**Marilyn Weinstein**, in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

### **Gillette Judaic Enrichment Fund**

**Kenneth & Karen Ferleger**, in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

### **Yakhani Caring Fund**

**Jack Kadden**, in memory of Sydelle Schlesinger, mother of Amy Rich.

**Richard & Rebecca Rosen**, in memory of Steven Levine, son of Hal Levine.

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## KESHER CORNER

The Keshet Project is moving along. Twenty-seven years ago, when I first became involved with this amazing group of people, we were kind of invisible. Most of the time others would not know our names or what our group was called. It's because of Keshet Corner and our loving congregation that we have a home. We feel very comfortable and welcome here.

With our drama club activities, we are always learning something new. What I really love are the improv exercises. I was surprised at our last in-person event when Danny secretly told me he made a gift for our volunteer, Dylan. He began walking over to her to tell about it, and I said, "Ask Dylan to join you up front and do an improv for all of us." It was perfect. Danny hid the gift, a lovely card that he

made for her, and standing arms akimbo, he said in a playful tone, "I have a gift for you." Dylan answered, "What is it?" Danny wouldn't tell her. He gave her clues and they had a fun conversation until she finally asked, "Is it a paper that's hidden behind the table?" Danny was laughing, and in his inimitable voice said, "Yes it is." Dylan opened the card and read it to us. We all clapped. This was empowering for all of us because we understood that the games we play help us to continue learning.

My daughter Michele works with us. She does all the graphics, song sheets, food and art activities, and creates the fun videos you see on Facebook, Instagram, and now Youtube.

She created a YouTube channel called Keshet Drama Club. Please visit it and subscribe. It helps to have subscribers because when you reach a certain number, the channel can show ads, and this could bring us ongoing revenue. Visit the link below to become a subscriber.

<https://youtube.com/@keshetdramaclub?si=j-bPsy9Y7-4OqzPR>

Thank you for your continuing smiles and encouragement. It means so much.

I look forward to any questions or suggestions you might have. Please contact me at:

[keshetdramaclub@gmail.com](mailto:keshetdramaclub@gmail.com) or  
[rheasmusic@icloud.com](mailto:rheasmusic@icloud.com).

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## UPDATE ON COMPOSTING AT B'NAI ISRAEL

The Ecojustice Team is proud to report that during the past year's composting pilot, B'nai Israel diverted approximately 1,500 pounds of food waste, the equivalent of 1,500 miles not driven by cars in terms of greenhouse gas reduction. The 5-gallon compost buckets are being filled during pizza Wednesdays at Bonim and Shabbat onegs, as well as some larger events. In the upcoming year, we are excited to further reduce our waste by piloting the use of compostable cups, plates, and utensils at events where it is not possible to use real service ware.

Composting is very beneficial for the environment as it addresses both the waste crisis and the climate crisis simultaneously. CT is currently in a waste crisis, and we are running out of places to

put our trash. Locally, trash is incinerated at the Wheelabrator plant in Bridgeport, which emits pollutants into the air we breathe. In other locations, food waste goes into landfills and, when it degrades, generates methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. Food waste is estimated to contribute to 8% of greenhouse emissions globally. In households, it's estimated that about 30% of waste is food that could be diverted through composting and made into nutrient-rich soil, which could then be used to grow more food.

We are excited to announce that we are partnering with our current curbside composting vendor, Action Waste, a local Fairfield company, to help support composting at B'nai Israel. For every B'nai Israel member household that signs

up to try residential curbside composting, Action Waste will provide a credit to the temple's account in addition to giving you your first month of service free. You may access the promotion with the QR code below.

Once you've signed up, please email Michelle Serlin, Ecojustice Team chair at [mserlin@mac.com](mailto:mserlin@mac.com) to help us track how many families have signed up. Please feel free to email with any questions.



Fairfield residents may also drop food waste off in the compost bins at the transfer station for free.

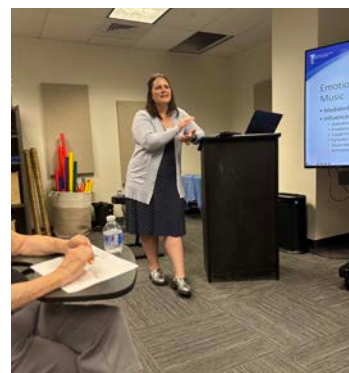


**The Mental Health Awareness Team  
Presents:**  
**Film: *Orchestrating Change***  
**Date: Tuesday June 24, 2025**  
**Time: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Place: Social Hall at B'nai Israel**

In an effort to fight stigma of mental illness, the B'nai Israel Mental Health Awareness Team is hosting the film *Orchestrating Change*, an inspiring documentary about a professional orchestra whose founder and majority of members have a psychiatric diagnosis as part of the B'nai Israel Tikkun Olam Summer Film Series. Founder and conductor Ronald Braunstein is Jewish. After the film, the filmmaker, Margie Friedman, will join us from California via Zoom. Margie is an Emmy winning producer, director, and writer with family ties to the Greater Bridgeport Jewish community, including B'nai Israel. Margie was born at Bridgeport Hospital. Her mother, Steffi Friedman, a Holocaust survivor, is a sculptor. Her sculptures can be found at Mozaic Senior Life in Bridgeport and Temple Israel in Westport. Margie's father, Al Friedman, was born and raised in Bridgeport and attended B'nai Israel. Come join us to view this inspirational and educational film and speak with the filmmaker. Free light refreshments provided. Fight stigma!

## MENTAL HEALTH TRIP

The Mental Health Awareness Team went to Southern Connecticut State University on Saturday, May 3, for a Music Therapy Experience led by Associate Professor Heather Wagner. It was a great trip!



## SHULCLOUD

### DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR SHULCLOUD PAYMENT PLANS

It is time to update your annual payment plans in ShulCloud.

The online portal enables B'nai Israel congregants to more easily view balances, pay for annual contributions and other account charges, set up automatic recurring payments, make donations, and view family yahrzeits.

Your ShulCloud username and password remain the same, but you must update your automatic payments schedule.

ShulCloud lets you tailor your payment schedule, be it a one-time full payment, monthly payments, every other month,

and so on. ***Remember that you must pay at least 25 percent of your annual contribution up front to be eligible for High Holy Days services tickets.***

ShulCloud also lets you combine your annual contribution with other services, such as the security fee, Kehilah, and Bonim. While most payments can be spread monthly into June, Bonim payments must be completed by May.

ShulCloud makes the process easier for you and B'nai Israel:

- You can choose to pay via ACH (Automated Clearing House)

directly from your bank account. (B'nai Israel incurs a processing fee for every credit card payment.)

- If you pay by credit card, you can opt to cover the processing fee when you set up your payment schedule.
- The instructions for setting up each form of payment can be found on ShulCloud, which you can access via the Member Login tab atop the homepage at [www.cbibpt.org](http://www.cbibpt.org).

## BULLETIN GOES DIGITAL FROM PAGE 1

Most of the bulletin's information already reaches our congregants via the website, the Hashavua email newsletter, or email announcements. They remain the best channels for up-to-date announcements and event information. Digital delivery will help steer the bulletin toward more community stories, such as expanded coverage of Board of Trustees decisions and noteworthy accomplishments of congregants and alumni.

The shift also fits into a wider strategy for B'nai Israel.

"We continue to strive to transform our website into a more comprehensive and timely platform," Scott Smith said. "We also are working to develop a temple podcast and YouTube channel."

You can direct questions or ideas about the temple's communications efforts, including the bulletin, to Scott Smith at [ssmith@cbibpt.org](mailto:ssmith@cbibpt.org).



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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.



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Douglas R. Brown  
Marcia Cohen  
Mark A. Kirsch  
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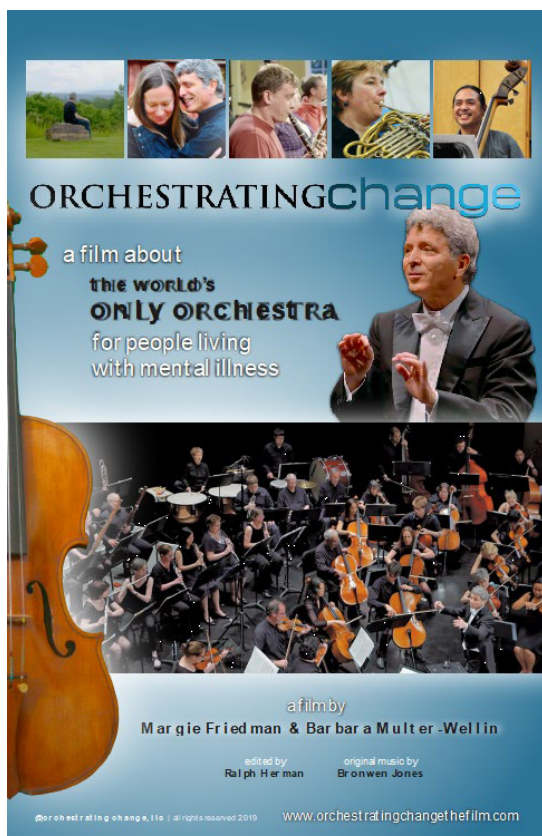
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## 2025 Tikkun Olam Summer Film Series

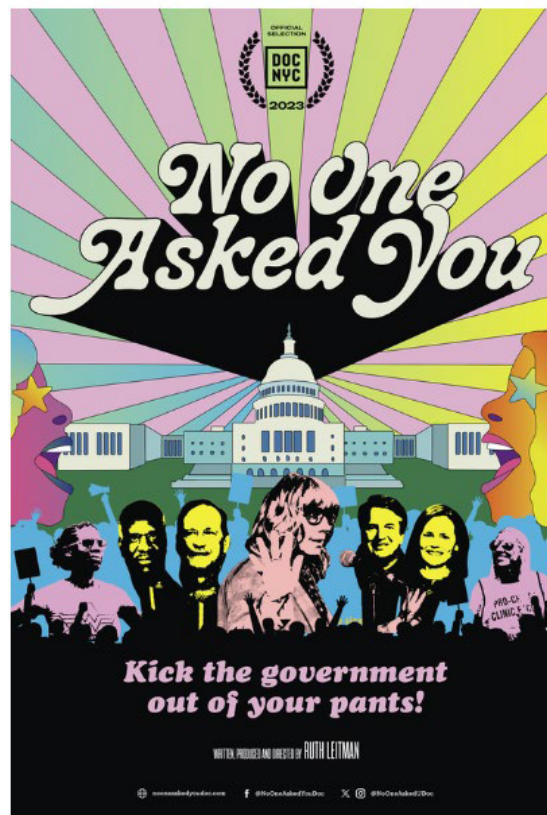
All films will be screened in the B'nai Israel Social Hall on Tuesday evenings with snacks. See Hashavua for further details and any schedule changes.



**Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

*Orchestrating Change*

with Marjorie Friedman, film director  
Hosted by the Mental Health Team



**Tuesday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

*No One Asked You*

with Ruth Leitman, film director  
Hosted by the Reproductive Justice Team



**Tuesday July 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

*The Fiery History of Banned Books*  
and *To Be Destroyed*

with Kevin Staton, Fairfield Librarian and Baptist Minister  
Hosted by CONECT on Banned Books





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Join us to support the innocent civilians and families being held in Gaza. We meet each week at the Fairfield Theater Company, (FTC), located on the northbound side of the Fairfield Train Station at 70 Sanford Street. Kids and dogs welcome.

If you have signs, feel free to bring them, too!