

# TEMPLE TOPICS

CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5782

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

## Rabbi Ilana's Message

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The pandemic rolls on and we spend more time isolated, away from loved ones and away from some of the eases and comforts we are accustomed to. It can put us on edge, making us grumpy and uncharitable. I am asking us to recognize these inclinations within ourselves and to make a conscious decision to counter them.

*full article on page 3*

## President's Message

*One On Hand: Tevye, Revisited*

On the one hand, it would be shortsighted and a disservice to not just you, our congregation, but to the wider Reform Jewish community, to **not** prepare for a new generation of Reform Jews. We need to be more intentional about encouraging their path to us; it may be one we design or one they help us to create. We are going to have to be willing to engage with them to transform how and what we offer. On the other hand, we need to continue to serve our existing members...

*full article on page 2*

## Director of Education

*...and to your children's children...*

Although we touch on the theme in 6th grade, as we read *The Tattooed Torah* and students learn about the origins of BHSS's two Holocaust scrolls, we do not feel the children are quite ready to digest the full scope of the subject...

With the youngest survivors now in their 70s, there will soon be no eyewitnesses left to remind us...

*full article on page 4*

## B'NAI MITZVAH

November 6 Laila Graham-Bialer

December 4 Benjamin Shamosh

December 11 Joshua Heffernan

## THINGS TO DO:

*more info on back cover and throughout*

- Torah Study with Rabbi Ilana
- Tot Shabbat
- Shabbat Sh'happy
- 2nd Annual Mitzvah Mile
- Book & A Bagel
- Sisterhood Kindness Chain
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Brotherhood Raps
- Shabbat Hanukkah
- Brotherhood Hanukkah Party
- Sisterhood Virtual Wine Tasting
- D.A.R.E. Holiday Toy Drive



happy  
new year  
2022!



UNION for  
REFORM  
JUDAISM

A Proud Member of the URJ



# President's Message

Jen Cole

*One On Hand:  
Tevye, Revisited*

The Friday evening before my son Aidan became Bar Mitzvah, we arrived to the synagogue to find that instead of being greeted and immediately guided into the sanctuary, the Shabbat candles had been set up in the BHSS foyer. I had never seen this done before, and at first, it caught me a bit by surprise. We gathered in a circle and began by singing *Hinei Mah Tov*, then proceeded with the blessings over the candles. It was different from what I anticipated, yet being able to see the faces of everyone as we sang and lit the candles before entering the sanctuary doors and assuming our seats in the pews, allowed me a moment of pause to truly savor the moment.

I later expressed to Rabbi Mosbacher how much I enjoyed the twist on Friday night Shabbat. He explained that when Beth Haverim merged with Reform Temple of Suffern - Shir Shalom to create BHSS, the clergy and lay leadership decided to not just intentionally incorporate rituals from both legacy congregations, but also to create brand new rituals that would belong to the newly merged community. This foyer gathering was one of them. While it may not have been everyone's favorite innovation, for me, it made an already special weekend for our family even more memorable.

As I noted in my Rosh Hashanah remarks, there is a delicate balance between tradition and change. The reason many of us find Tevye's character from *Fiddler on the Roof* endearing is because his struggle to move forward while at the same time holding on to what is near and dear to his heart, resonates with us. We recognize ourselves in Tevye - in his trepidation and his fear of change, but also in his adaptability and his understanding that new can be good, too.

Beth Haverim Shir Shalom has been through a number of changes in the past decade or so and continues to be in flux as we seek to welcome a new spiritual and musical partner for Rabbi Ilana and our community. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to pivot and reconsider the way we "do" Judaism and perform our sacred work. And, the larger backdrop of Reform Judaism has changed. Synagogues are charged with reinventing what it means to be a member, as we know that many Reform Jews are choosing not to join brick and mortar synagogues.

On the one hand, it would be shortsighted and a disservice to not just you, our congregation, but to the wider Reform Jewish community, to *not* prepare for a new generation of Reform Jews. We need to be more intentional about encouraging their path to us; it may be one we design or one they help us to create. We are going to have to be willing to engage with them to transform how and what we offer. On the other hand, we need

to continue to serve our existing members who continue to want more conventional features of membership. We want all of our members to feel seen, heard, known and cared for. We want all who chose to belong to feel at home.

We thank you for your patience and your permission while we explore a bit and try different ways of doing things. If you see something new that you like, or don't particularly like, feel free to let us know. If you miss some way that we used to do things or a tune we used to sing, tell us. But please understand that introducing something new does not mean that we are discarding the old. We are simply experimenting and trying to achieve the right balance between innovation, progression, and tradition.

On the one hand, it is a blessing for our congregation to serve members spanning multiple generations. On the other hand, this diversity can be a challenge, as different members can have disparate and at times divergent needs and wants. Reform Jews today may be looking for something completely different from what our "regulars" hold dear. Our goal must be to hold fast to what is essential and at the same time welcome new ideas and create space for our newer members as well as those who have yet to join. We need to continue to serve the needs of our existing members so that they are still at home in their spiritual "house of friends", while simultaneously generating innovations that will attract those who will join them and become the newest "regulars", to ensure the longevity of this congregation.

As the Union for Reform Judaism's director of congregational innovation, Rabbi Esther Lederman, writes: "Let us become what the future needs us to be, and let us do so boldly, unapologetically, in broad daylight."

As much as I marvel at the spectacular display of New Jersey fall, I recognize it also to be a harbinger of winter. And although I certainly enjoy the upcoming season of thanksgiving and Hanukkah lights and celebrations, it is still difficult to feel the last of summer slip away.

As I glance out my window, the leaves have begun to shift color and yesterday's wind brought many fluttering to the ground. I am reminded of Joni Mitchell's poetic lyrics:

*"I awoke today and found  
the frost perched on the town.  
It hovered in a frozen sky  
then it gobbled summer down..."*

As much as I will miss summer, I recognize that the upcoming seasons will bring their own beauty – piles of leaves and new-fallen snow - and their own opportunities to change and grow.



My mother, a sabra or native Israeli, loves it when English speakers ask how to spell Hebrew words. It tickles her when someone is struggling with which of the seven (!) ways to spell Hanukkah in our lingua franca, and she, with generally generous and kind disposition, takes up a devious smirk and pronounces the Hebrew letters, “chet – nun – kuf – hey.”

When written in the Hebrew, the first two letters of the commemoration of rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, the Festival of Lights, spell out a brilliant concept: *chen*. 19th century commentator, Rabbi Baruch Halevi Epstein comments that *chen* implies the receipt of something not through one's own merit but rather through the grace and kindness of the giver.

There is a Christian notion of grace that says despite our sins and our base nature, God grants salvation. The Jewish concept of salvation is quite different without the concept of punishment or reward after death, and so it stands to reason that the Jewish concept of grace is also different. At its core, grace is the concept of receiving despite being unworthy. This issue of unworthiness is also somewhat, though not completely, foreign Jewishly. On the high holidays, we own our shortcomings, we list our sins, and we pray for forgiveness. For us, then grace, is that God is merciful and forgiving even while knowing that we have done wrong and that we will do wrong again.

*Chen*, then, is an unearned gift that God bestows upon us. This year, at a time of gift giving, I think about our own generosity. Here I'm not talking about money or tangible gifts; rather, I wonder how generous we are with our judgements. Do we take offence when none was meant? Do slander out of spite or jealousy? Are we suspicious of motives that might be pure?

It is true that there are people who hurt us intentionally and who use us as a means to an end. For them *chen* is often not the correct path. But for many people in our lives, the words came out wrong, they had an obstructed view of the future or our feelings, or the circumstances of their lives tripped them up.

I don't know anyone who's had an easy year. The pandemic rolls on and we spend more time isolated,

away from loved ones and away from some of the eases and comforts we are accustomed to. It can put us on edge, making us grumpy and uncharitable. I am asking us to recognize these inclinations within ourselves and to make a conscious decision to counter them. This year, when we think about what it means to give on Hanukkah, I would like us to think about the first two letters in the name and give the gift of *chen*. We are told in Genesis that we are created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God. Behaving in a godly way encourages us to embrace that resemblance in a way that makes space for others to do the same.

Throughout the year of 5782, all the Jewish holidays fall early on the secular calendar. Hanukkah will be at the end of November, just after Thanksgiving. It looks like Black Friday shopping will be a little late for us, but it's never too late to be kind.

**חג אורים שמח!**

*Chag Urim Same'ach!*

Happy Festival of Lights!

## Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Did you not have the opportunity to publicly celebrate your coming of age as a young Jewish adult?

Or perhaps you were the teen for whom Bar or Bat Mitzvah did not have the meaning or impact you wish it had.

If this sounds like you, join our next Adult B'nai Mitzvah cohort. Together, you will learn to read Hebrew, study Torah, and learn to lead the congregation in prayer.

To sign up or for more information, call the BHSS front office.





## From The Educator

Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh

...and to your  
children's children...

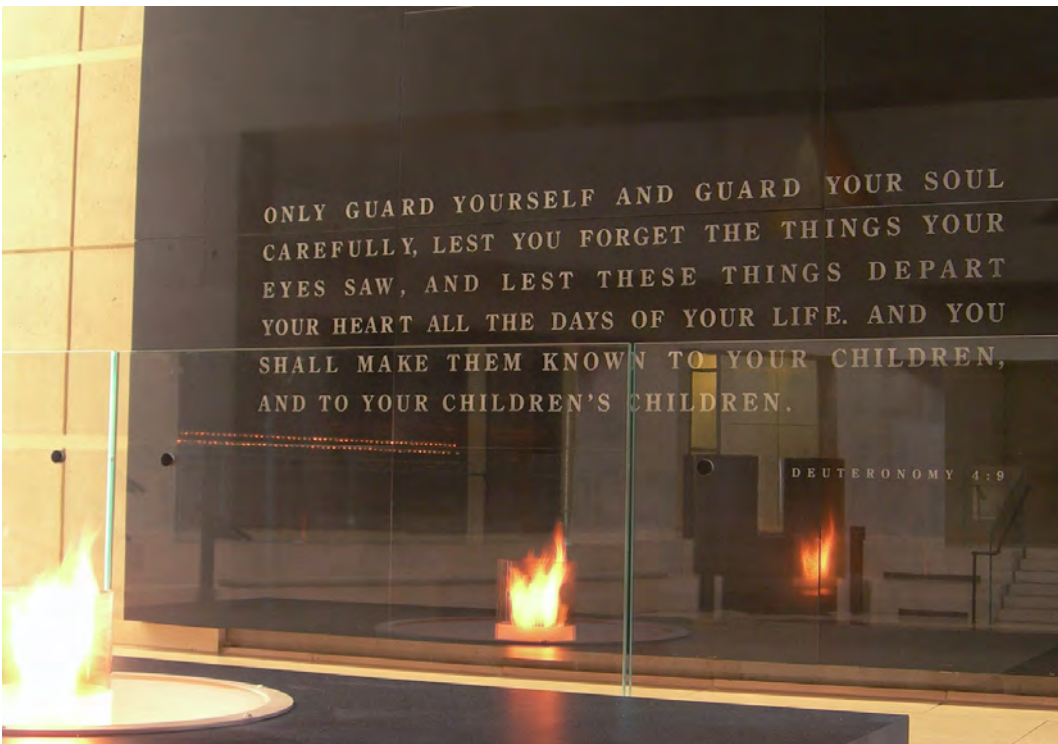
Quite often, parents ask me, “when is a good time for my child to **start** religious school?” As you might guess, my answer is almost always “now!” The

K-1-2 classes are filled with crafts, stories, holidays, traditions, mitzvot, songs, and tours of our building with stops to interview our staff. No pressure, no attendance requirement, just getting to know other Jewish kids and a bit about what it means to be Jewish. As my grandmother would have said – “Nu? What could be bad?” In third grade things get a little more serious, as they begin to learn to read Hebrew, and in fourth grade and up they continue building Hebrew skills while learning more about Judaism, having discussions at a higher level about how to make good decisions, and how to become a *mensch* – a good person – through a Jewish lens.

There is one topic we will not cover in the lower grades - **Yom HaShoah and the Holocaust**. Although we touch on the theme in 6th grade, as we read *The Tattooed Torah* and students learn about the origins of BHSS's two Holocaust scrolls, we do not feel the children are quite ready to digest the full scope of the subject.

However, in 7th grade we have a multi-week curriculum on the Holocaust. We will talk about the conditions that led up to it – what socio-economic and political environment might have allowed it to happen, who the unsung heroes were, and how millions of men, women and children were worked to death or simply exterminated because of who they were, what they looked like, who they loved, or what they believed. We believe that educating Jewish children about the Holocaust as a part of their Jewish identity-building is **a mandate to remind and to remember**; this is part of why we require and expect attendance in 7th grade, no matter when a bar or bat mitzvah is celebrated.

The photo below is of the Hall of Remembrance at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Although the quote is from long, long before the events of the Holocaust, it rings true more than ever today. With the youngest survivors now in their 70s, there will soon be no eyewitnesses left to remind us; as Jewish educators, in partnership with parents, it is our obligation to teach our children so that they, in turn, can teach their children and their children's children.



I have never been asked “when is the best time to **stop** being Jewishly educated?” My answer would be (as you might also guess) “never.” The mission statement of BHSS says that we are “...dedicated to the never-ending process of Jewish learning...” and as we prepare to welcome *Chanukah*, a holiday of re-dedication, we remember that facilitating lifelong Jewish learning is a sacred responsibility that we all share.

Join us for in-person  
**Tot Shabbat!**

Fridays, November 19 and  
December 10 at 5 p.m.

For children ages birth-kindergarten  
and their families.

Masks required for all attending.

Do a craft, hear a story, sing songs...  
everything you love about Tot Shabbat!

Rabbi Ilana, Cantor Kruk and Director  
of Education Rebecca McVeigh  
look forward to celebrating Shabbat  
with you and your tots!



**Are your kids past the Tot  
Shabbat age? Come join us at  
FAMILY SHABBAT SH'HAPPY!**

**Saturday, December 18  
10 am at BHSS**

**For families with kids age 6-10...  
Rabbi Ilana and Director  
of Education  
Rebecca McVeigh  
will lead a service  
filled with music, joy...  
and of course  
a celebration of Shabbat!**

**BETH HAVERIM SHIR SHALOM  
2021-2022**

**CLERGY**

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman	201-512-1983	rabbischwartzman@gmail.com
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Michelle Mitzvah Group, Steve Simon	201-788-6755	steveoum@verizon.net

# Birthdays



## November

*Zachary Asher Aarons*

*Alexandra Barbach*

*Remi Begleiter*

*Hailey Berwitz*

*Avery Braunstein*

*Jane Grossman*

*Reid Grossman*

*Jordana Harris*

*Dylan Hyman*

*Danielle Kissin*

*Rachel Kissin*

*Leila Kotz*

*Elle Lieberman*

*Alex Popowitz*

*Alex Roberts*

*Benjamin Shamosh*

*Gavin Shecter*

*Alexander Somberg*

*Benjamin Spungin*

*Mia Steinberg-Rodriguez*

*Michelle Waldbaum*

## December

*Jillian Bruckner*

*Benjamin Chais*

*Marlee Goldstein*

*Nathan Kramer*

*Morgan Koppelman*

*Benjamin Marder*

*Sophie Smith*

*Jake Schlosser*

## HANUKKAH MENORAH LIGHTING HINTS:

The first day of Hanukkah is on November 29; therefore the first candle is lit the evening before (November 28). Candles are placed in the *chanukiyah* (Hanukkah 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 יְיָ 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 Hanukkah.

### Second Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבֹּתֵינוּ 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 יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ 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.





# November Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm PJ Remote Kadimah	No School	No School 7:30 pm Adult Choir		6:30 pm Tefilot	Toldot 10 am Laila Graham-Bialer
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
No School 9-noon Mitzvah Mile	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Exec Comm Mtg 7:30 pm MMG Mtg.	4 pm Remote Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir		6:30 pm Tefilot	Vayeitzei
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 am 6th trad & FS 11:30 am Torah Study 1 pm Book & A Bagel	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Board Mtg.	4 pm Remote Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm GVP Mtg.		5 pm Tot Shabbat 6:30 pm Tefilot	Vayishlach
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 am 6th trad & FS 11:30 am Torah Study	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	No School 7:30 pm Music Comm Mtg.	No School	Office Closed	Office Closed 6:30 pm Tefilot via Zoom	Vayeishev
28	29	30				
No School	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5				



# December Calendar

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			4 pm Remote Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir		6:30 pm Tefilot Shabbat Hanukkah	Mikeitz 10 am Ben Shamosh
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 am 6th trad & FS 11:30 am Torah Study	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm PJ Remote Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5	4 pm Remote Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir		5 pm Tot Shabbat 6:30 pm Tefilot	Vayigash 10 am Joshua Heffernan
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 am 6th trad & FS 11:30 am Torah Study	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Exec Comm Mtg 7:30 pm MMG Mtg.	4 pm Remote Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm GVP Mtg.		6:30 pm Tefilot	Vay'chi 10 am Shabbat Sh'Happy
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 am 6th trad & FS 11:30 am Torah Study	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Board Mtg.	4 pm Remote Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir		Office Closed 6:30 pm Tefilot	Sh'mot
26	27	28	29	30	31	
No School	No School	No School	No School 7:30 pm Adult Choir		Office Closed 6:30 pm Tefilot	

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



**Laila Graham-Bialer**

**November 6, 2021**

Lives in Sloatsburg, New York. Mother, Lisa Bialer, Father, Jerry Graham, Brother, Jacob, 16..... is an 8th grader at Suffern Middle School ..... Her interests include reading, drawing, and biking. "I would like to design cars and race them. I am excited to celebrate with the people who are close to me. For my community service, I am helping with local trash cleanup."



**Joshua Heffernan**

**December 11, 2021**

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Laura, Father, Matthew, Sister, Gabrielle, 14 ..... is a 7th grader at Ramapo Ridge Middle School ..... His interests include soccer and Minecraft. "I want to be a famous Youtuber! I am working with animals to socialize them before they get adopted."



**Ben Shamosh**

**December 4, 2021**

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Jamie Levine, Father, Brett Shamosh ..... is a 7th grader at Ramapo Ridge Middle School ..... His interests include sports, history, and friends. "I would like to improve in sports, learn not only in Hebrew school and regular school, but learn from personal experiences myself. I would also like to become a more respectful and kinder person. While the occasion is only once, I will remember it forever. Therefore, I will make it one to remember! I am doing a project/documentary on Holocaust survivors."



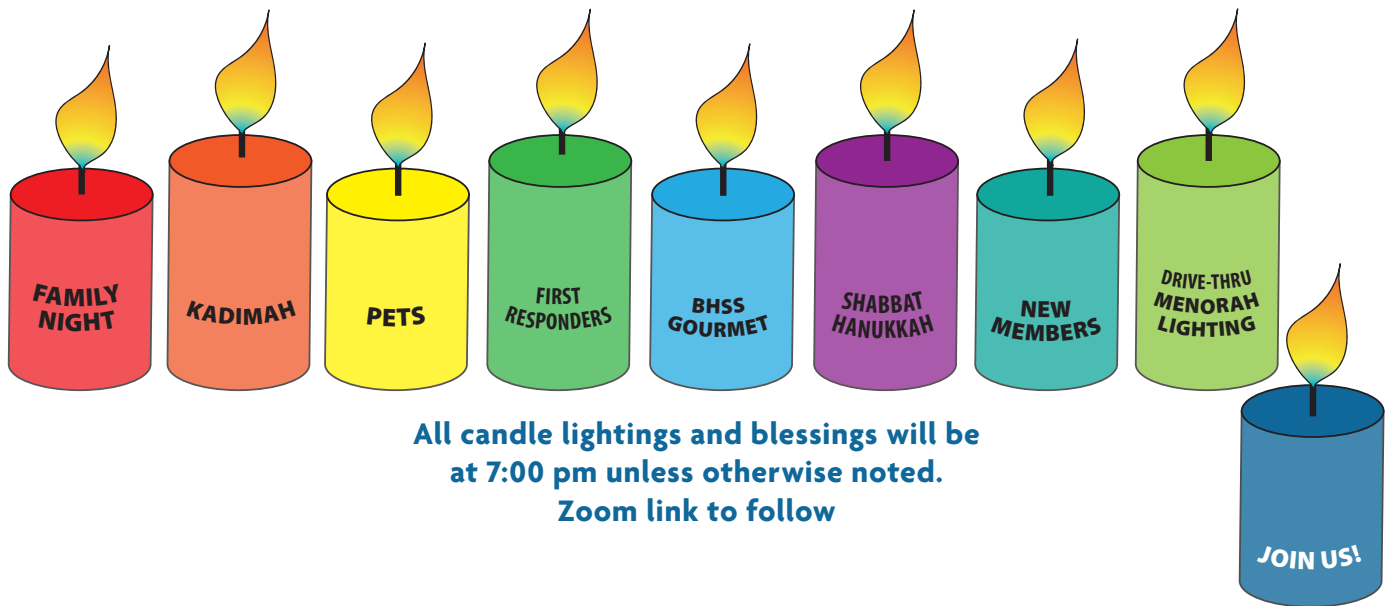
## Candlelighting times:

November 5 – Tol'dot 5:29 pm  
November 12 – Vayitzei 4:22 pm  
November 19 – Vayishlach 4:16 pm  
November 26 – Vayeishev 4:13 pm

December 3 – Mikeitz 4:10 pm  
December 10 – Vayigash 4:10 pm  
December 17 – Vay'chi 4:12 pm  
December 24 – Sh'mot 4:15 pm  
December 31 – Va-eira 4:20 pm



# BHSS IS BRINGING THE FUN FOR 8 NIGHTS OF HANUKKAH!



## **Night #1 – Sunday, November 28 - FAMILY NIGHT**

What's Hanukkah without a game of Dreidel?

After lighting candle 1, check out our activities page at [bethhaverim.org/bhss-hanukkah-games](http://bethhaverim.org/bhss-hanukkah-games)

## **Night #2 – Monday, November 29 - KADIMAH**

Join the Kadimah Kids via Zoom to light candle #2

#KADIMAHROCKS #BHSSTEENS #GETLIT

## **Night #3 – Tuesday, November 30 - PETS**

Send pics of your pets and light candle #3 with your furry friends by your side! – via Zoom

## **Night #4 – Wednesday, December 1 - FIRST RESPONDERS**

Shine a light on our first responders, and join them via Zoom to light candle #4

## **Night #5 – Thursday, December 2 - BHSS GOURMET**

How about a little Hanukkah nosh?

Join Stacey Coyne via Zoom to light candle #5 and see what she's got cooking

## **Night #6 – Friday, December 3 - SHABBAT HANUKKAH**

Join Rabbi Ilana and Cantor Kruk for Shabbat Hanukkah.

Send us your best pictures of past Hanukkahs  
and share the Festival of Lights with your friends indoors at BHSS.

## **Night #7 – Saturday, December 4 - NEW MEMBERS**

Help our new members feel welcome for their first Hanukkah with BHSS.

Join the Zoom Room, say hello and light candle #7

## **Night #8 – Sunday, December 5 - DRIVE THRU MENORAH LIGHTING**

Join us at BHSS for a Honkin' Hanukkah! Line up begins at 6:45 pm to  
participate in the lighting of the *Chanukiyah* on the front lawn.

Park your car and have a Sufganiyah (jelly donut) and some hot cocoa. Please note  
we will be collecting unwrapped toys for the D.A.R.E. Holiday Toy Drive

## SOCIAL ACTION

5782 is well under way, and the Social Action committee has hit the ground running! We are excited to be joining with Rabbi Ilana, various synagogue committees, and the leadership of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom to address the issue of Gun Violence Prevention. BHSS has formed a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and will spearhead this initiative.

Gun Violence is an issue that hit close to home for our congregants Ruth and Stu Turner. Their great niece, Alyssa Alhadeff was tragically murdered in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida. They have shared their story, right. I hope you will read it, and it compels you to get involved.

Please feel free to reach out to BHSS Social Action to be added to our email list, and to be informed of upcoming events and discussions on social issues that matter to us all.

Email BHSS Social Action at  
BHSSSocialaction@gmail.com

L'Shalom!

## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

On February 14, 2018, 17 people were murdered at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The nation mourned just one more senseless school tragedy; our Turner family grieved over the loss of our great niece, Alyssa Alhadeff, a vibrant, athletic, highly intelligent high school freshman. Our family and especially our granddaughter will miss LBI sleepovers and chatter with Alyssa.

Rabbi Shuey Boston, who was part of Alyssa's Bat Mitzvah celebration, said, "Don't lose hope. Be her voice." And so mom Lori Alhadeff became Alyssa's voice. She created through her foundation Alyssa's Law, legislation calling for the installation of silent panic alarms that are directly linked to law enforcement. In the event of an emergency the authorities will arrive as quickly as possible, hopefully end a threat, and tend to the victims.

So far Alyssa's Law has been passed in New Jersey and in Florida. As part of its work this year, Social Action will be supporting further passage of Alyssa's Law through letter writing campaigns, contact with legislators, and other efforts.

If you believe in the importance of keeping our kids safe and in the strength of this law, join us in being Alyssa's Voice. Turn darkness into light.

Email Ruth at [ruthturner@icloud.com](mailto:ruthturner@icloud.com).

## NOTES FROM MUSIC

Hello everyone!

The Music Committee is so excited to welcome our newest member, Carol Diamant. Carol loves to sing and enjoys spending time with her family and grandchild. When you see her at the synagogue, ask her about the Music Committee and what motivated her to join us. Who knows, it might move you to do the same...

Our meetings are always on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30. We are meeting via Zoom so if you would like to see what we are all about, email me at [niberger@aol.com](mailto:niberger@aol.com) and I will send you the invitation link.

*Musically yours,  
Nora Berger*

## CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee has been hard at work tending to our congregants' needs. We wish to thank all those who contribute to this committee whether you donate your time or your culinary talents. The recipients of your efforts and generosity are always so very grateful.

As this health crisis continues to affect our community, the Caring Committee is making sure our members are taken care of. Especially now, we are ALL needed, and encourage you to volunteer - whether it be cooking a meal, donating restaurant gift cards, or calling to follow up on our more vulnerable members. You would be surprised at how much you get back from devoting a little time to a simple phone call to check in on someone who is not feeling well or who is simply lonely.

If you need the services of the Caring Committee or if you wish to join or volunteer, please contact

Audrey Flynn ([ablandau@aol.com](mailto:ablandau@aol.com)) or  
Laura Miller ([mlctsmiller@verizon.net](mailto:mlctsmiller@verizon.net)).



# BHSS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

## TAKE ACTION, NOT SIDES

**Beth Haverim Shir Shalom has launched an initiative  
to advocate for gun violence prevention**

A recent study from the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence called  
gun violence a public health crisis decades in the making.

Governor Murphy of New Jersey recently spoke about gun violence as a public health epidemic while  
pledging to fund gun violence prevention measures and to support gun violence prevention legislation.

For the first time in decades, the director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the nation's  
top public health agency, is speaking out forcefully about gun violence  
in America, calling it a "serious public health threat."

In April, President Joe Biden said the country was facing "a gun violence public health epidemic."

**In 2020 there were 615 mass shootings resulting in 521 deaths and 2,541 injuries.**

- These mass shootings grab the headlines and have come to symbolize gun violence but they are only one facet of gun violence.
- In 2020, gun violence killed nearly 20,000 Americans and injured 40,000. More than 100 Americans are killed daily by gun violence.
- An additional 24,000 people died by suicide with a gun in 2020

**The BHSS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE** will choose projects  
for the entire congregation to participate in throughout the year. Our committees will also  
be requested to concentrate on projects with these same common themes.

**We are not advocating for gun control but are in support of sensible laws and policies to limit gun violence.**

A few of the topics we are considering are:

- Keeping our schools safe by working to get Alyssa's law passed nationwide
- Supporting the Sandy Hook Promise organization
- Advocating for mandatory gun registration
- Teens will have the opportunity to learn about and then lobby on gun violence prevention when they make their annual trip to DC

**Our three-pronged approach will be to:**

- **EDUCATE** the congregation on what can be done to help end the major causes of gun violence
- **MOTIVATE** congregants to get involved with our initiatives
- **ACTIVATE** gun makers, government officials, and organizations to get things done

The BHSS Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) Task Force will be made up of a group of congregants as well as one member ("champion") from each of our committees. It will be led by Rabbi Ilana, Rebecca McVeigh and Ritch Yanowitz.

There is room for you if you are interested in joining the task force. Please reach out to Ritch at [ritchiano@gmail.com](mailto:ritchiano@gmail.com)  
or at 917-213-7300, or to Rabbi Ilana if you are interested or have any questions.

# BROTHERHOOD

L'Shana Tova, 5782!

These past 18 months have been challenging for everyone, and I am sure that you are looking forward to reconnecting with your favorite group of friends! Brotherhood is here, and always offering friendship, support and camaraderie to the community.

We did not build the sukkah (again) this year, and we did not have Pizza in the Hut for safety reasons, however we have been meeting for socially safe dinners and Zoom-in movies.

BHSS Brotherhood welcomes anyone and gives everyone a place to meet with friends, exchange ideas and support each other and the community at large. We are happy to announce the return of some of our favorite events!

Brotherhood Raps returned in October, and will be meeting again for breakfast at Panera on Sunday, 11/21 and Sunday 12/19. Dropping off your child at religious school? Why hang out in the parking lot when you can join us at Panera in Ramsey (next to Staples) for some coffee and breakfast!

We are planning the return of our annual Hannukah party for December 2. Please watch for emails and announcements!

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please reach out to us at [president@bhssbrotherhood.org](mailto:president@bhssbrotherhood.org) and we will be happy to include you.

Looking forward to seeing you.

L'Shalom!

## *Upcoming Dates:*

**Hanukkah Party/Dinner** -  
December 2 (location tbd)

**Monthly Dinner** - November 18 (location tbd)

**Brotherhood Raps** - November 21, 9:00 am  
- Panera (Ramsey, NJ)

**Brotherhood Raps** - December 19, 9:00 am  
- Panera (Ramsey, NJ)

# SISTERHOOD

Brrr...here comes winter. It's a busy time for all of us particularly this year, with the holidays so early and the pandemic still around. Who has the extra time to take part in Sisterhood? You do! And here's why:

To call another woman a sister is to say, "I trust you," "I have your back," "your feelings are valid" and "I believe in you." One of the greatest benefits of sisterhood is the ability to share your thoughts and feelings – to be your honest, authentic self. In sisterhood we find each other to connect and to share resources. When women empower one another, the entire community is empowered. Our sisterhood is our tribe, and each of us is gifted with something unique, our own arsenal of knowledge, skills and "weapons" to assist us in our mission. The women of the sisterhood are intergenerational and diverse in what we do, how we think and who we are. We groom each other (and our daughters) to become empowered "superwomen." \*

You have gifts you can share, as we all do. Who can't use an extra gift? Please become a part of the tribe.

BHSS Sisterhood has been busy with projects and programs, including our recent Tea to support the Center for Hope and Safety on September 26. We learned from Elizabeth Campbell, the director, about what the Center (formerly Shelter our Sisters) does, and how we can continue to help them support women in our communities.

November brings the return of the famous Sisterhood Kindness Chain. Watch your emails for details of how you can participate in passing the good along!

On December 9, we will hold a virtual wine-tasting led by Amy Baldwin Littman. If you've been to the BHSS retreat, you know how much fun wine tastings can be. How do you do it virtually? Stay tuned to those weekly emails, and don't miss it!

All of us at Sisterhood wish you the happiest of holidays – and we all pray for a healthier 2022! Your Sisterhood will be here...join us!

Beth Wiesner and Lisa Estrin, co-presidents

\*From "5 Reasons Why Sisterhood is Important"  
(Angela D. Coleman)

## FROM THE SIFRYAH

*Although the world is full of suffering,  
it is also full of the overcoming of it.*

- Helen Keller

The Library Committee is thrilled to be offering an inspiring book, *The Choice*, by Dr. Edith Eger, for their first fall Book and a Bagel (sans bagel!) on Sunday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m. Author Dr. Edith Eger, an internationally acclaimed Holocaust survivor and one of the last remaining Holocaust survivors, wrote about her unforgettable experience.

It began at the age of 16 when Edith Eger was sent to Auschwitz. Although young, she had been trained as a gymnast and ballet dancer. Just hours after her parents had been murdered, Edith was forced to dance for the Angel of Death, Josef Mengele. For this she was paid a loaf of bread which Edith shared with inmates.

The author struggled with flashbacks long after her camp experiences ended. Finally, 35 years after the war ended, she visited Auschwitz and was able to begin the process of healing.

Her story is one of resilience, courage and inspiration. At 90 years of age, she has been a practicing psychologist treating patients suffering from traumatic stress disorders. She models the best in humanity, but her story recognizes a world full of suffering. Yet she holds out the belief it is also full of the overcoming of it.

This is a not-to-be missed Book and a Bagel. Discover your meaning of resilience, courage and even be inspired. Plan to join us virtually, November 14 at 1:00 p.m. Remember, while we hope you will read "The Choice" first, it is not a prerequisite to join us on November 14. You will be welcomed, very happily.

RSVP to Lisa Lamster at [lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:lisalams@optonline.net).

**SISTERHOOD OF BHSS  
KINDNESS CHAIN**

Send an Encouraging Email   Give A Gift Card   Share Your Favorite Recipe  
Write a Positive Comment on a Website or Blog   Bake Someone A Cake  
Volunteer   Bring Someone A Souvenir   Gift an Inspirational Book  
Put a Surprise in a Mailbox



Express your gratitude for the Village we call Sisterhood during this holiday season by participating in The Sisterhood Kindness Chain  
Sunday, November 21st

We ask that you pay it forward to one of our members.  
Email [staceycoy@aol.com](mailto:staceycoy@aol.com) to participate.

Once you decide to give you will also receive! We will send you detailed instructions including the name and address of the person you will be linked to.

Please note any allergies or scheduling conflicts  
Sign up by October 31st so we can get you started on whose holiday you will make brighter!

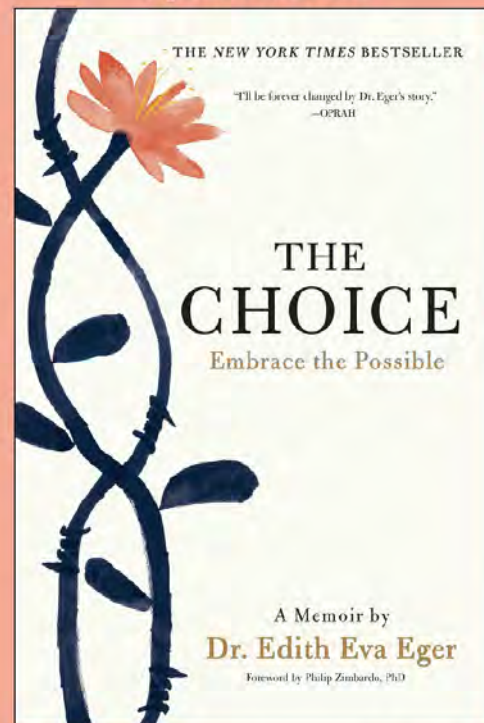
Beth Haverim Shir Shalom's Library Committee would love for  
you to join us for

### BOOK AND A BAGEL

(BYOB-bring your own bagel)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

1 p.m. via Zoom



... Sixteen year old ballerina and gymnast Edith Eger was sent to Auschwitz and is separated from her parents upon arrival. She endures the unimaginable from the horrors of the Holocaust. Her experience made her much stronger and has helped her become resilient and learn to live again...



# BHSS YOUTH GROUPS

Hi there!

We've gotten off to a very busy start this year — first with our **Welcome Back Bash** events (pictures below!) and then with our **Together in a Box** program!



*Our Menschmakers grades 3-6 playing camp games!*



*Our Junior and Senior Youth Groups making slime!*

## WHAT IS BETTER TOGETHER IN A BOX?

Better Together in a Box is a grant program that facilitates intergenerational activities between teenagers and seniors. Our participants in grades 6-12 are taking part in leadership discussions, health and wellness sessions, Jewish food and culture experiences, and building relationships with local residents from the Promenade at Chestnut Ridge. It's been a wonderful community service experience thus far!

Look out for further information from us about our Hanukkah festivities! If you have any event ideas or just want to chat, you can reach us at [bhssyouth@gmail.com](mailto:bhssyouth@gmail.com).

Hope we get the chance to see you soon!

Samantha and Rebeca

My name is Tai Weiss and I am a Senior at Mahwah High School. I enjoy running, watching movies, and of course Youth Group at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. I am on the Youth Board because I like to motivate others to become active members and to stay connected to my home at BHSS. For this year, I am excited to welcome more members and plan some amazing events. My favorite memories of Youth Group are the mall scavenger hunt and tie dying with my awesome friends.  
- Tai Weiss, BHSSTY Co-President

My name is Leah Wolf and I'm one of the co-presidents for the senior youth group. I joined Youth Group in sixth grade because I thought the events would be fun. I've stayed in Youth Group and wanted a Board position because the community within Youth Group is important to me and I know that I have made many lifelong relationships. Youth Group has many fun events and anyone is welcome to come to an event or even join.  
- Leah Wolf, BHSSTY Co-President



# MICHELLE MITZVAH GROUP

So what does Michelle Mitzvah Group do? A little bit of everything. Here is a “week in the life of Michelle Mitzvah Group”:

## **Friday, September 17 -**

Transport all of the food generously donated during Yom Kippur services to the Center for Food Action. In previous years, we would fill the CFA van- twice (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). After Yom Kippur, we had two full car loads. For more information, the Center for Food Action website is <https://www.cfanj.org/>

## **Sunday, September 19 -**

Donate platelets at Vitalant (formerly Community Blood Services) in Paramus, NJ. There is always a need for blood, platelet, and plasma donors (to schedule an appointment, go to [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)). While one person was making a life-saving donation, another Michelle Mitzvah Group family prepared 20 meals for the Suffern Soup Kitchen at Christ Episcopal Church.

## **Monday, September 20 -**

Last week, Oasis re-launched onsite classes and programs, after an 18-month hiatus due to Covid. Mentors, volunteers, and tutors are now able to reconvene their dedicated work, helping women and children continue their education. The Dining Room is now open, so no more “grab-and-go” meals: they can share meals onsite. <https://oasisnj.org/>

## **Tuesday, September 21 -**

Make a donation to the Michelle Mitzvah Group Scholarship in Memory of Jase Barrack at Ramapo College. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving student interested in human rights, helping to make the world a better place.

## **Thursday, September 23 & Saturday, September 25 -**

Deliver food from Fresh Market to Center for Food Action and Christ Episcopal Church, making sure those in need have something to eat.

## **Saturday, September 25 -**

Partner with Rebuilding Together North Jersey for National Rebuilding Day, helping to renovate a cancer survivor’s home. The house was able to be rewired, while making improvements to the ceiling and the bathroom. The bathroom was gutted, with the attempt of turning into Chip Gaines and “demo day” from “Fixer Upper.” Every little bit helps. <https://rtnorthjersey.org/>

Looking to lend a helping hand? Want to find out more? The Michelle Mitzvah Group meets the second Tuesday of every month. For any questions, please contact Steven Simon at 201-788-6755 or via email at [steveoum@verizon.net](mailto:steveoum@verizon.net)



# Contributions

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in memory of our friend Meryle Kaplan, she will be missed  
- Sheila & Larry Groskin

## Life Fund

in memory of Linda Goldfarb - Joel Goldfarb

in memory of Aunt Audrey Golden - Laurie & Marc Daniel

to Michelle Feig, in memory of Toni Shaya - Lisa Lamster

in memory of Linda Goldfarb - Lisa Lamster

in memory of Bertha Weissner and Irv Goodman  
- Carole Goodman

in memory of Adele Axelrod - Alison & Norman Axelrod

in memory of Anneliese Schott and Erna Tuteur  
- Sheri & Allan Schott

in memory of Dave and Sophie Stiglitz - Sheila Nathanson

in memory of Rose Zahm and Celia Meyers  
- Pearl & Bob Meyers

with thanks and appreciation - Leslie Kirzner

in commemoration of our family yahrzeits  
- David Haberman, Renee Kupchin,  
Sylvia Haberman, Irwin Haberman  
- Marilyn & Irwin Haberman

in memory of Margot Charne - Karen & George Charne

to Rabbi Ilana and the BHSS community, with  
thanks and appreciation for all the love and support.

In memory of our mother Debbie Moses  
- Tiffany Cohen & Family

in memory of Richard Silverman - Judy & John Neumann

to Lauren, Jonathan and Anabel Theodore- in honor of  
Anabel leading *Tashlich* & chanting torah, Lauren chanting  
*Haftarah* and Lauren and Jonathan reciting Torah blessings.  
- Richard Zuker & Susan Rivkind

## Michelle Mitzvah Fund

in memory of Jase Barrack - Whitney Stern & Nat Stern  
- Lisa Barrack & family

## Jewish Family Services of Rockland

in honor of Nicole Levinson becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
in honor of Cora Einhorn becoming a Bat Mitzvah

## Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge

in honor of Jason Lieberman becoming a Bar Mitzvah

## Center for Food Action of Mahwah

in honor of Jack Fein becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
in honor of Henry Weiner becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
in honor of Corey Begleiter becoming a Bar Mitzvah

## Join Rabbi Ilana for Torah Study

- 11:30 am on Sundays
- Beginners welcome
- No Hebrew reading necessary
- Learn about the Torah portion of the week
- Relaxed atmosphere

via Zoom



Bring your questions!

# *Sustaining Membership*

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO SUPPORT BETH HAVERIM SHIR SHALOM BY PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF THE BELOW LEVELS OF SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP:

## **B'RACHA IS A BLESSING**

SYDELLE & DAVID AARONS  
BILHA BERKOWITZ  
SHELLEY & GARY BETTMAN  
KAREN & GEORGE CHARNE  
LAURIE & MARC DANIEL  
BARBARA LACHER & ANTON VLAHOVIC  
MONA & JEFF LEFKOWITZ  
JUDY & JOHN NEUMANN  
LESLIE SAPIENZA  
LINDA & DAVID SCHWARTZ  
DAVID SCHWARTZ  
JOIE & DAVID SENDROFF  
JUDY & TOM SICA  
RONI & ANDY SILVER  
JEWELL & STANLEY WALDBAUM  
GAIL & RANAN WICHLER  
BEVERLY & HARLAN YORK

## **SIMCHA IS A JOY**

ANONYMOUS  
ELANA & ALAN BLANKMAN  
RENEE & GARY GARBUS  
SHEILA & LARRY GROSKIN  
SHERYL & JOEL IVES  
SUE-ELLEN JOHNSON  
RANDI & CURTIS MORGAN  
FRAN & JEFF ROWBOTTOM  
SHARI SLAVIN & ANDY SCHECHTER  
RUTH & STU TURNER

## **TZEDEK MEANS RIGHTEOUSNESS**

SANDY & BILL ARLINGTON  
ALISON & NORMAN AXELROD  
ELYSE VICTOR BERMAN & JOE BERMAN  
DARA & CHRISTINE DIAMOND  
LEONA WAYSER & MARTIN GORDON  
NADIGE & STEVEN HITTMAN  
DEBORAH & JEFF KLEIN  
PHIL MOSS  
SAM REINER  
MARISSA & BARRY ROMOFF  
ROBBY & EDDIE SAIFF  
JILL & CHRIS TORRENTE  
MARCI & HARVEY WEINBERG  
VIDA MYLSON & ERIC WEINER



*Join us for Shabbat Hanukkah services  
on Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm.*

*This year we're so happy to be  
back together in the sanctuary.*

*Please send in your favorite  
Hanukkah photos that will appear  
during the service...and we'll all  
light the Chanukiyah together.*



MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR BLESSING זכרונם לברכה ☆

## November Yahrzeits

DOROTHY ADLMAN  
ALFRED BAUM  
MAX BEHAR  
MARVIN BENDALIN  
FAYE BERGER  
SAMUEL BERGER  
LILLIAN BERMAN  
ELAINE CRAMER  
BERNSTEIN  
STEWART BIALER  
DONNA BLUMENTHAL  
BARBARA CASSELL  
MARVIN COMISKY  
GERALD DAVID  
SONIA DEMSKY  
EVELYN EBBIN  
BEATRICE FARBER  
ABRAHAM FINKELSTEIN  
ALAN FLON  
BURTON FREEMAN  
MARILYN FRIEDMAN

NAOMI FRIEDMAN  
DAVID GOLDFARB  
SHELDON GOLDSTEIN  
FLORENCE GORDON  
HARRY GORDON  
EUGENE GREENBLATT  
SYLVIA GREENE  
FRED GROSSMAN  
SYLVIA HABERMAN  
ELAINE HALL  
ALLAN HEFFLER  
MAE HEILBRAUN  
HERMAN HERSHMAN  
BESSIE HIEGER  
HARRY KADISH  
BILL KALMAN  
BARUCH KAPELUSHNIK  
JERZY KIERES  
ANN KIRSHNER  
ELSIE KLEIN

BETTY KURSMAN  
IRVING KURSMAN  
JEROME KURSMAN  
RENEE KUSHER  
PNINA LANDAU  
ROSE LEFKOWITZ  
ELLEN LEIBOWITZ  
ALEJANDRO LLIBRE  
JODI LYONS  
OSCAR MAIER  
MURRAY MARKS  
MADELINE MATLOWSKY  
NATHAN MAYERS  
LOUIS MILLER  
MICHAEL NANUS  
NORMAN NOVAK  
ESTHER OPPENHEIM  
VI PEARLMAN  
AARON PREMSELAAR  
SALLY RABINOVICH

FAYE RICHARDSON  
LEAH ROCKER  
SEYMOUR SAIFF  
MORITZ SCHOTT  
PAUL SHERMAN  
HOWARD SHMARUK  
STUART SIMON  
LON STEINMAN  
LOUIS STIGLITZ  
RAE SUESKIND  
SYLVIA SVETCOV  
ERNA TUTEUR  
ANNETTE GORDON  
WALDBAUM  
HOWARD WEINBERG  
JEROME WEINBERG  
ELEANOR WEINER  
MILTON WEINER  
WARREN YOUNG  
SARAH ZALL  
MOLLIE ZUKOF





## December Yahrzeits

HERMAN ACKERMAN	ROBERT ESTRIN	HOWARD LEIBOWITZ	SELMA SCHECHTER
LEAH ADLMAN	JULIA FIHRER	LEONARD LERNER	RABBI SYLVAN SCHWARTZMAN
NORMAN ARKAWY	LAWRENCE FLON	DAVID LEVINSON	BEA SHERMAN
FRED BARGETZI	MILTON FLON	HERBERT LEVY	ARIEL SORIANO
DONNA BARRACK	WALTER FONDILLER	DODY MAGAZINER	EDWARD SPENCER
ESTHER BERNSTEIN	EMANUEL GARBUS	BERNARD MAIDENBERG	HARVEY STEDMAN
HOWARD BETTMAN	SCOTT GOLDBERG	ENID MARCUS	SAUL STEDMAN
ADAM BIALER	ESTHER GOODMAN-ZASLOW	NORMAN MATLOWSKY	ALLEN STEIN
GREG BRABEC	ELY GORDON	SARAH MATLOWSKY	SUSAN SHERB STERNFELS
CLAIRE BRENDER	AARON HALL	BEATRICE MENDELOWITZ	ANITA GAIL SUESKIND
RONALD BRENNER	SHARYN HOFFMAN	CLAIRE NOVAK	FLORENCE TURNER
JULIUS BRESSLER	JACOB ISRAEL	HILDA OPELL	SUMNER VICTOR
IDA BRODY	SHIRLEY JACOBS	ILYA PECKERMAN	ROSE WEINSTEIN
VINCENT BRUNHARD	PHOEBE JAFFE	PAUL PLOTT	ROBERT WEISS
LEON COHEN	RONALD JOHNSON	MAURICE REISSMAN	SONDRA WELLS
JOE COYNE	SYLVIA KADISH	CARL RICHARDSON	BOB WITT
GERALD DEFOREST CROUCH	LOTHAR KAHN	LEO RIVKIND	AL YAGODA
RUTH DOBLIN	RITA KERN	RUTH RIVKIND	JANE YANOWITZ
SOPHIE EISENSTEIN	MILTON KLEIN	NEIL SAVITCH	
WILLIAM EISENSTEIN	SYLVIA LACHER		

## BHSS GOLF OUTING

The weather fully cooperated this year, and over 50 players enjoyed a wonderful round of golf at Spook Rock Golf Course on August 30. The event was open to BHSS members and non-members, friends and family and we are so pleased that women golfers comprised half the field.

The scramble format, playing the best ball until the ball is holed on the green, was a fun way to experience a round of golf with less pressure than individual play. But don't let the friendly format fool you into thinking this wasn't a competitive event! While players of all skill levels enjoyed the challenges of the course and the companionship of teammates, it took a combination of skill and finesse to win a prize.

Following the round, prizes were awarded for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Best Team Score -- and the results were impressive. Raffle drawings included a lovely wine basket donated by Sydelle Aarons, Scott and Cellar Wine Consultant, golf lessons with the Spook Rock Pro, a round of golf at

Centennial Golf Course (TrueNorth Financial Solutions in recognition of Judy Teich) and a round at Crystal Springs (by Friends of BHSS).

The day began with a continental breakfast, followed by a tasty lunch, and we ended the event with all the players and volunteers celebrating the day's success with ice cream and Carousel cupcakes.

Many thanks to Robin and Barry Cassell, Nancy Levene and Linda Vogel for volunteering their time and ensuring the day went so smoothly. A heartfelt thank you to all the players, generous donors and event sponsors which contributed to the event's financial success.

If you play golf or are considering taking up the sport, please keep this in mind for next year.

Renee Garbus  
Event Chair



On November 1, 2020 we had a wonderfully successful community fund-raising event where grandparents, parents and children ran, walked, strolled, skipped and hopped around a 1/3 mile track in our BHSS parking lot. We raised over \$9,000 for emergency responders and health care workers who support our synagogue and surrounding towns.

This year on November 7, there will be no Religious School, so this is a great opportunity to bring the family outdoors and do tikkun olam. Every dollar raised will be donated in BHSS' name to Valley Hospital in Ridgewood and Good Samaritan in Suffern.

Contribute whatever amount you desire in honor of your own effort. If you want to honor others' efforts, please do so. And for sure ask your friends and relatives to join you on the track and/or to sponsor your hard work that day. They can donate a flat amount, or a total based on the number of completed laps. Last year, contributions ranged from \$10 to \$1,000, and all levels are welcomed.

All contributors call Iris or Michelle in the temple office before or after November 7 and make your donations.

Questions? Please contact Harvey Weinberg at 201-970-8528

## BHSS Holiday D.A.R.E. Toy Drive

Each year, BHSS helps the Suffern Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program with its toy drive. Suffern D.A.R.E. aids 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. This year with COVID-19 still affecting so many in our community, Suffern D.A.R.E. needs our help again. Yes, we need to help these families as they are our neighbors and we, as a community are obligated to assist them because we know we need to help people in need and teach our children the meaning of *tzedakah*.

We hope each BHSS family pledges to participate this year in the BHSS Holiday D.A.R.E. Toy Drive. All a family needs to do is donate ONE unwrapped new toy for a child in need. If every family donates, we can continue to provide Suffern D.A.R.E. with the ability to expand its reach to our surrounding communities and help heal the world. Please have 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.

It is easy to participate. You can drop the new unwrapped gift at the synagogue on December 5 during the "Drive Thru Menorah Lighting." Look for details about this great event. Can't make it make then, no worries. You can drop off the new unwrapped gift at the synagogue during November and December. There will be bins to put the gifts in by the religious school entrance. Remember, you can always check with Michelle or Iris. Also, if you can't get the gift to the synagogue, no problem, email Barry Romoff (bromoff@gmail.com) and we will be glad to pick it up from you. Please note that the last drop-off date at the temple will be Sunday, December 12.

Thank you, Barry Romoff, 845-641-8167



# Good & Welfare

## from and for the congregation

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### Condolences to:

**Leslie Kirzner** on the death of her sister,  
Jan Blumenthal-Eng

**Jill Blum** on the death of her mother, Carol Dubin

### Mazal Tov to:

to **Deborah & Jeffrey Klein** on their birth  
of their grandson, Mason Shay Cohn

to **Renee and Gary Garbus** on the birth of  
their grandson, Benjamin Jay Sahler

*R'fuah Sh'leimah*  
(For a full and speed recovery)

**Ed Vogel**

**Stu Turner**

**Elyse Victor Berman**

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**Challah  
Bake  
2022!**

**Wednesday, January 26**  
(snow date will be Feb 2).  
Doors open at 6:30 - Event begins at 7pm

**\$36 per person**  
includes all ingredients for your custom Challah

All are welcome - make your table (Limit 10)  
Don't miss out - space limited!



### Welcome New Members:

**Ryan and Shari Lederman and family**, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Stuart and Rachel Crockford and family**, Ramsey, NJ

**Lawrence and Sara Weiner and family**,  
Upper Saddle River, NJ

**Paul and Marni Hirschorn and family**, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Ari and Elizabeth Zweig and family**, Ramsey, NJ

**Rachel Sugalski, Marsha Dominguez and family**,  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Eric and Gretchen Melman and family**,  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Richard and Adina Corsaro and family**,  
Pompton Lakes, NJ

**Adam and Cassandra Jimenez-Schulman**, Bloomfield, NJ

**Ivan and Linda Schulman**, Tuxedo Park, NY

**Joshua & Rachael Goldstein and family**, Mahwah, NJ

**Gloria Leder**, Mahwah, NJ

**Lee Root & Jill Lieberman and family**,  
Upper Saddle River, NJ



# A Hanukkah story from three continents.

Have you ever met anyone who doesn't like Hanukkah? I didn't think so. Perhaps a poorly controlled diabetic may feel bad seeing all of those carb-loaded potato latkes and *sufganyiot* but once the candles are lit, it's a universally loved holiday among the Jewish people. It's a story of struggle and victory and food and presents and Jewish strength and light and more presents and most of all, miracles. It's the only holiday where we are obliged to "*L'farsem et Ha-Nes*", or to advertise/publicize the miracle. We don't hang matzah in our window during Passover and we don't go trick or treating around the neighborhood in our costumes on Purim. But Hanukkah is a holiday that Jews are encouraged to show the rest of the world that we are celebrating our religion brightly.

When I think about the different ways my family has celebrated Hanukkah, it's quite a miracle to think how this particular Jewish holiday, like no other, has evolved in just two generations, let alone over the hundreds of years since the time of the Maccabees.

My parents had no choice but to hide their religion and traditions as Jews in the former Soviet Union or risk persecution. They could not advertise this light as commanded because their society forbade it. I heard stories of the "black van" that would show up and take someone away to be interrogated if there was any suspicion of them practicing Judaism. Menorahs were lit in secret where light glowed even as the world outside tried to snuff it out.

In 1972, my parents were among the first Jews to leave Russia and make *Aliyah* to Israel. Other than a Yom Kippur War that greeted them shortly after arriving, they quickly realized that they were in a land full of Jews and were suddenly freely able to express their religion. All holidays, especially Hanukkah, were plainly obvious. Sirens blared on Rosh Hashanah and everything was closed on Yom Kippur. You could not buy a loaf of bread for seven (not eight) days in March/April. And on Hanukkah, the streets had giant lit menorahs and every apartment in every building in Ramat Gan had a glowing light shining from it. Jews had a home where they could be Jewish and not think twice about it.



In 1980, my family emigrated to the US. I was three and a half years old and grew up in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood of Plainview, Long Island. Most of my friends were Jewish and it seemed to me that it was quite easy to be Jewish in the US. We put our electric *Chanukiyah* in our front window and as a child, I never thought it meant any more than symbolizing a fun family holiday.

However, now, as an adult and also a father and a husband, I still live in those same United States, but for the first time in my life, I am more worried lately about what being Jewish and publicizing our traditions means. Anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment is ubiquitous and it places us in the middle of a new or perhaps a continuation of the struggle that our ancestors and even our immediate family have faced. It is now our job to find a way to keep the light shining.

As I look to the future, I think about how my wife, who was born in Belarus and whose family emigrated straight to Brooklyn, NY once the former Soviet Union broke apart. I can't help but think about how she did not have the exposure to Judaism that I did growing up and how some practices I may be quite familiar with are very new to her. Hanukkah is as easy as it gets among the Jewish holidays. Rather than fasting for 25 hours, we eat. We gather our family and light candles and recite *b'rachot* (blessings) together. What can be better?

Now that we have two wonderful daughters to raise and share this with, it is ever more important to me that my family not only know that they are Jewish, but to share traditions that define our religion. This is why we are so proud to be part of the BHSS family, where our experience has been one of warmth and love and Jewish education that keep the light of our heritage alive.

Yair Kissin





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# Worship Schedule

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**ALL SERVICES WILL BE INDOORS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED  
ALL TIMES, DATES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Friday, November 5	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Shabbat Family Services</b> <i>Birthdays in November will be celebrated</i>
Saturday, November 6	10:00 am	Bat Mitzvah of Laila Graham-Bialer
Friday, November 12	6:30 pm	Shabbat Evening Services
Friday, November 19	<b>5:00 pm</b> 6:30 pm	<b>Tot Shabbat</b> Shabbat Evening Services
Friday, November 26	6:30 pm	Shabbat Evening Services via Zoom
Friday, December 3	6:30 pm	Shabbat Hanukkah <i>Birthdays in December will be celebrated</i>
Saturday, December 4	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Shamosh
Friday, December 10	<b>5:00 pm</b> 6:30 pm	<b>Tot Shabbat</b> Shabbat Evening Services
Saturday, December 11	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Heffernan
Friday, December 17	6:30 pm	Shabbat Evening Services
Friday, December 25	6:30 pm	Shabbat Evening Services
Friday, December 31	6:30 pm	Shabbat Evening Services





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

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman  
Rebecca McVeigh, Director of Education

**Sessions of School:**

Sundays: November 14, 21, December 5, 12, 19  
Mondays: November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, December 6, 13, 20  
Tuesdays: November 9, 16, 30, December 7, 14, 21  
Wednesday: November 10, 17, December 1, 8, 15, 22

**Office Closed:**

November 25, 26  
December 24, 31



## To do in November and December

- *Run for a good cause at the 2nd Annual Mitzvah Mile - November 7 at 9:00 am*
- *Bring the little ones to Tot Shabbat - November 19 and December 10 at 5:00 pm*
- *Join Rabbi Ilana for Torah Study via Zoom - November 14, 21 and December 5, 12, 19 at 11:30 am*
- *Brotherhood Raps is back on Sundays November 21 and December 19 at 9:00 am*
- *Take action with the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force*
- *Be part of the discussion at Book and a Bagel via Zoom featuring "The Choice" - Sunday, November 14 at 1:00 pm*
- *Celebrate in Upper Saddle River with the BHSS/JCO Hanukkah Candlelighting - Tuesday, November 30 at 6:15 pm*
- *Spread the joy with Sisterhood's Kindness Chain - coming in November!*
- *Join the fun at the Brotherhood Hanukkah party - Thursday, December 2*
- *Rejoice in the Festival of Lights at Shabbat Hanukkah - Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm*
- *Raise a glass at Sisterhood's virtual wine tasting on Thursday, December 9 at 7:30 pm*
- *Celebrate Shabbat with the kids at Shabbat Sh'Happy - Saturday, December 18 at 10:00 am*
- *Help kids in need for the holidays by donating to the D.A.R.E. Holiday Toy Drive*