

TEMPLE



TOPICS

CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5780

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

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The Miracle of Chanukah

The conundrum this year is whether or when we should give gifts.

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...from *S'lichot* through Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Sukkot, the season of our great rejoicing, and Simchat Torah, our dancing-in-the-aisles service which lifts high everyone... a massive effort every year which, in truth, is a year-round process - from review, feedback and reflection...

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On Being an Ambassador

Membership engagement is **paramount** to the ongoing success of BHSS.

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Educator's Message

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast

You often hear people complain that once the July 4th decorations go out of the stores, Halloween displays appear. Cheerful turkey decorations overlap with that, and Christmas-themed catalogs are already in the mail as I write.

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THINGS TO DO:

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Torah Study

Thank Goodness It's Shabbat

Congregational Israel Trip Informational meeting

Tot Shabbat

Thought for Food w/Rabbi Ilana

Chanukah Party

Dare Toy Drive

Community Menorah Lighting

Fiddler on the Roof, BHSS style!

Shabbat Chanukah Service

*Join old friends
and new at the
Eternal Lights
Dinner
by RSVP*



President's Message

Judy Teich

On Being an Ambassador

I hope your New Year got off to a wonderful and sweet start and that the holidays were meaningful for you

and your family and that sweetness will carry you throughout the year.

Standing on the *bima* in front of the congregation to speak on the High Holy Days can be intimidating and exhilarating experience. I want to thank this year's speakers for accepting my invitation and sharing their stories. Thank you to Gary Buchalter for stepping out of your comfort zone, Aldine Rostolder for speaking about your triumphant comeback, Danny Hyman for sharing your leadership style, and Michelle and Adam Gilbert for relating your BHSS history and what it has meant to you. Your stories were inspirational, heartfelt and real. You are true leaders.

In my last *Temple Topics* I wrote about my first leadership experience and asked about yours. I also mentioned leadership in my High Holiday speech, emphasizing the importance of developing new leaders; if you have commitment and enthusiasm, you can be a leader. Where do we start?

For the last several months the board has focused on the role that each congregational leader has but often does not think about: being an ambassador. We have considered the following responsibilities - being a spokesperson for BHSS, publicly supporting the leaders of the congregation, participating regularly in congregational events, building relationships with each other and congregants and, last but certainly not least, recruiting new members and leaders to the congregation.

I am very excited that Lauren Theodore and Michelle Gilbert accepted the invitation to co-chair the Membership

Committee. They are already off to a quick start building a cohesive team.

As you read this, the committee is at work - strengthening our practice of making personal connections among staff, leadership, current members and new members and solidifying those connections so that more people feel more bonds. Then you, our members, are encouraged and mentored to be ambassadors, active members, and leaders yourselves.

Membership engagement is **paramount** to the ongoing success of BHSS.

There are many different ways for you to get involved at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom to help with membership engagement and other leadership positions that do NOT require standing up on the High Holy Days making remarks to 700 people. If you are comfortable just making social phone calls, or having a few folks over for coffee and cake... let us know.

Reach out to either of our co-chairs, Lauren at laurenstheodore@gmail.com or Michelle at mich319@hotmail.com, or me at judy.teich@gmail.com.

We'll be happy to find a spot for you!



The Miracle of Chanukah

Holidays are a wonderful time to connect to our Judaism, our congregation, and our community. Over the past few months, we have seen BHSS shine brightly - from the Ritual Committee and all their hard work on the High Holidays to the choir leading us in song, from all those who lead and read - to our most recent students heading the way in Simchat Torah, reminding us how much joy there is in beginning our Jewish studies. Our next opportunity to celebrate will be Chanukah—BHSS will bask in the glow of 100 menorahs on the Friday night of Chanukah...it's unlike anything else.

Many of us celebrate with our families. There are, of course, pervasive questions around this time of year; one is the question of presents. My family didn't give gifts at Chanukah for a few reasons:

- 1) We have enough stuff! None of us needed anything. Certainly not another toy or sweater.
- 2) Our daughter was too young to expect gifts. This year at 2 ½ she may understand that there are gift-giving occasions, but last year she didn't. As parents we don't want her to think there are times when she is entitled to get gifts.
- 3) If it's the thought that counts, we let each other know how much we care about each other a lot. We have tickle-times, snuggles, and kissy-monsters. Gifts really can't compete.
- 4) We made a point to light candles every night. Being together when work and food and schedules are competing for attention was special. Our daughter loved lighting the candles and singing. Helping her put the candles in the *chanukiah*, teaching her the blessings, and then seeing the flames reflected in her eyes was amazing.

Rabbi's Reflections

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman



The conundrum this year is whether or when we should give gifts. I could make all the same arguments for why we don't need to give gifts...well, minus the awareness of our daughter. She loves presents and surprises. I would love for the candles, prayer, song, and togetherness to be enough. Maybe I'm being too idealistic to think that we can avoid the reach of consumerism or of transaction being the measure of a holiday or of a family's affection. Maybe we could do gifts on the first and last nights. In between we could appreciate the candles, cook together, and read a Chanukah book or two.

In the past, before I had a child, I warmed to the idea of the Fifth Night. In many communities there are events that encourage charitable giving on the Fifth Night of Chanukah not only to quell the consumerist urge but also to help those who are in need. We've started working with our daughter already on the idea that she can give as well as receive; "Remember when your cousin was so wonderful to give you toys and clothes. Are there things that you are ready to give to a different baby?" To our delight, she was quick to fill up a box with toys that were too young for her. And after a year of Tot Shabbat, her first instinct upon seeing a quarter is to find a tzedakah box. Chanukah could be another opportunity to give—to think of others instead of the "me-focused" gaze.

Holidays are good. Holidays with community are good. Gifts are good too. But miracles are when you see the lessons you mean to impart reflected in the actions of those you love, and when they re-instill in you idealism and hope. Giving may be about the recipients, but for me it's also about realizing that there is someone watching and learning how to interact with the world.



From the Educator's Office

Rebecca McVeigh

You often hear people complain that once the July 4th decorations go out of the stores, Halloween displays appear. Cheerful turkey decorations overlap with that, and Christmas-themed catalogs are already in the mail as I write. I don't usually pay attention to the ongoing premature holiday hoopla, except to enjoy the funny posts of my friends on social media.

However, last week my spell checker suggested that I really meant "Chanukah" when I typed in "Sukkot." Once I got over the fact that my mail program actually knew both of those words, I was righteously indignant for the (highly unlikely) implications of the suggestion – that Sukkot really was just an excuse to get us to the "most important" holiday, that is, Chanukah.

First of all, Sukkot, which ended with our joyous Simchat Torah celebration on October 20, provides a feast for the senses – the smell of the etrog, the feel of the lulav in your hands and the "swish" sounds it makes as you wave it around, the sight of children coloring decorations (and themselves) with markers and waiting with expectant faces as you hang their creation up high for everyone to see. And at BHSS we have Pizza in the Hut, hosted by our Brotherhood, so a tasty bite al fresco!

While Simchat Torah promises new students excited to receive their small scrolls, dancing with the five Torahs that our congregation is blessed to have, a band, singers, and generally unfettered joy bordering on frenzy, it lasts one night. Sukkot lasts a week, giving all of us time to enjoy it at our own pace. It provides a chance to re-center ourselves after all of the introspection of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The weather may or may not be cooperative to dwelling in a temporary structure without a solid roof, bringing home the changing of the season into fall. It is a holiday to be savored.

Chanukah is indeed coming, eventually, and I do think it is important. It is, like Sukkot, a feast for the senses – the light

*Slow Down,
You Move Too Fast*

of the candles, the taste of a jelly donut and a properly crispy latke, the sounds of the blessings, repeated every night and quickly learned by our children, the aromas of special foods and even that certain scent of the smoke as the last candle goes out for the night. We take the dreidel in our hands and try and fail and try again to spin, right side up or, if you're really good, upside down. Chanukah is perhaps the first holiday we might remember as children, and, for me at least, it only gets more meaningful as days go by and I have a deeper appreciation of the rhythm of the seasons, the beauty of the light, and the importance of each holiday, each moment, in its own time.

My family and I wish you a beautiful holiday season, full of gratitude and light.

- Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh, Director of Education



*What's even more fun than family services?
Wearing your pajamas to family services!*

Join us, young and young-at-heart, as we all wear our pjs to services on December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

*And stay for our annual milk & cookie oneg after.
Browse the book fair in your pjs with a cookie in your hand!*



November Birthdays

Zachary Asher Aarons

Alexandra Barbach

Remi Begleiter

Jacob Berin

Hailey Berwitz

Jenna Bofford

Avery Braunstein

Jane Grossman

Reid Grossman

Jordana Harris

Dylan Hyman

Rachel Kissin

Danielle Kissin

Leila Kotz

Scooter Kraft

Elle Lieberman

Jayden Luftman

Eliana Panoff

Alex Popowitz

Alex Roberts

Alex Schnellwar

Ethan Schwartz

Benjamin Shamosh

Audrey Silverman

Alexander Somberg

Annabel Theodore

Cantor's Corner

High Holy Day Reflections

David Perper



Friends, thank you for a beautiful and prayerful High Holy Day season, from *S'lichot* through Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Sukkot, the season of our great rejoicing, and Simchat Torah, our dancing-in-the-aisles service which lifts high everyone, celebrating the Torah, with the band and choir members and the Torah unrolled. Love it! It's a massive effort every year which, in truth, is a year-round process - from review, feedback and reflection of process and prayer. From every BHSS member to all the staff and clergy, with wonderful team mates, an all-star team, leading and growing our house of friends, singing our song of peace.

Here's my expression of gratitude - Thank you to the choir and pianist Itay Goren, Rabbi Ilana, Rebecca McVeigh, Iris and Lisa, Roberto, and each member of our security team. All the Torah and Haftarah presenters, for their time and memory :) All of our speakers' remarks were very meaningful. I would like to add that it is for this season, and every Shabbat, as well as other special events that I have a voice lesson every week, throughout the year - to ensure that I can offer the very highest level of music, both choral and cantorial, and congregational singing too.

This is perhaps the most rewarding part, leading us all, and watch all of us sing with one voice. One voice for peace and harmony, for a better world.

On a more personal note, I've been working out! Tennis, walking, cardio, strength. Two years in a row I had back problems before and during the High Holidays. So, I started, a little each day. My vessel is a temple, which needs a bit of paint, structural work, you know. Prayer, hope and faith can keep me buoyant, but taking action, moves me forward, positively. I feel the benefits through my day. I feel the goodness when I pray.

I am very fortunate to be a part of this special community. On behalf of my wife Faith and me, thank you and Shanah Tovah.

EVENT CALENDAR

* **Concert of Gratitude and Praise** – Sunday, December 8 at 4 p.m. in our sanctuary, with cantors and choirs from surrounding communities. Come together to sing and express our sacred hopes and prayers in song, JOIN US!

* **Fiddler on the Roof** – December 25 at 7 p.m. SING-A-LONG KARAOKE STYLE ON THE BIG SCREEN:) With Chinese food.

* **Shabbat Chanukah** – Friday, December 27 at 7:30 p.m.

2019/2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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| | | |
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December Birthdays

Jacob Berwitz

Jillian Bruckner

Benjamin Chais

Benjamin Grossman

Lillian Ikin

Carly Kiernan

Morgan Koppelman

Julia Mandler

Benjamin Marder

Jake Schlosser

Sophie Smith

Candlelighting times:

November 1- Noach 5:34 pm
 November 8- Lech L'cha 4:26 pm
 November 15- Vayera 4:19 pm
 November 22- Chayei Sarah 4:14 pm
 November 29- Tol'dot 4:11 pm

December 6,- Vayitzei 4:10 pm
 December 13- Vayishlach 4:10 pm
 December 20- Vayeishev 4:13 pm
 December 27- Miketz 4:17 pm



November Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday 1 | Saturday 2 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 6:30 pm TGIS Thank Goodness It's Shabbat! Family Service | Noach 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Annabel Theodore |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9 am FS & 6th 11:30 am Group Class 1 pm Clean, Pray, Learn! | 4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah | No School 7:30 pm Ritual Mtg | 7 pm Membership Mtg 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 7:30 pm Tefilot | Lech L'cha 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Scooter Kraft |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| No School | No School 7:30 pm Israel Trip Info Meeting | 4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm MMG mtg 7:30 pm Exec. Comm. | 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Tefilot | Vayeira 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Benjamin Goldstein |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9 am FS & 6th 1 pm JYG Tie Dye 3:30 pm Menschmakers Event | 4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah | 4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm Board Mtg | 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Thought for Food | | 7:30 pm Tefilot | Chayei Sarah 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Alex & Zachary Schnelwar |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 9 am FS & 6th 11:30 am Group Class 1 pm Book & A Bagel | 4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah | No School 7:30 pm Music Comm | | Office Closed | Office Closed 7:30 pm Tefilot Welcome Home College Students | Tol'dot 9 am Torah Study |

December Calendar

| Sunday 1 | Monday 2 | Tuesday 3 | Wednesday 4 | Thursday 5 | Friday 6 | Saturday 7 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No School 1 pm SYG Comm. Svce. Event | 4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah | 4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm Ritual Comm. | 7 pm Membership Mtg 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 6:30 pm TGIS Thank Goodness It's Shabbat! Family Service PJ Shabbat/Milk & Cookie Oneg Book Fair Browse | Vayeitzei 8:15 am Torah Study 10 am Leah Behar 4:30 pm Menschmakers Event |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 8:30 am - 1 pm Book Fair 9 am FS & 6th 11:30 am Group Class JYG @ the Movies 4 pm Choir Concert | 3:30 - 8:30 pm Book Fair 4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah | 3:30 - 7 pm Book Fair 4 pm School 4/5 6:30 pm Group Class 7:30 pm Music Comm. & MMG | 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 7:30 pm Tefilot | Vayishlach 9 am Torah Study 7 pm Brotherhood & Sisterhood Chanukah Party |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 9 am FS & 6th 1 pm K/1/2 Chanukah Craft | 4 pm School K-3 6:45 pm Kadimah | 4 pm School 4/5 7:30 pm Board Mtg | 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Thought for Food | 7:30 pm B'hood Chanukah Off- site | 5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Tefilot | Vayeishev 9 am Torah Study |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| No School | No School | No School | 7 pm <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> Sing-a- long with Chinese Food | | 7:30 pm Tefilot Shabbat Chanukah | Miketz 9 am Torah Study |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| No School | No School | No School | | | | |

...will be called to the Torah...



Annabel Theodore – November 2, 2019

Lives in Suffern, New York. Mother, Lauren, Father, Jonathan is an 8th grader at Suffern Middle School Her interests include playing ukulele, softball, reading, and she loves animals. "I'm excited for it to finally be here and to see all my hard work pay off. For my community service I collected and helped sort school supplies for kids in need of them."



Scooter Kraft – November 9, 2019

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Jen, Father, Matt, Brother, Gus, 15 is a 7th grader at Cavallini Middle School His interests include basketball, football, TV, movies, and hanging out with friends and family. "I would like to find a job I like and excel at it. I am excited to see my hard work pay off. I am volunteering for two sports leagues for kids with special needs and donating sports equipment to people in need."



Benjamin Goldstein – November 16, 2019

Lives in Suffern, New York. Mother, Deena, Father, Scott, Sisters, Allie, 18, and Sydney, 16.....is a 7th grader at Suffern Middle School His interests include reading books, watching movies, building with Legos, acting, and playing tennis. "I would like to be an actor when I grow up. I am very excited to become a bar mitzvah and celebrate with my family and friends. For my community service I prepared and gave out food at a local soup kitchen."



Alex Schmelwar – November 23, 2019

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Elissa, Father, Neil, Brother, Zachary, 15 is a 7th grader at Fusion Academy..... His interests include basketball, golf, building, and skiing. "When I grow up I'd like to be a salesman. I'm excited to show how hard I worked. I go to an assisted living facility to make people happy, by playing games with them and cutting flowers."



Zachary Schmelwar – November 23, 2019

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Elissa, Father, Neil, Brother, Alex, 12 is a 9th grader at Fusion Academy His interests include video games, skiing, mini-golf, and amusement parks. "When I grow up I'd like to be a veterinarian. I am very excited for this special occasion. I volunteer at an assisted living facility, playing Uno and helping with flowers."



Zachary Freeman –

November 25, 2019 in Israel

Lives in Montebello, New York. Mother, Nicky, Father, Eric, sister, Emma, 16 is an 8th grader at Suffern Middle School His interests include hockey, Lacrosse, cars, and YouTube. "I want to work hard at school and hockey and travel a lot. I'm excited to have my bar mitzvah in Israel and share it with my parents, sister, grandparents and other close relatives. I'm also looking forward to touring and seeing the country."



Leah Behar –

December 7, 2019

Lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Mother, Jill, Father, Adam, Brother, Eli, 15 is a 7th grader at Woodcliff Middle School Her main interest is dance. "I would like to be an author. I'm super excited to further pursue my Jewish learning. I am collecting gently used dance costumes and donating them to a non-profit called 'Donate-2-Dance'. The costumes will be distributed to arts programs in need in New York City."

A Special Thanks

to those families who continue to support Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
by participating in one of the levels of sustaining membership:

B'racha is a blessing

B'racha

SYDELLE & DAVID AARONS
ELYSE VICTOR BERMAN & JOSEPH
BERMAN
ALLISON & JOSH BERWITZ
SHELLEY & GARY BETTMAN
STACY & MICHAEL DAVIS
LAUREN & ERIC EINHORN
MARILYN ISRAEL
SHERYL & JOEL IVES
MERYLE & LEN KAPLAN
CANDY & MICHAEL KASSOVER
MONA & JEFF LEFKOWITZ
CLARE & PAUL LIPSON
SHARI SLAVIN & ANDREW SCHECHTER
LINDA & DAVID SCHWARTZ
JUDY & TOM SICA
RONI & ANDREW SILVER
JEWELL & STANLEY WALDBAUM
GAIL & RANAN WICHLER
BEVERLY & HARLAN YORK
SUZANNE & JONATHAN LYNN
MELISSA VELLONE

Simcha is a joy

Simcha

ANONYMOUS
LAURIE & MARC DANIEL
FERN & LEW LOWENFELS
FRAN & JEFF ROWBOTTOM
RUTH & STUART TURNER

Tzedek means righteousness

Tzedek

ANONYMOUS
SANDY & BILL ARLINGTON
ALISON & NORMAN AXELROD
SHEILA & LARRY GROSKIN
DANA & PETER HOPPER
DEBORAH & JEFF KLEIN
ARLENE & RICH MANDEL
PHIL MOSS
ROBBY & EDDIE SAIFF
MARCI & HARVEY WEINBERG

Refer a Friend or Family Program

Help us grow our community and share all that BHSS has to offer by referring a friend or family to join our synagogue. Here's how:

How it works:

- For each family/friend referral, the referring member will receive a \$360 dues credit.
- In order to refer a family, please contact Iris Greenberg or Lisa Barrack in the office with the friend/family you are referring.
- If the family joins within 6 months of referral, you are eligible for the credit.
- The credit will be issued in the form of a check which will be distributed during the month of December of the current year.

FAQs:

What if multiple members refer the same friend/family?

If this occurs, the credit may be split between a maximum of two referring families.

What if I don't want the dues credit for the referral?

We ask that you accept the credit and then donate it back to the synagogue to an area that is meaningful to you.

Can I refer someone who has previously attended synagogue events?

Yes! However, the spirit of the program is for new introductions.

If the prospective member is already a part of our formal weekly mailing list, this will not be considered an introduction.



PLEASE JOIN OUR COMMUNITY IN CLEAN, PRAY, LEARN

Sunday November 3rd

1 - 4 PM

Appropriate for the WHOLE family
Community Service hours available



Clean: We will be caring for the grounds of our amazing facility. Please wear gloves, long pants and sleeves.

Pray: Rabbi Schwartzman will inspire us to care for our marvelous campus.

Learn: We will hear from the Mahwah Museum about the fascinating history of our sacred grounds. Refreshments served.

Ritual Committee

With the High Holidays behind us and Chanukah approaching, like many of you, I am counting my blessings. In particular, I am profoundly grateful for my loving and ever-expanding family, my supportive and fun friends, and our wonderful BHSS community.

Each September, each member of the Board of Trustees has the opportunity to reach out to a dozen or so congregants to extend holiday greetings on behalf of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. Sometimes, we leave voicemail messages, hoping that the recipient actually takes the time to listen and know that we care. Other times, we see the name of someone with whom we haven't spoken in years, and it feels good to have a reason to reach out and reconnect. And sometimes, a call sparks a connection with someone new.

This year, I had that experience, and it made me smile. I made a phone call to someone whose name I did not recognize, and through our brief conversation we learned that we grew up in neighboring towns, attended Conservative synagogues, and had some similar experiences with the changes that happen in families as our children grow up and our parents age. While we were on the phone, I asked if she was on Facebook and I looked her up and realized that she did, in fact, look familiar. It was a ten minute conversation, and my experience was that in that moment, we got to build community. I hope that this new "friend" decides to lean in to the many opportunities for empty nesters here at BHSS, and that she renews her connections with our congregation in the months and years to come. And I will look for an opportunity to reach out personally and invite her to one of the many events that happen here at BHSS.

It's really that simple. We, the members of BHSS, get to build connections and create community one conversation at a time. I invite you to do the same!

I want to take this opportunity to thank my amazing co-chair, Michelle Sherry, and every single member of the ritual committee and staff, for all your hard work in supporting our community through another High Holiday season at BHSS. Heartfelt thanks to Amy Littman, Bob Meyers, Gary Silver, Harris Reinstein, Jane Simon, Jane Young, Jen Cole, Judy Teich, Linda Vogel, Lisa Lamster, Michelle Sherry, Marilyn Taylor, Melissa Cooper, Nancy Levene, Sheryl Thailer and Stacey Coyne for your efforts, your leadership, your knowledge and your patience. And thanks especially to Rabbi Ilana and Cantor Perper for leading us in meaningful and inspiring worship and to Iris, Lisa, Rebecca, and Roberto, who worked tirelessly to make sure every "t" was crossed and every "i" was dotted.

Be sure to check out our worship calendar on the BHSS website...and don't forget to join us for Shabbat Chanukah on Friday, December 27! Once again, we will be collecting oil for the Center for Food Action.

The Ritual Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We would love to see you there!

Debbie Royal
Ritual Co-Chair

Education Committee



It's almost Chanukah! And what better gifts than books from our own Scholastic Book Fair?! The **Book Fair will be coming to BHSS December 6-10** and will carry your favorite bestsellers as well as great Jewish children's books and cookbooks! Watch for more info as it approaches!

Lauren Einhorn, Chair

Sisterhood News

Sisterhood is off to a great start again this year! We hope you were able to join us at our kickoff event, where we explored Reform Judaism's views on reproductive freedom. Not only did we have an engaging speaker and an important topic, we had the chance to catch up on all of our summer adventures and plan for the New Year!

Yoga in the Sukkah fell victim to the Nor'easter in October—but don't worry, we'll make it up to you, we promise! Next up on Sisterhood's November calendar was a celebration of one hundred years of women's suffrage, and how voting by women has changed the past and can change the future of the United States. Sisterhood will be conducting a year-long voter registration drive in our Bergen and Rockland communities. Do you have a high school senior, or a college student who hasn't registered yet? See a Sisterhood member, and help your teen make a difference!

It's almost time for our can't-miss-it Chanukah party on December 14. We promise you a great evening, with live music by Vintage Souls, featuring our own Jane Koch! Stay tuned to your emails and watch for the flyers. Sign up fast; it's always a sellout.

Coming this spring: your chance to support Sisterhood and the work we do for BHSS, and to check one musical event off your bucket list. On the heels of our fabulously successful *Hamilton* raffle last year, Sisterhood is giving you the chance to win two tickets to Elton John's *Farewell Yellow Brick Road* tour on April 11, 2020 at Barclay's Center. A \$36 ticket buys your chance, and you know this one's going to sell out, too! See Mona Lefkowitz for details.

Did you know that every Sisterhood event includes a social action component? We ask our members to bring donation items along, and support the Center for Safety and Change, as well as local food banks and shelters. Helping out while having fun is something we're good at!

Sending you and yours all the bright lights and warm wishes of the Chanukah season, and reminding you that Sisterhood is always looking to add to the family - all we need is you!

Mona Lefkowitz and Linda Vogel

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee would like to extend our thanks to all those who cooked, baked, drove, called, and just plain cared during these last several months. The recipients of your efforts and generosity are always overwhelmed and touched. They know that for whatever time you gave them, they were in your thoughts and prayers.

To all those on the receiving end of kindness, if you are able to "pay it forward" we are always happy to welcome you to the Caring Committee family. You can then know the feeling of giving to our Beth Haverim Shir Shalom congregants.

The summer and the nice weather is coming; however the Caring Committee doesn't take a vacation - certainly not a long vacation. We are needed year-round and encourage you to volunteer to cook meals, drive members to doctors' appointments and/or synagogue, call, or attend *shiva* services.

Please contact Candy Kassover (candy1951@optonline.net) or Laura Miller (mlctsmiller@verizon.net).

Thank you.

Candy Kassover, Co-chair, Caring Committee
Laura Miller, Co-chair, Caring Committee

Community Garden

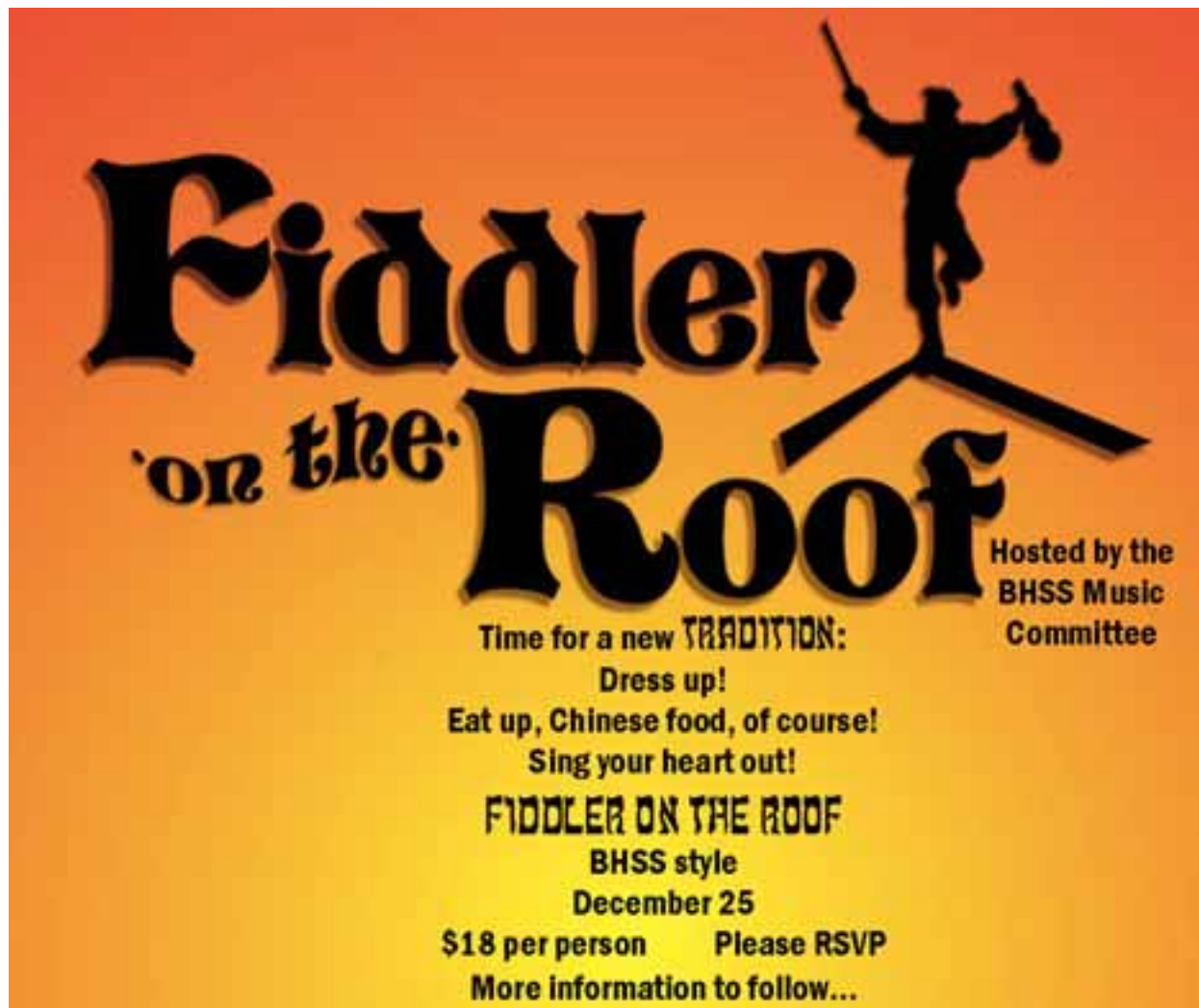
The Community Garden had a great season! With lots of water this spring and heat all summer long, we grew and donated well over 100 LBS of produce to several area collection sites!! With 12 raised beds, our gardeners produced tomatoes, squash, beans, peppers, Swiss chard, kale and other wonderful veggies! We had an issue with a groundhog - many thanks to Roberto for helping us with those pests!

This October, we planted our last crop, kale, spinach, and more chard, for harvest in early November.

Thanks again to our garden team, Lisa, Iris, Harold, Whitney, Marla, Ruth, Isabel, Kathy, Kathy, Ira, Rebecca, and Carrie!!

If anyone is interested in joining us next season, please look for our spring planning meeting announcement after the 2020 New Year!

- Jill Blum



Fiddler
on the
Roof

Hosted by the
BHSS Music
Committee

Time for a new **TRADITION:**
Dress up!
Eat up, Chinese food, of course!
Sing your heart out!

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF
BHSS style
December 25
\$18 per person Please RSVP
More information to follow...

The poster features a silhouette of a fiddler on a roof against a gradient orange background. The text is arranged in a central column, with the title 'Fiddler on the Roof' in a large, stylized font. To the right, it says 'Hosted by the BHSS Music Committee'. Below the title, there are several lines of text: 'Time for a new TRADITION:', 'Dress up!', 'Eat up, Chinese food, of course!', and 'Sing your heart out!'. At the bottom, it lists 'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF', 'BHSS style', 'December 25', '\$18 per person', 'Please RSVP', and 'More information to follow...'.

From the *Sifriyah*

By the time you receive your *Temple Topics*, 54 folks will have experienced a wonderful library-sponsored program: *Auschwitz Not long ago. Not far away.* They have returned from this groundbreaking exhibition with a better understanding of the history of Auschwitz and its role in the Holocaust as well as dealing with the reality of present-day antisemitism.

Let's fast forward to November 24 when the popular **Book and Bagel** returns. This time we will discuss *Inheritance* by author Dani Shapiro. The memoir, encompassing genealogy, paternity, and love, resonates for all ages. This genetic detective story begins when Dani Shapiro discovers by chance that the father who raised her was not her biological father. She then begins a journey to understand



Dani Shapiro

the meaning of parenthood and to understand the ethical questions surrounding fertility treatments and DNA testing.

Some books should be tasted, some devoured but only few should be chewed and digested thoroughly (Sir Francis Bacon). Clearly, *Inheritance* is one of these books. Plan to attend our November 24 Book and Bagel. The time is 1 p.m.

And a delicious light lunch adds a nice social touch to the day.

Inheritance can be read in hardcover, paperback or as an audiobook.

Join us for stories, singing, and snacks with our clergy and educator and a taste of Shabbat with your little ones!

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles with children ages birth to 5 (siblings welcome too.)
Fridays from 5:15 to 6 p.m. (see dates below)

Tot Shabbat



Join us for Tot Shabbat followed by dinner.

Friday, November 15
Youth Group pasta dinner

Friday December 20
Chicken tenders and latkes

Please RSVP to the temple office, 201-512-1983
Other dates: January 10, February 14, March 13, April 17, May 15, June 12

Youth Programming

Brittany and Aaron Punim,
Directors of Informal Youth
Programming



K-2

Our first event of the year was October 27: Movie Night. Ice cream sundaes and movie snacks were served!

Upcoming Event: December 15, 2019 – Chanukah Craft – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Menschmakers

Our Menschmakers had a great first event to the year at Maskers Apple Orchard in Warwick. It's hard to believe that in less than 30 minutes, 70 apples were picked, and that doesn't include all of the apples we ate along the way! We enjoyed fresh apple cider and made individual apple pies at the Punims. Who knew everyone would become lattice experts, as each pie looked like it could have been bought in a pie shop and it truly was a sweet event to begin the New Year. We would love to have you attend our upcoming events and hope you can join us!

- November 17, 2019 – Thanksgiving Craft – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- December 7, 2019 – Havdalah, Pizza, Secret Hanukkah Harry Gift Exchange, and Card Making – 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Junior Youth Group

We had such a fun Pajama and Board Game night on October 5 for our Junior Youth Group! Everyone brought their favorite board game and we also played hide and go seek in the dark. To top off the event, we made brownies to have with our ice cream sundaes. We hope to see you at our next events we have scheduled and we're looking forward to a great year!

- November 17, 2019 – Tie Dye Event – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- December 8, 2019 – Movie Theater – Location & Time TBA

Senior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group kicked off their year watching a football game and playing Scategories during half-time on September 22. After not seeing one another all summer, it was a great way for everyone to re-connect. The board met to plan events for the Senior Youth Group and we hope you can join us throughout the year. Our upcoming events include:

- November 15, 2019 – BHSSTY serves dinner for Tot Shabbat! – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. (*This is not dinner for the general community; it is a community service for our Tot Shabbat families.*)
- December 1, 2019 – Community Service TBA – 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.



Brotherhood

As the Jewish New Year progresses, the BHSS Brotherhood would like to share with you a few thoughts. The High Holidays is a time to reflect on this past year, and the events thereof...as well as looking inward...at our own issues, concerns and personal occurrences.

Let's face it. It's been a difficult year for many of us. As the *Mi Shebeirach* (prayer for healing) list seems to be getting longer, it becomes very important to look outside of our situations at our support system...and recognize why we joined BHSS in the first place. BHSS Brotherhood continues to be one of many groups within BHSS that offers an outlet, a support system, a network of caring individuals to offer help, solutions, or just an ear or a shoulder.

And, BHSS Brotherhood is so much more than that. While it's appreciated that our membership pays dues (and thank you!), Brotherhood really needs participation too. We invite everyone who has any curiosity or interest in our group to come out to a board meeting - help us organize a program, an event, a fundraiser, or join us for one of our co-sponsored programs with Sisterhood or our Youth Groups.

Come join us for a bike ride. Help us cook at the Purim Carnival. Come out to our annual suite at the Rockland Boulders. Come help with the annual clothing drive. There is so much more.

We are BHSS Brotherhood. Changing the world one *mitzvah* at a time.

L'Shalom

Legion of Past Presidents:

Jonathan A. Theodore

Ian Coyne

Erb Cooper

Allan Schott

Rod McVeigh, Treasurer

Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, November 14 –

Join BHSS Brotherhood for our monthly dinner at Mahwah Bar and Grill, 7:30 PM

Sunday, November 24 –

Our monthly BHSS Brotherhood Raps – Join us for breakfast at Panera, Ramsey at 10:00 AM – freeform discussion about anything you want – politics, religion, sports, education, or just about anything.

Wednesday, December 4 –

BHSS Brotherhood Board meeting: everyone is welcome, Location TBD. We will meet and have a planning session to decide on our program calendar for the rest of the year. This is a good opportunity to come out and help us plan an event or two, and take ideas from you!

Thursday, December 19 –

Our annual Chanukah Party...second year in a row at The Mason Jar, 7:30 PM. We have a grab bag. Details will follow.

Music Committee

Our next musical service celebrates the Festival of Lights! The Chanukah service is one of the highlights of the year. Seeing our sanctuary lit up with all the family menorahs while singing Chanukah songs together makes us all feel like part of that miracle. Come be part of the magic!

Movie Night is in January and Coffeehouse Cantors is in March. Any ideas for movies you'd like to see? Any ideas for charities in Israel that you'd like us to support? Email me niberger@aol.com. We are open to your suggestions.

If you are interested in joining the Adult Choir, please contact Cantor Perper. He is always looking for new voices.

Knowledge of Hebrew or music is not a requirement. Willingness to learn and dedication is. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights.

I would like to invite you to our meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Attendance to all the meetings is not a requirement; neither is musical talent. Come see what we are about. All are welcome! Do you have suggestions for what you would like to see? I'd love to hear from you!

Musically yours,
Nora Berger

Good & Welfare
from & for the congregation

Condolences

to **George Charne** on the death of his mother, Margot Charne
to **Leslie Kirzner** on the death of her uncle, David Blumenthal
to **Irma Becker** on the death of her husband, Joel Becker
to **Jayne Cohen** on the death of her husband, Mark Cohen
to **Mindy Watton** on the death of her mother, Elaine Koffler
to **Robert Eisenberg** on the death of his mother, Joyce Eisenberg
to **Ann Byne** on the death of her brother, Mark Mendelsohn

R'fuah Sh'leimah
(For a Full and Speedy Recovery)

Beth Wiesner

Mazal Tov

to **Gail & Daryl Spencer** on the engagement of their son Eddie to Sarah Mereby
to **Mona & Jeff Lefkowitz** on the marriage of their son Matthew to Marissa Schain
to **Dara & Christine Diamond** on the birth of their son Alexander Mason
to **Lia & Aaron Waitz** on the birth of their granddaughter Charlotte Aliza

Welcome New Members!

Donald Eisen, Upper Saddle River
Judy & Mark Aronson, Tenafly
Carolyn Epstein, Mahwah
Bilha Berkowitz, Suffern
Monica & Matthew Berry and family, Woodcliff Lake
Melissa Kiernan and family, Waldwick
Maryana Kanda & Alexander Blakeman, Fair Lawn
Brett & David Flanz and family, Woodcliff Lake
Cheryl & Andy Roth and family, Woodcliff Lake
Stephanie & Stephen Brandman and family, Saddle River
Jana & Steven Defrino and family, Upper Saddle River
Inna & Igor Berin and family, Upper Saddle River
Tiffany & Jonathan Cohen and family, Oakland
Rachel & Henry Kirk and family, Mahwah
Robyn & David Barron and family, Woodcliff Lake
Joie Brody-Sendroff & David Sendroff and family, Upper Saddle River



Celebrate 21 years of Eternal Lights

*More than a Synagogue
More than a school
A sacred community
From Generation to Generation*

*Please join our Rabbi, Cantor and fellow congregants
and keep our Eternal Lights burning*

Thursday, November 14, 2019

7:00p.m.- Cocktails

8:00p.m.- Dinner

The River Palm Terrace

Mahwah, NJ

*Through your generosity Eternal Lights
continues to ensure the growth of our Synagogue
benefiting all of our congregants*

*Event Chairpersons
Deborah & Jeffrey Klein*

Please reply by October 28, 2019

November Yahrzeits

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| SAMUEL AARONS | ALBERTA GREENBERG | ROSE LEFKOWITZ | PAUL SHERMAN |
| DOROTHY ADLMAN | EUGENE GREENBLATT | LINDA LENCHNER | HARVEY SHILL |
| MANUEL ANSIN | SYLVIA GREENE | ISIDORE LEVINE | HOWARD SHMARUK |
| MICHELLE APPELBAUM | DAVID HABERMAN | RENA LULOV | SELMA KLEINER SIEGEL |
| CORINNE BAUM | SYLVIA HABERMAN | JODI LYONS | NORMAN SILVER |
| SAMUEL BERGER | ALLAN HEFFLER | ROSLYN MILLMAN | SAUL STEDMAN |
| SANDY BERNSTEIN | BESSIE HIEGER | NORMAN NOVAK | ERIC STEINMAN |
| MATTIE BIALER | HARRY KADISH | SADIE NOVOK | LON STEINMAN |
| BENJAMIN BLUMENFELD | RACHEL KAPLAN | ESTHER OPPENHEIM | RAE SUESKIND |
| BEATRICE BURGHARDT | ANNA KASPER | VI PEARLMAN | ERNA TUTEUR |
| JENNIE COHEN | ANNA KASPER | SALLY RABINOVICH | INDA VAYSBURD |
| SELMA ELTERMAN | SALLY KOBRIN | SOFIA RERICH | MAX VOGEL |
| EDITH FRANK | HENRY KOLB | BETH ROTTELL | STEVEN WEIN |
| BURTON FREEMAN | ISRAEL SAMUEL KRIEGEL | DAVID RUMACK | HOWARD WEINBERG |
| DAVID GOLDFARB | RENEE KUPCHIN | SAMUEL SCHECHTER | SARAH YERUSHALMI |
| DAVID GOLDFARB | IRVING KURSMAN | NORMAN SCHLISSEL | SARA ZINN |
| SHIRLEY GRALLA | JEROME KURSMAN | MORITZ SCHOTT | MOLLIE ZUKOF |
| | RENEE KUSHER | HARRY SHAMES | |

December Yahrzeits

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ALFRED BAUM | MARILYN FRIEDMAN | HERBERT LEVY | ROSE ROYAL |
| MARVIN BENDALIN | EMANUEL GARBUS | ALEJANDRO LLIBRE | MARY RUDNICK |
| LILLIAN BERMAN | SHELDON GOLDSTEIN | RICHARD LULOV | SEYMOUR SAIFF |
| ELAINE CRAMER | FLORENCE GORDON | SHELDON LULOV | HAROLD SCHINDLER |
| BERNSTEIN | HARRY GORDON | OSCAR MAIER | STUART SIMON |
| ADAM BIALER | FRED GROSSMAN | MURRAY MARKS | LOUIS STIGLITZ |
| STEWART BIALER | ELAINE HALL | NATHAN MAYERS | SYLVIA SVETCOV |
| DONNA BLUMENTHAL | MAE HEILBRAUN | SANFORD MEYERS | ANNETTE GORDON |
| JULIUS BRESSLER | HERMAN HERSHMAN | LOUIS MILLER | WALDBAUM |
| MARVIN COMISKY | LOTHAR KAHN | PAUL MOHNBLATT | REBA WEBER |
| JOE COYNE | BILL KALMAN | MARK MOSKOWITZ | SOL WEBER |
| KURT DANIEL | JERZY KIERES | MICHAEL NANUS | JEROME WEINBERG |
| GERALD DAVID | ANN KIRSHNER | CLAIRE NOVAK | ELEANOR WEINER |
| SONIA DEMSKY | ELSIE KLEIN | ILYA PECKERMAN | MILTON WEINER |
| ABRAHAM FINKELSTEIN | BETTY KURSMAN | AARON PREMELAAR | ROSE WEINSTEIN |
| ALAN FLON | DAVID LEVINSON | CARL RICHARDSON | STANLEY WEINSTEIN |
| MILTON FLON | HOWARD LEVITT | FAYE RICHARDSON | SARAH ZALL |
| | ALICE LEVY | LEAH ROCKER | |

Contributions

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

thank you for your kindness to our friend Joyce Eisenberg -
in memory of Joyce - *Carol & Stanley Kanoff*

with thanks and appreciation for all your caring
- *the Pavon family*

in memory of Elizabeth Landau Kolman - *Sherry Levitt*

with thanks for all your caring and in memory
of my mother, Sandy Parks - *Jeff Parks*

with thanks for everything!
- *Lisa Lamster & Joel Goldfarb*

thank you for all you did for us! - *Marilyn Taylor*

with thanks and appreciation - you were a
source of comfort to me and my family - *Judy Leibowitz*

with thanks and appreciation - *Joel Goldfarb*

with thanks and appreciation - *Ann Byne & family*

in memory of Pauline Freidman - *Marilyn Daitch*

Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

with thanks and appreciation for all your caring
- *the Pavon family*

with thanks and appreciation - *the Schlissel family*

with thanks - *Fern & Lew Lowenfels*

thank you for all you did for us! - *Marilyn Taylor*

with thanks - *Joel Goldfarb*

Educator's Discretionary Fund:

with thanks for all the years of wonderful education
- *Jackie Lowenfels*

Life Fund

to Irma Becker, in memory of Joel Becker,
with heartfelt sympathy - *Jane Simon*

to Irma Becker, in memory of Joel Becker
- *Carole Goodman*

to Ms. Elizabeth Balsam, in loving memory of
Jerry, your husband and our friend - *Irma Becker*

to Jon and Lisa Reissman, in honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of Jordana Reissman - *Judy & John Neumann*

in memory of Anneliese Schott - *Sheri & Allan Schott*

in memory of Nancy Pivar - *David Schwartz*

in memory of Linda Goldfarb - *Joel Goldfarb*

in memory of William Kaplan, father of Alison Axelrod
- *Alison & Norman Axelrod*

to Marilyn Taylor-Romano, in memory of Charles Romano
- *Ilyse & Floyd Smith*

in memory of Gertrude Jeanette - *Sandi Jeanette*

in memory of Myron Greenberg
- *Marilyn Haberman & family*

in commemoration of Irv Goodman's Yahrzeit
- *Carole Goodman*

Brick Fund

in honor of Sydney Paige Levitt and Dylan Eli Levitt
- *Sherry Levitt*

Contributions

Prayer Book Dedication Fund

in honor of the marriage of Jeffrey and Amanda Schwartz
- *Judy Teich & Lois Schwartz*

in honor of the marriage of Jonathan and Alexa Teich
- *Judy Teich & Lois Schwartz*

in honor of the marriage of Kenny and Abby Teich
- *Judy Teich & Lois Schwartz*

in memory of Paul Levitt - *Sherry Levitt*

in memory of Rosalie Ojalvo - *Laurie & Marc Daniel*

Ramapo-Bergen Animal Refuge

(given by their families in honor of the following simchas)

Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Glim
B'nai Mitzvah of Hana & Jacob Hayes
Bar Mitzvah of Adam Buchalter
Bat Mitzvah of Jordana Reissman
Bar Mitzvah of Stephen Weiner
Bar Mitzvah of Jake Bugni
Bat Mitzvah of Kate Dweck

Center for food Action of Mahwah

(given by their families in honor of the following simchas)

Bar Mitzvah of Leo Wunder
B'nai Mitzvah of Hana & Jacob Hayes
Bat Mitzvah of Kate Dweck

Michelle Mitzvah Committee

“Has it really been that long?” How many times do we say that when we look back at a life event - an anniversary, a wedding, a celebration. It also, unfortunately, applies to remembering a loved one. It has been 35 years since the passing of Michelle Applebaum. Michelle was a vibrant young lady, a devoted Cowboys fan, loving sister, daughter, and friend. She died after a long battle with leukemia.

The Michelle Mitzvah Group was created in her memory to give back and to help out the community. Every community outreach program that is run through the synagogue started back with the Michelle Mitzvah Group. Visits to children's hospitals - Michelle Mitzvah started that. Clothing drives - check. Soup Kitchen - check. Food pantry donations - check. The list goes on.

The legacy continues with our commitment to helping others. As you walk into the synagogue, you notice the Center for Food Action donation baskets. Last year, Beth Haverim Shir Shalom donated over 8,000 lbs. of food. When you break it down, that is over 150 pounds. of food EACH WEEK! It breaks down to well over 20 pounds per family. Donations to the Center for Food Action are just a start. We coordinate food deliveries from Fresh Market to CFA and the Suffern Soup Kitchen as well. Every Sunday, we provide 15

meals for the Suffern Soup Kitchen. In addition, we are focusing a great deal of efforts to helping children at the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF). You will see more information throughout the year. For now, we need donations for “Birthday Bags” so children battling cancer away from home have a way to celebrate.

Please donate the following to the bins by the Religious School entrance:

- cake mix and icing
- decorations
- party favors
- wrapping paper
- toy/gift for the child
- plates and napkins
- personally, decorated card

Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to help out? Are you interested in helping our neighbors in need? Then the Michelle Mitzvah Group is for you. Let's continue Michelle's legacy and may her memory be a blessing.

For more information, please contact Steven Simon via email steveoum@verizon.net or 201 788-6755.

B'Shalom
Steven Simon
Michelle Mitzvah Group Chair

Join us for an informational meeting
Monday, November 11 at 7:30 pm



BHSS ADVENTURE IN ISRAEL

LED BY RABBI ILANA SCHWARTZMAN

AUGUST 15-25, 2020

with BHSS
2020

JUST GO.

Telling the story of Israel through Interfaith Eyes.



TOLL FREE **888-811-2812**
Search on arzaworld.com for more details



Guidelines:

No Pork, No Shellfish

Please honor the month's milk or meat designation; *parve* (neither meat nor dairy) dishes always welcome!

You only need to make one batch/recipe's worth.

Everyone will have a chance to have a taste of each recipe.

Everything needs to be prepared at home; we will not be reheating or cooking at BHSS.

Bring 20 copies of your recipe - or email to temple and we can copy for you!

November: If the Pilgrims were Jewish.... what would they have made for their Thanksgiving?

Dairy Dish Wednesday, November 20, 7:30-8:30 pm

December: The Oil Lasted 8 Days!

Bring in a fried dish or a dish that requires oil. This month we welcome your non-member friend as well to participate!

Dairy Dish Wednesday, December 18, 7:30-8:30 pm





FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1 @ URJ CAMP HARLAM
BHSS CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT 2020

ENJOYED BY SINGLES, COUPLES, FAMILIES – ALL AGES AND INTERESTS

**I GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM MY FRIENDS**

Look out for new chugs - there will be something for everyone: movement, songs, drum circle, art, food, study, games, crafting, campfire and much more!

Come for Informal Services and Inspiring Song Sessions!

Retreat Shabbat services count toward Bar/Bat Mitzvah attendance requirements.

Come for the weekend or Saturday only!

Many thanks to the BHSS Endowment for significantly underwriting the cost of the retreat! Space is limited, so sign up soon! Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Need-based, confidential assistance with retreat fees is available - contact Rabbi Ilana privately (rabbischwartzman@gmail.com.)

Let's **Come Together** for the 2020 BHSS Retreat from the evening of February 28 through Sunday morning, March 1.

Baby You Can Drive My Car or take a **Yellow Submarine** and take the **Long and Winding Road** to Camp Harlam for this **Magical Mystery** Weekend.

Don't be the **Fool on the Hill** who doesn't RSVP.

Make sure to **Get Back** to us with your RSVP.

You can reach us **Eight Days a Week**.

We will **Twist and Shout** with Rabbi and Cantor.

We hope you will join us. **ALL TOGETHER NOW!**

BHSS RETREAT REVIEWS!

The reviews are in and last year's BHSS Congregational Retreat was a success!
Join us this year...

Our family has attended the Congregation retreat many times. It is always a time to relax, reflect, and hit the reset button. I love how we split into groups—and you can really do as much or as little as you want—and then we come back together to be joined in music and worship. Each year I have met new people or deepened already existing friendships. I am not a girl who likes “roughing it”, and Camp Harlam is just that for me—the beds are minimal, the food is nothing to write home about, but the tranquility and the joy that fills my heart when I participate in services—I especially enjoy the Havdalah service, makes up for it. It is fun to see people in a different setting. And you learn about people's hidden talents too. Don't miss Jackie and Shannon's campfire and S'Mores fest! Amy Littman and her husband did a wine tasting chug that taught me a great deal about wine. There is music, movement, religion, crafts, food arts and more to choose from each year. Each year that we go, I have a special memory that I carry with me. Attending the retreat makes me feel closer to the congregation and our community. I highly recommend attending.

5 stars!!!



We didn't know what to expect when we signed up for the Retreat. Well, the experience exceeded our expectations! There were so many fun activities. We couldn't believe all the details the Retreat Committee considered when they planned this awesome weekend. Everyone made us feel comfortable and we left the weekend with an amazing sense of community. We can't recommend this Retreat enough!

The Retreat was awesome. My family and I have been coming since the very first retreat, and each year it gets better and better. This past year may have topped all the others...

The theme of Dr. Seuss was great...we all grew up with Dr. Seuss, and by bringing his themes and literature and applying it to Jewish Spirituality was genius.

The choices of Chugim were great - I always enjoy choices of musical, participatory, and creativity. The Teen Challenge, where the kids all went out into the cold and played Gaga was a great option so there is something for everyone.

I would like to see a Chug choice for creative writing, or poetry or something like that...I think we had one once...

Overall, the Retreat offers people an inexpensive opportunity to experience camp for the weekend, and to commune with your fellow congregants. Looking forward to more and more...

It was great!

Attending BHSS retreat helped me gain valuable insight on the Jewish faith. The people that I met were all smart, energetic, and warm/sincere. The services before each meal was meaningful and impressive and the music/activities were creative. If anyone is considering attending, JUST GO! You will not regret it.

Sisterhood member and prominent attorney Amy Littman will be leading us in a discussion of women's right to vote and our charge as a community to help enlist new voters in this election year.

JOIN US FOR THIS TIMELY TOPIC

Monday November 4, 2019
7 - 9 pm in the Ulam

GET OUT THE
VOTE!

Refreshments will be served
RSVP to Lisalams@optonline.net by 10/28

Join us for Shabbat Chanukah

Friday, December 27
at 7:30 p.m. with choir

Bring Your Chanukiyah
~Chanukah menorah~
and let's celebrate the
Festival of Light

Then enjoy a delicious special
Oneg featuring jelly doughnuts!



The Social Action component of this night will benefit the Ramapo College's Food Pantry. Please bring canned goods, pasta, sauce, juice, parmalat, soups or toiletries. Your support will go a long way to help college students needing food and supply help.



I AM
a
WOMAN
who
COUNTS
I VOTE

Come join the unofficial

BHSS Bicycle and Hiking Club

We ride on Sundays at 9 a.m. and sometimes at 8 a.m. when the weather warms. We like the rail to trail best, but sometimes ride on the road.

We mostly ride the Monroe - Goshen rail to trail and sometimes find other trails to ride as well.

We always end with food, coffee and conversation. When we can't cycle we hike. Good company - good conversation - cycling, hiking and fun.

Give a shout out to Michael Feldman at jurisfeld@gmail.com. See you soon!



CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING HINTS:

The first day of Chanukah is on December 23; therefore the first candle is lit the evening before (December 22.) Candles are placed in the *chanukiah* (Chanukah menorah) from right to left (the first night, place one candle all the way to the right, then add on from there each succeeding night.) Light candles from left to right (light the newest candle first, after you have lit the *shamash*, or service candle.)

First Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu bimitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

Second Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, she'asa nissim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim ba-z'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors, in those days at this time of year.

Third Blessing (recited first night only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁחַיָּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiyemanu v'higiyanu la-z'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season of joy.



Dedicate a Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Prayer Book!



Dedications can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Please send with a \$36 donation (via check or credit card) to
Beth Haverin Shir Shalom

Dedication made by:

Dedication to read (Circle one):
In Honor or In Memory of:

A label will be placed in a siddur acknowledging your generous donation.



Our beautiful space, The *Ulam*, is available for your next event!!

Are you having a meeting? A small intimate gathering? Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation or Extended Kiddush?
Please call the office for more information on renting out this space.



Contribution Opportunities at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom

Name: _____ Tel #: _____

Address: _____

Brick Fund (Minimum donation \$ 5.00 for each) \$ _____

In honor/memory of _____

In honor/memory of _____

Life Fund (Minimum donation \$18.00 for each) \$ _____

In honor/memory of _____

In honor/memory of _____

Tree of Life (Minimum donation \$100.00 per leaf) \$ _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

Sustaining Membership (Minimum donation \$250.00) \$ _____

Building Fund (voluntary) \$ _____

Robbie Kriser Fund \$ _____

Rabbi Discretionary Fund \$ _____

Cantor Discretionary Fund \$ _____

Educator Discretionary Fund \$ _____

Barbara Weiss Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Michelle Mitzvah Group \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Other/Special - Please contact us to discuss further opportunities

___ Kehilah Campaign ___ Yahrzeit Tablet ___ Eternal Lights

___ Other _____ ___ "Wish List" of Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment

Payment Information:

Check No: _____ Credit Card: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ American Express

Credit Card Info: _____ exp. date _____

Please send this form along with check or payment info to:

Beth Haverim Shir Shalom – 280 Ramapo Valley Road · Mahwah, NJ 07430

D.A.R.E. Toy Drive

The Michelle Mitzvah Group programs allow BHSS members to give back to the community and one such way is providing help to the Suffern Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program with its annual toy drive. BHSS' participation over the years has allowed Suffern D.A.R.E to offer aid to families in Orange County, NY, Newark, NJ and New York City in addition to its primary mission of helping local families in Rockland County, NY and Bergen County, NJ. Suffern D.A.R.E, along with local social workers, municipalities and organizations identify local families in need or who are dealing with a tragic event.

Suffern D.A.R.E provides these families with the ability to have gifts for their children during these difficult times in their lives. Yes, these families are our neighbors and we, as a community, are obligated to help them. With the High Holidays fresh in our minds, please use this worthy cause to help people in need and teach our children the meaning of *tzedakah*.

The BHSS D.A.R.E. Toy Drive has been very successful over the years with our congregation donating over 400 gifts for families in need each year. However, as successful as we are, we still don't have 100% participation from our temple families. Let's change that this year. We request that every family pledge to participate in the BHSS D.A.R.E. Toy Drive this year. All a family needs to do is donate one unwrapped new gift for a child in need. We have almost 400 member families and if each family donates we will easily reach our annual number of 400 gifts and most likely exceed it. If every

family donates, we can help over 100 families in our neighborhoods and continue to provide Suffern D.A.R.E. with the ability to expand its reach to our surrounding communities and help heal the world.

We are requesting that you and your family embrace the obligation to provide at least one unwrapped new gift and in doing so, each of us will continue to teach the meaning of *tzedakah* to the next generation. Please stop by the temple's bulletin board by the entrance to the religious school. You will find information identifying a child of a family in need of help. Please understand and respect that the identity of the needy family is very confidential and cannot be provided to you. The child will be labeled by family number, gender and age.

Please take a label and attach it to an **unwrapped new gift** and drop it off at the synagogue during November and December. There will be bins to put the gifts in by religious school entrance. We want to help you repair the world. If you don't want to pick a child but would like to donate, please do so and just drop off an unwrapped new gift. If you can't get the gift to the synagogue, no problem, email us and we will be glad to pick it up from you. Please note that the **last drop-off date** at the synagogue will be Monday, **December 16 at 6 p.m.** Finally, the Michelle Mitzvah Group, as well as Suffern D.A.R.E, can also use help. If you wish to provide assistance or have any questions, please feel free to email Barry Romoff at bromoff@gmail.com. Thank you.



Do Your Holiday -or any day- Shopping at the Book Fair!

Selections of Jewish books - including cookbooks -
as well as popular titles!

Friday, December 6: from 3:30 to 6:15 p.m.

Friday, December 6: Browsing only after services from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, December 9: 3:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 10: 3:30 - 7 p.m.

Worship Schedule

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday, November 1 | 6:30 pm | <i>TGIS</i> Shabbat evening family service <i>Birthdays in November will be celebrated</i> Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Theodore family |
| Saturday, November 2 | 10:00 am | Bat Mitzvah of Annabel Theodore |
| Friday, November 8 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat evening service Commemoration of Kristallnacht during service Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Kraft family |
| Saturday, November 9 | 10:00 am | Bar Mitzvah of Scooter Kraft |
| Friday, November 15 | 5:15 pm | Tot Shabbat |
| | 7:30 pm | Shabbat evening service Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Goldstein family |
| Saturday, November 16 | 10:00 am | Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Goldstein |
| Friday, November 22 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat evening service Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Schnelwar family |
| Saturday, November 23 | 10:00 am | B'nai Mitzvah of Zachary and Alex Schnelwar |
| Friday, November 29 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat evening service |
| Saturday, November 30 | No Shabbat morning service | |
| Friday, December 6 | 6:30 pm | <i>TGIS</i> Shabbat evening family service PJ Shabbat Family Service - wear your PJs! <i>Milk & Cookie Oneg with Book Fair Browsing!</i> <i>Birthdays in December will be celebrated</i> Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Behar family |
| Saturday, December 7 | 10:00 am | Bat Mitzvah of Leah Behar |
| Friday, December 13 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat evening service |
| Saturday, December 14 | NO Shabbat morning service | |
| Friday, December 20 | 5:15 pm | Tot Shabbat |
| | 7:30 pm | Shabbat evening service |
| Saturday, December 21 | NO Shabbat morning service | |
| Friday, December 27 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat Chanukah service with special oneg of jelly doughnut and latkes |
| Saturday, December 28 | NO Shabbat morning service | |

BETH HAVERIM SHIR SHALOM
280 RAMAPO VALLEY ROAD
MAHWAH, NJ 07430

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman
Cantor David Perper
Rebecca McVeigh, Director of Education

Sessions of School:

Sundays: Nov 3, 17 & 24, Dec 8, 15
Mondays: Nov 4, 18 & 25 & Dec 2, 9 & 16
Tuesdays: Nov 12, 19 & Dec 3, 10, 17

Office Closed:

Thursday, Nov 28
Friday, Nov 29
Wednesday, Dec 25
Tuesday, Dec 31 *office closes at 3pm*

To do in November and December



- Torah Study Shabbat mornings, 8:15 am, when no Shabbat service, study begins 9:00 am
- TGIS, Thank Goodness it's Shabbat family Services, Fri, Nov 1 & Dec 6, 6:30 pm
- Clean, Pray, Learn with the Social Action Committee, Sun, Nov 3, 1-4 pm
- Tot Shabbat, Fri, Nov 15 & Dec 20, 5:15 pm
- Eat, Shmooze, Share Sign up for Thought for Food with Rabbi Ilana, 7:30 pm
Nov 20, 'If the Pilgrims were Jewish & Dec 18, 'The Oil lasted for 8 days'
- Browse the Book Fair and enjoy PJ Shabbat with cookie and milk oneg, Fri, Dec 6, 6:30 pm
- Sisterhood & Brotherhood Chanukah Party, Sat, Dec 14
- Adopt a child (or family!) D.A.R.E. Toy Drive, drop off at BHSS thru Dec 16
- Community Menorah Lighting, Dec 17, 6:00 pm
- Enjoy Fiddler on the Roof, BHSS style! w/Chinese Food! BHSS, Wed, Dec 25, 7:00 pm, by RSVP
- Shabbat Chanukah Service Fri, Dec 27, 7:30 pm *Bring your family Menorah!
- Sign up for Rabbi Ilana's class: Jewish Thoughts on Contemporary Issues

*Donate to the CFA
each time you come
to BHSS!
Help us
"fill the CFA truck"
all year long!*