

TEMPLE



TOPICS

TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR 5783

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

Rabbi Ilana's Message

Special Shabbatot

So often in the larger Jewish context, Reform and Liberal Judaism are seen as excluding traditional practices. We **don't** recite a full Hallel, the songs of praise, on a holiday. We **don't** all necessarily keep kosher. We **don't** do a full Torah reading. We **don't** keep a second or eighth day of most holidays. But when it comes to exceptional or special *Shabbatot*, we are reminded of all the things Reform Judaism adds.

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President's Message

Adding a Little L'Chayim to our Auld Lang Syne...

As Jews, we of course observe our new year on Rosh Hashanah... On December 31, many folks around the world also sound horns and make resolutions to lose weight, exercise more and get organized... Should Jews feel badly for double dipping in the festivities?

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Director of Education

What Do You Remember?

At home on Cape Cod my mother lit the candles and we sang the Kiddush. I don't remember if there was always a challah, or if we sang the *motzi*. I remember pot roast or roast chicken, and then we went to services.

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B'NAI MITZVAH

January 28 Hailey Feldman

February 11 Tyler Grossman

THINGS TO DO:

more info on back cover and throughout

- Healing Service
- Family Shabbat
- BHSS/JCCNJ Family Concert
- JCCNJ Shabbat Music Circle
- Tot Shabbat
- Sisterhood Paint Party
- Ukraine discussion with Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
- Torah Stories – Tu Bishvat
- Keep Calm and Drum On
- Refugee Shabbat Shirah
- TV Talks with Rabbi Ilana – **NEW!**



and Tu Bishvat!



President's Message

Jen Cole

I can hear Ella Fitzgerald's smooth, sultry voice singing in my head, "What are you doing on New Year's Eve?"

Despite the fact that this song was written by Frank Loesser of "Guys and Dolls" fame, a Jewish composer (or at least one who, according to Wikipedia, was "born to Jewish parents"), there remains some controversy as to whether it is appropriate to partake in the party.

As Jews, we of course observe our new year on Rosh Hashanah (literally, "head of the year"), which occurs in September or October, corresponding to the Hebrew month of *Tishrei* (which is actually not the first but the seventh month, but this is a story for a different day!). We celebrate the creation of the universe and humanity, and begin the Days of Awe, a ten-day period of deep reflection, culminating with Yom Kippur. We go to synagogue, greet friends old and new, hear the sound of the shofar and pledge to be better and do better in the year ahead through *tefilah*, *teshuvah* and *tzedakah*, - prayer, repentance and charity.

On December 31, many folks around the world also sound horns and make resolutions to lose weight, exercise more and get organized. We raise our glasses, sing songs about not forgetting old friends (or at least remembering that we forget them?) and drinking cups of kindness, as we mark the ending of one year and the beginning of another within the Gregorian calendar.

Should Jews feel badly for double dipping in the festivities?

It is well known that some Orthodox Jewish authorities are opposed to any participation in what is often thought of as a "secular" holiday (although a closer look at its history reveals that it may be less secular than widely believed). They view it as an act of abandonment and betrayal of our distinct heritage. Adding to the controversy is the fact that in Israel the December 31 celebration is commonly referred to as "Sylvester," named after a fourth century pope known to have been viciously antisemitic.

As Reform Jews, many of us embrace pluralism and partake in all kinds of secular and non-Jewish festivities. As I write this, I am fresh off a BHSS Zoom learning session in which we explored the December dilemma. Co-led by Rabbi Ilana and Reverend Ned Wight, former senior minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Manhasset, New York, we explored the challenges posed for some families, focusing on the ways in which we can look to our common values to find

*Adding a Little L'Chayim to
our Auld Lang Syne...*

ways of respecting and even embracing diverse traditions.

Responding to the questions of the January dilemma, Rabbi Brad Hirshfield, president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, points out that deeply embedded in Jewish tradition is the notion that we can, and should, see that there are multiple opportunities to begin again. Every day in our morning prayers, traditional Jews recite thanks to God for renewing the world. Each week at Shabbat we recall the first moment of creation, allowing ourselves an opportunity to start over. While Rosh Hashanah may be the "birthday of the world," our oral tradition teaches that there are actually multiple "new years" within the year. Rabbi Hirshfield writes, "to commemorate an additional one is not foreign to Jewish practice" and recommends that in lieu of ignoring the occasion and refraining from celebration, our focus might instead shift to how we might mark the beginning of January, Jewishly.

How might we do so?

It will probably not surprise anyone that each year approximately 1 million people shlep to Times Square to see the ball drop. Living in proximity to New York City, I am sure that many BHSS congregants have been among the crowds at one time or another.

But did you know that the seeds of this annual tradition have Jewish underpinnings?

Adolf S. Ochs, the son of German immigrants, was raised in poverty in Tennessee. When he was only eleven years old, he convinced his parents to let him get a job to help support the family and he entered the newspaper business as an office boy for the *Knoxville Chronicle*. At the age of 19, Ochs borrowed \$800 to buy a controlling interest in the *Chattanooga Times*. In 1884, he married Effie Wise, daughter of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, a leading proponent of Reform Judaism in America and founder of the Hebrew Union College. Ochs went on to purchase the *New York Times* in 1896, announcing his ambition to transform it into a high-quality publication, at a time when there were not many newspapers that readers could trust. To attract more publicity, Ochs hosted fireworks displays in front of the offices on New Year's Eve. In 1907, when the city refused to grant him the permit and banned the show, he was undaunted and instead commissioned an enormous illuminated ball to be built and then lowered from a flagpole at precisely midnight. This was a twist on an old maritime tradition to drop a ball that was visible out at sea at exactly 1 p.m. so that captains of nearby ships could set

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Throughout the Jewish year, there are a smattering of special *Shabbatot* to mark occasions and the divergence from the regular Torah or Haftarah schedule. They include *Rosh Chodesh*, *Shabbat Shuvah*, *Shabbat Shira*, *Shabbat Shekalim*, *Shabbat Zachor*, *Shabbat Parah*, *Shabbat HaChodesh*, *Shabbat HaGadol*, *Shabbat Chazon*, and *Shabbat Nachamu*... not to mention all the times when a holiday overlaps with Shabbat and alters the regularly scheduled reading. These are moments when we break from our usual routine to include and commemorate the new moon, the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the week when we read the section of the Torah after the parting of the Red/Reed Sea, the week leading up to Purim, and on and on. To be sure, these exceptions keep us on our liturgical toes and alert to the correct readings.

In the Liberal Jewish world, when we may not read the full Torah or Haftarah reading on any given Shabbat, it may be harder to notice that we are adding a reading from a different book of the Torah for the last or maftir reading or that we have a different section of Prophets to consider on these particular weeks. Nevertheless, we focus our liturgical readings or *divrai Torah*, the Rabbi's sermon, and remarks on what is different or special.

So often in the larger Jewish context, Reform and Liberal Judaism are seen as excluding traditional practices. We **don't** recite a full *Hallel*, the songs of praise, on a holiday. We don't all necessarily keep kosher. We **don't** do a full Torah reading. We **don't** keep a second or eighth day of most holidays. But when it comes to exceptional or special *Shabbatot*, we are reminded of all the things Reform Judaism adds.

For example, on Friday, February 3, we will celebrate Refugee *Shabbat Shirah*. In addition to reading from the Song of the Sea, our choir will lead us in musical celebration. We will combine our own history with the needs of so many people around the world who are seeking refuge, fulfilling the mitzvah, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Lev.19:34). This service embodies the empathy we feel as a people for all those still

struggling for freedom with joy and the enrichment of choral music.

Additionally, on Friday, February 17, we will observe Repro Shabbat. Last year, the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), according to their website, inaugurated "this Shabbat as the Jewish time we needed to recommit ourselves as a Jewish community to reproductive health, rights, and justice." Once again, this is an opportunity to focus on our common principles.

In both of these cases, we are augmenting the Jewish legacy of taking time on Shabbat, through our liturgical and scriptural readings, to consider the practical application of our Jewish history and values. In both of these cases, we have moved away from what we **don't** do towards what we actively **choose**. We are keeping a long tradition of enhancing the Jewish spiritual cycle and committing ourselves to work for the benefit of others. These are circumstances where we assert the relevance of our faith and embrace that elusive ideal of the traditional and modern.

Please join us in the prayer, in the readings, and also in the action.



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January

Jayden Brussel

Ava Madison Diamond

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Abby Fein

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Levi Forman

Lindsay Goldstein

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Samone Kaufman

Harrison Kipnis

Samantha Kotz

Emma Sabloff

Emily Smith

Reagan Stein

Jeffrey Waldbaum

Lucas Weiner

February

Mason Brussel

Samuel Cohen

William Franklin

Cody Levine

Sean Levinson

Charlotte Geller

Tyler Grossman

Kaitlin McNulty

Jaye Evelyn Mendel

Ava Rozenblat

What I Remember

From The Educator

Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh



I always say that as parents we never know what our children will remember, so we do our best to give them experiences and learning that they will take forward with them into their adult lives. And we teach in our school that Jewish observance and tradition can take many forms.

It is no secret to those who know me that I am a huge fangirl of Alden Solovy, a liturgist/poet/author, all of whose books I own signed copies of. He offers writing intensives, and I signed up with the intention of being more a watcher than an active participant. The theme of the most recent one was about welcoming Shabbat, using *L'cha Dodi*, *Shalom Aleichem*, and the lighting of the Shabbat candles as inspiration. One day we were asked to write about how we – each of us – welcome Shabbat. And I thought about the two things we are commanded in the Torah to do: to Observe (*Shamor*) and to Remember (*Zachor*) Shabbat. And I wrote:

Shamor:

Dad is a veterinarian and worked on Saturdays, despite being raised as an Orthodox Yeshiva boy from Brooklyn.

Mom was a cultural Jew from Philadelphia.

From old photos, I can see that they had a chuppah that cold day in January, a rabbi, and plenty of kippot on their friends and relatives.

They came from places with many Jews, to settle in a place with few.

For him, she lit candles and prepared a special meal. She took on the role of the wife of a leader in the congregation.

Did she feel more Jewish than in her childhood?

Was it hard for her? Did her parents disapprove?

She is gone, and I never asked...

For her, he let go of some traditions of his childhood, of a kosher household and quiet Saturdays.

Perhaps he was ready to break out, or perhaps he was just willing to compromise for a beloved bride.

Did he feel less Jewish than in his childhood?

Was it hard for him? Did his parents disapprove?

I never asked. But now I will.

Zachor:

I don't remember welcoming Shabbat.

At home on Cape Cod my mother lit the candles and we sang the Kiddush.

I don't remember if there was always a challah, or if we sang the motzi.

I remember pot roast or roast chicken, and then we went to services.

At the synagogue I sang in the junior choir, more worried about my peers who did NOT have to go to services, who were not even Jewish, than how, or even if, we "welcomed" Shabbat.

I'm sure we must have sung *L'cha Dodi*, but I don't remember the tune.

I remember my father – a multi-term congregational president, sitting up on the bimah.

I remember my mother, helping the other women prepare the refreshments for the oneg.

But I don't remember welcoming Shabbat

In retrospect, I DID welcome Shabbat, although it probably didn't look very "typical" and it is likely that neither does anyone else's. My father is now 97; are there people in your lives whose Shabbat you'd like your children to know about as they learn? Ask!



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



**Hailey Feldman –
January 28, 2023**

Lives in Mahwah, New Jersey. Mother, Alexia, Father, Elliott, Brother, Benjamin, 9, Sister, Leah, 9 is a 7th grader at Ramapo Ridge Middle School Her interests include arts, crafts, and sports, especially soccer. “I would like improve my soccer skills and continue to get honors in school. I’m excited to celebrate this occasion with my friends and family. I decided to help out at a dog shelter, in honor of my dog who has passed.”



**Tyler Grossman –
February 11, 2023**

Lives Suffern, New York. Mother, Karen, Father, Scott, Brother, Ben, 15 is a 7th grader at Suffern Middle School His interests include ice hockey, running, video games, and History. “I don’t know what I want to be yet; I just turned 13! I am relieved that this day is finally here! I can show what I have learned and celebrate with my family and friends. I will be collecting dyslexic-friendly books for the Suffern Free Library so all levels of readers feel comfortable going to the library and learning to read.”

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR January - February 2023

| Monday Kadimah grades 7-12 6:45-8:15 p.m. <i>except *</i> <i>PJ remote Kadimah</i> 6:45-7:45 pm | Sunday Family School & traditional 6th 9:00-10:30 a.m. | Monday K, 1, 2 & traditional 3rd 4:15-5:45 p.m. | Tuesday traditional 4th & 5th 4:15-5:45 p.m. |
|---|---|--|--|
| | 1 No School | 2 No School | 3 No School |
| January | 8 | 9* | 10 |
| 2023 | 15 no class | 16 No School | 17 |
| | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| February | 5 | 6* | 7 |
| 2023 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | 19 No School | 20 No School | 21 No School |
| | 26 | 27 | 28 |

continued from p.2

their chronometers. Och’s tradition has stood the test of time, with today’s ball growing to over 12,000 pounds and 12 feet in diameter. And in addition to the 1 million who attend in person, thanks to satellite technology over 1 billion people worldwide can watch from their screens and share in the spectacle.

Ochs championed a “no frills” approach where the ideal paradigm was impartial, purely information reporting. He was a leader in fighting antisemitism, active in the early years of the Anti-Defamation League and known to use his platform at the Times to convince other newspapers to cease unjustified caricaturing and lampooning of Jews in the American press.

I think we can all agree: We could use more people like Adolph Ochs today.

So as the countdown happens, I invite you to think about Ochs. Maybe instead of (or in addition to) promising ourselves to take off those unwanted pounds or get back to the gym, we can also be inspired to delve more deeply and return again to themes of *tefilah*, *yeshivah* and *tzedakah*.

In doing so, we will add a little *L’Chayim* to our Auld Lang Syne and celebrate our January a bit more Jewishly. And don’t forget to hang on to those noisemakers, as they make perfect Purim groggers!

Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy 2023!

Eternal Lights October 2022

DINNER WITH FELLOW CONGREGANTS, LAUGHING WITH FRIENDS AND ENJOYING DRINKS BY THE FIRE,
ALL WHILE SUPPORTING OUR BEAUTIFUL SYNAGOGUE, IS WHAT ETERNAL LIGHTS IS ALL ABOUT.

FOR 24 YEARS THIS EVENT HAS HELPED TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, PROGRAMMING
AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO BE A PART OF OUR
SYNAGOGUE AND OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY. WE RAISED OVER \$17,000!!

JUST LIKE THE STARS THAT SHINE BRIGHT IN THE SKY, ALL OF OUR GENEROUS
CONTRIBUTORS ARE THE STARS THAT KEEP OUR ETERNAL LIGHT SHINING!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS, YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR PRESENCE!

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January Calendar

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|----------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | No School | No School | 7 pm Healing Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 6:30 pm Tefilot Family Service | Vay'chi |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 9 am 6th trad & FS 3 pm Family Jam Concert | 4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm PJ Remote Kadimah | 4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7 pm Drum On 7:30 pm Exec Comm 7:30 pm MMG mtg | 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 7 pm Tefilot | Sh'mot |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| No School | No School | 4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Board Mtg. | 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 5 pm Tot Shabbat 7 pm Tefilot | Va'eira |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 9 am 6th trad & FS | 4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah | 4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Music Comm. Mtg. | 7 pm BHSS/JCC Holocaust Survivor Discussion | | 7 pm Tefilot | Bo 10 am Hailey Feldman |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| 9 am 6th trad & FS 2:30 pm Sis'hood Paint Party | 4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah | 4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Lifelong Learning: Ukraine | | | | |

February Calendar

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|--|----------|--|----------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | 7:30 pm Adult Choir | | 7 pm Tefilot Refugee Shabbat Shirah | B'shallach |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 9 am 6th trad & FS 11 am Youth Group @ Promenade | 4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm PJ Remote Kadimah | 4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7 pm Drum On | 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Torah Stories via Zoom | | 6:30 pm Tefilot Family Service | Yitro 10 am Tyler Grossman |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 9 am 6th trad & FS | 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 | 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm TV Talks via Zoom | | 5 pm Tot Shabbat 7 pm Tefilot | Mishpatim |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| No School | No School | No School 7:30 pm Board Mtg. | 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm TV Talks via Zoom | | 7 pm Tefilot | T'rumah |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |
| 9 am 6th trad & FS | 4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah | 4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Music Comm. Mtg. | | | | |

TRADITION AND CULTURE



TU BISHVAT - “The Birthday of the Trees”

Marvin Gaye released his prophetic album, “What’s Going On” 51 years ago. His masterful album spoke about war, racial injustice, the economy and the environment.

In “Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)” he sings:

*Mercy mercy me
Things ain't what they used to be
What about this overcrowded land
How much more abuse from man can she stand.*

Unfortunately, these themes still ring true today, and could be more relevant now than when he composed it.

There are many references to the holiness of the environment in the Torah and other ancient Jewish texts. In the 16th century the Kabbalists created a new ritual to celebrate *Tu Bishvat*. Originally *Tu Bishvat* was merely a date on the calendar that helped Jewish farmers establish when they should bring their produce from recently planted trees to the Temple. Later on, it transformed into a holiday with new religious significance including elaborate new symbolic rituals. In modern times, Tu Bishvat has become a symbol of both Zionist attachment to the land of Israel and an example of Jewish sensitivity to the environment. In a nutshell, *Tu Bishvat* is an ancient and authentic Jewish” earth day.” This year, Tu Bishvat is celebrated on February 5-6.

A group of us at BHSS have decided to get together to honor these themes and make a difference in the world we are living in today. We hope you will join us.

Our plans for this initiative include:

- Planting the BHSS community garden. Spring is right around the corner, and the planning starts now. As in years past the harvest will be donated to local charities to help feed those who are food compromised.
- Supporting the Jewish National Fund by continuing to plant trees in Israel. The Jewish National Fund is an organization devoted to reforesting Israel. They make it easy to plant a tree for yourself or in someone’s honor. You can find them at jnf.org.
- Implementing a task force at BHSS to look at what we can do to help save the planet. Global warming, water and land pollution are just some examples of what a mess we are creating. We must find solutions before it is too late.

We need your ideas! Help us plan what we can do at the temple, in our local communities, and globally to put an end to these man-made catastrophes before it’s too late.

Please join us for our kick off meeting as we launch our BHSS *Tu Bishvat* 2023 initiative at the synagogue (also accessible via Zoom) on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30 pm. Please RSVP by calling the temple office.

We hope to see you then!

SOCIAL ACTION

As daylight decreases and temperatures drop, the BHSS Social Action Committee has been planning events which will warmly inspire and motivate you.

Our first 2023 event will be a virtual roundtable discussion, led and moderated by our own Rabbi Ilana, on the theme of social justice. Three of BHSS's past rabbis have written chapters for a newly released book published by the CCAR Press called *The Social Justice Torah Commentary*. We will hear from Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, Rabbi David Segal, and Rabbi Josh Stanton, who will discuss the content and answer questions about the chapters they have contributed to this valuable and insightful book. This discussion will be via Zoom, and as soon as a date is confirmed we will let you know. BHSS Social Action will make the relevant book chapters available in advance for all attendees. It should be an exciting and educational forum.

Many of you already know that two refugee Ukrainian families have successfully settled in Mahwah, New Jersey and Suffern, New York, and BHSS has been helping them adjust to their new lives in the United States. Therefore, the H.I.A.S. annual Refugee Shabbat comes at the perfect time! H.I.A.S., the immigrant resettlement organization, has scheduled its nationwide "Refugee Shabbat" for February 3. This is also the

weekend of *Shabbat Shirah*...the Shabbat of Song. We hope everyone, including children and young people join us for this special Refugee *Shabbat Shirah*. It is sure to be a moving evening of song, prayer and awareness of the importance of outreach toward "the strangers among us" and advocacy for current and incoming refugee families.

BHSS's Social Action Committee's goal in 2023 will be to continue its work with every synagogue group, reach out to the entire congregation, and unite with Rabbi Ilana in our mutual desire to embrace *tikkun olam* wherever possible. Please attend our monthly Zoom meetings generally held the last Tuesday evening of every month at 7:30 p.m. We welcome EVERYONE to attend and bring us your valuable input and ideas.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at bhsssocialaction@gmail.com. Stay warm and healthy this winter season!

Lisa B. Estrin, Co-Chairperson, lbestrin@aol.com

Jonathan A. Theodore, Co-Chairperson,
theodore.central@gmail.com

Lisa Glick, Vice Chairperson, lisarglick@gmail.com



Thank you to all who contributed to the Suffern DARE Holiday Toy Drive.

We received piles of toys ready for delivery.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Good & Welfare

from and for the congregation

Condolences to:

Lisa Estrin on the death of her sister,
Lori Rosenblum Brown

Elyse Burrows on the death of her aunt,
Adrienne Deutsch

Steve Littman on the death of his sister,
Susan Littman Westervelt

Nancy Teichman on the death of
her sister, Susan Schneider

Brian Altman on the death of his
grandmother, Vera Altman

Jennifer Waldbaum on the death of her
grandmother, Evelyn Anolick

Welcome New Members:

**Adam Rosenstock & Jennifer Abramowitz
and family**, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

Kristin & Jordan Rose and family,
Upper Saddle River, NJ

Mazel Tov to:

Alison & Norman Axelrod for the birth of their grandson,
Ridge Elliot Axelrod, born to April and A.J. Axelrod

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

Ed Vogel

Stu Turner

Beth Dubiel

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee often suggests books found in our library for you to read. We hope these book summaries of fiction and nonfiction have led you to read, learn and imagine.

At our last library meeting we found ourselves having an amazing discussion about ourselves. We come from different places with different interests and professions. While we have our own personal connection to Judaism, we are all Jewish or love someone who is.

Different, and yet our families came from someplace else... and then they came to America. The conversations we had in the library that day were rich and beautiful. And now we know each other a little better.

We have common Jewish roots and we have stories to tell. Boy, do we have stories to tell!



Our stories were often about a grandfather or grandmother and about the cities they came from.

Beginning with the next issue of *Temple Topics* we will begin to present our congregation's family stories so that all of us can know each other a little better. We will call it "Sharing Our Jewish Roots". Our stories will be saved in a special album in the library.

Would you like to tell your story? Sherry Levitt, one of our library ladies, will be happy to hear from you if you would like to share your Jewish roots. She can be reached at: elmo148@aol.com. You might like Sherry to interview you, or you might like to write your own family story. You may even want to do this as a family project so that even our youngest will know the family stories.

We look forward to hearing from you, hearing your stories, and getting to know YOU a little better, too!

BROTHERHOOD

L'Shalom!

Happy Secular New Year, everyone! We hope you enjoyed the holidays and the close of 2022!

Brotherhood ended 2022 with their annual BHSS Brotherhood Hanukkah Dinner and Gift Exchange/Grab Bag. This time, the annual event was held at Curley's Corner in Suffern, a restaurant/tavern owned by the mayor of the Village of Suffern. A good time was had by all!

2023 will begin with a dinner in January, location to follow and re-introducing Brotherhood Raps, date to follow. Brotherhood is also supporting our BHSS Youth on January 21 at the Midnight Run. This amazing event is where cars full of volunteers join up with others to caravan into NYC and give out hot food and drinks, toiletries, clothing, shoes and warm blankets to those who are living on the streets and needing a helping hand. Brotherhood has boxes set up in the Religious School lobby for donations of gently used and new

clothing. This next collection will be donated to the Midnight Run, and we are looking for coats, shoes, NEW socks, NEW underwear, and new and gently used sweaters, jeans, jackets, coats and other warm things. If you are interested in participating in this fabulous event, please feel free to reach out to us at president@bhssbrotherhood.org

BHSS Brotherhood continues to support other groups and synagogue-wide initiatives. If you would like to join our email list, feel free to email us at president@bhssbrotherhood.org. Keep an eye out for upcoming events. Another movie night, dinners, breakfasts - and don't forget about our annual Brotherhood Shabbat in June followed by our suite at the NY Boulders game.

We are BHSS Brotherhood – Repairing the world, one mitzvah at a time!

L'Shalom!

SISTERHOOD

Happy New Year's greetings from a grateful BHSS Sisterhood! We were so thrilled by the wonderful turnout and generous participation of our community at our Goods & Services Auction. Thanks to all of you, we were able to raise the money we will use over the next two years to fund causes important to all our members. Did you know that the auction proceeds pay for camperships for our kids to attend URJ summer camps? We also provide gifts for each Bar and Bat Mitzvah. We contribute not just money, but our time and efforts to shelters and food pantries in the area. None of that would be possible without your help. So a very big "thank you" to all who came out to support Sisterhood.

And wasn't it a fun night? Whether you took home a treasure, whether you'll be dining out all over Rockland and Bergen, whether you'll be vacationing in the Caribbean, your "freebie" was the fun and the friendship of the evening. That doesn't happen without the work of a lot of people. So another huge *todah rabah* to our Auction Committee. It would take pages to list every name, but a particular thank you to Lisa Lamster, our fearless auction leader; to Gail Spencer and Stacey Coyne, our

enthusiastic auctioneers; and to our Hospitality Committee, who provided amazing nibbles and drinks! An evening like that isn't put together in a weekend. Please know that every donation was the result of a sister's effort in soliciting them and we thank all of them for supporting our community. Your dollars were extremely well-spent.

Of course, the auction has been a big part of our planning, but we aren't done. On Sunday, January 29, we return to have creative fun at Sisterhood's Paint Party. We'll be in the social hall from 2:30 - 5:00 pm making masterpieces. (Photos or it didn't happen!) Your \$30 payment includes all the supplies you need. All BHSS members and all ages are welcome. Contact Lisa Lamster (yes, she's back at work), for details and to venmo your payment. See you there!

With our thanks, and our wishes for a warm and wonderful winter,

Beth Wiesner and Lisa Estrin

BHSS YOUTH GROUPS

Hello everyone!

We had a blast seeing you at our 2022 Events! It was so good to see you back at religious school and some of the high holiday services! If you have not filled out your membership forms yet we encourage you to [become a member of the youth group here!](#)

We are so excited to share our 2022-2023 BHSSTY Board with you!

Co-Presidents – Leah Wolf and Annabel Theodore
 Religious & Cultural Vice President: Brian Ritchin
 Programming Vice President: Hannah Altman
 Communications Vice President: Cora Einhorn
 Membership Vice President: Matt Altman
 Treasurer: Danielle Kissin



We would love to have you join us at one of our upcoming events! Below is our calendar for this year's events. If there is something else you would like to do, please let us know!

| Menschmakers Grades 3-6 | BHSSTY Grades 7-12 |
|---|---|
| Sky Zone in Allendale January 22nd 12-1:15 pm | Midnight Run January 21st 8-1 am |
| BINGO @ Promenade at Chestnut Ridge February 5th 11-12:30 pm | BINGO @ Promenade at Chestnut Ridge February 5th 11-12:30 pm |
| Purim Carnival March 5th 10:30-12:30 pm | Purim Carnival SET UP March 4th 5-7 pm March 5th 10:30-12:30 pm |
| Escape The Room May 7th 12-2 pm | Escape The Room April 23rd 12-2 pm |
| | Creative Service May 19th 7:30 pm |
| | Elections End of Year June TBD |

Hope we get the chance to see you soon! If you have any ideas for events or just want to chat, you can reach us at bhssyouth@gmail.com. Follow us on instagram @bhsstyinsta.

MICHELLE MITZVAH GROUP

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season. We are now into January and New Year's resolutions and I always wonder if it is the same resolutions we make for Rosh Hashanah. One resolution people make is to "get involved" by helping their community. If that is your New Year's resolution, please look no further than the Michelle Mitzvah Group. We are always looking for volunteers willing to help out the community.

An easy way to support the community is by bringing food to the synagogue to support the Center for Food Action. Every year, during the High Holidays, we collect food and try to fill up the CFA van, or as many bins as we can. The past couple of years, donations have been down, in part due to virtual services and not as many people walking in and out of the synagogue.

Please remember to bring in a can of food to the synagogue to help donate. There are collection bins at each entrance to the synagogue. Below is a list of their most needed items:

- **Supermarket Gift Cards**
- **Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)**
- **Canned Hearty Soup**
- **Canned Vegetables**
- **Macaroni & Cheese**
- **Peanut Butter & Jelly**
- **Tomato Sauce**
- **Cold Cereal (low sugar) and Oatmeal**
- **Powdered milk and/or Boxed milk, such as Parmalat**
- **Canned Fruit**
- **Instant potatoes**
- **100% Juice**
- **Baby Formula and Diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6**
- **Bar or Bottled Soap**
- **Toothpaste, Toothbrush & Dental Floss**

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, we learned of the passing of former BHSS member and an integral part of Michelle Mitzvah Group, Murray Turka. Murray would have a big smile when you saw him and a quick joke to always make you feel at ease. He always would offer assistance in any capacity and his commitment to BHSS and the Michelle Mitzvah Group are more than any words will be able to do justice. While he moved to South Carolina 12 years ago, some of the current members of the Michelle Mitzvah Group got their start because of Murray. To describe Murray in a few words – he was a real mensch. We are truly thankful for all he has provided us.

As we move forward, we do so with heavy hearts and a commitment to helping others and to help honor Murray and his legacy. May his memory be a blessing.

B'Shalom

Steven Simon

Michelle Mitzvah Group Chair

steveoum@verizon.net



Murray Turka

Yizkor Appeal

Maxine & Howard Abner – in memory of Blanche Lambert and Ruth-Morris Abner

Sandy & Bill Arlington

Irma Becker – in memory of Joel Becker

Inna & Igor Berin – in memory of Sofia Revich

Bilha Berkowitz

Jayne Cohen – in memory of Mark Cohen

Lee & Joanne Ehlermann

Susie & Jonathan Fein

Erica Fields – in memory of Eric Fields

Audrey & Stephen Flynn – in memory of Harold Landau

Marilyn & Irwin Haberman

Barbara Heitmann – in memory of Edna and Jack Homnick

Sandi & Robert Jeanette – in memory of Edith Roth, Morris Roth, Gertrude Roth, Paul Jeanette

Len Kaplan – in memory of Meryle Kaplan

Lisa Lamster – in memory of Linda Goldfarb and Terry Coffel

Tara & Marc Leibman – in memory of Fran Zitner and Danny Stettin

Sherry Levitt – in memory of Paul Levitt, Eva Stedman, Saul Stedman, Beatrice Levitt, Thelma Levitt and Benjamin Levitt

Rhoda & Marty Lonow – in memory of Harold and Rosa Weinberg, Esther Lonow

Laura & Thomas Lindsay – in memory of Myron Newman

Bernice Medici – in memory of Laura Medici Fleming

Sue & Jay Meyers

Lori & Lance Millman – in memory of Roslyn and Harold Millman

Helen Milstein

Phil Moss – in memory of Barbara Moss, Esther Moss, George Moss, Ethel Pesin, Irving Pesin, Sarah Blacher and Victor Levy

Sheila Nathanson – in memory of Sophie and Dave Stiglitz

Diana Nudelman

Joanne Oventhal – in memory of Thelma and Seymour Oventhal, Neil Savitch

Melissa & Jay Peller – in memory of Arnold Peller

Lori Perlstein – in memory of Brad Perlstein

Susan & Harris Reinstein – in memory of Eugene Reinstein, Leah Reinstein, Estelle Weinberg and Howard Weinberg

Jill Lieberman & Lee Root – in memory of Robin and Jerome Root, Larry Root

Roni and Andrew Silver – in memory of Allen Nudelman

Carolyn & Scott Spungin – in memory of Edith and Ben Luckom, Rita and Joseph Nurenberg, Belle and Irving Bedell

Marilyn Taylor – in memory of Charlie Romano, Ed Ruzinsky, Vernon Taylor, Dorothy and Leon Auerbach

Ruth & Stuart Turner

Jewel & Stanley Waldbaum – in memory of Israel Kriegel, Sima Kreigel, William Waldbaum, Annette Waldbaum

Lynn & Michael Zall – in memory of Jeremy Zall



High Holiday Appeal



MAXINE & HOWARD ABNER
JENNIFER & BRIAN ALTMAN
SANDY & BILL ARLINGTON
ALISON & NORMAN AXELROD
CEIL BALDWIN
IRMA BECKER
JESSICA & GARRET BEDRIN
NORA & HAROLD BERGER
SANDRA BERGER
INNA & IGOR BERIN
SHELLEY & GARY BETTMAN
ROBERT BLAU
KAREN & GEORGE CHARNE
JAYNE COHEN
JEN & MATT COLE
LAURIE & MARC DANIEL
STACY & MICHAEL DAVIS
ERIC EINHORN
DONALD EISEN
SUSIE & JONATHAN FEIN
STACY & IRA FISHKIN
AUDREY & STEPHEN FLYNN
LISA & KENNETH GLICK –
IN HONOR OF ANITA GLICK
JOEL GOLDFARB
SUSAN & DENNIS GRALLA
MARILYN & IRWIN HABERMAN
ROBYN & MARC HARRIS
BARBARA HEITMANN
SHERYL & JOEL IVES
SANDI & ROBERT JEANETTE
SUE-ELLEN JOHNSON

CANDY & MICHAEL KASSOVER
ETHEL ROSEN & STU KIRSHNER
DEBORAH & JEFFREY KLEIN
RONALD KOPPELMAN
DONNA & ADAM KOTZ
LISA LAMSTER
TARA & MARC LEIBMAN
SUSAN & SEAN LEVIN
SHERRY LEVITT
LAURA & THOMAS LINDSAY
CLARE & PAUL LIPSON
ARLENE & RICH MANDEL
REBECCA & ROD McVEIGH
BERNICE MEDICI
PHYLLIS & BRUCE MELLER –
IN HONOR OF OUR FRIENDS
RITCH & LORI YANOWITZ
MADDIE & ALLAN MELZER
LORI & LANCE MILLMAN
PHIL MOSS
VIDA MYLSON & ERIC WEINER
SHERRI & RONALD NAHUM
SHEILA NATHANSON
DIANA NUDELMAN
JUDY & JOHN NEUMANN – IN HONOR
OF JANN & MARC CELEBRATING
BROOKE'S BAT MITZVAH
MELISSA & JAY PELLER
CHARLES PESIN
SUSAN & HARRIS REINSTEIN
JANN & MARC REISSMAN
JILL LIEBERMAN & LEE ROOT
FRAN & JEFF ROWBOTTOM

LESLIE SAPIENZA
JANET & ANDREW SCHLISSEL
MATTHEW SCHLOSSER
SHERI & ALLAN SCHOTT
LINDA & DAVID SCHWARTZ
ZIVA & JOEL SCHWARTZMAN
MICHELLE & RANDY SHERRY
IAN SETLESS & LORI HERMAN
STEVEN SELMAN
MERI & MICHAEL SENCHAK
DEBORAH & MARTIN SHAMES
RONI & ANDREW SILVER
SHEILA SOSIS
CAROLYN & SCOTT SPUNGIN
ELISA & STUART STROW
MARILYN TAYLOR
ARLENE TOONKEL
RUTH & STUART TURNER
LINDA & ED VOGEL
JEWEL & STANLEY WALDBAUM
LEONA WAYSER & MARTIN GORDON
MARCI & HARVEY WEINBERG
GAYLE & STEVE WEISS
LYNN & GERALD WESTON
GAIL & RANAN WICHLER
ROBIN WOLFENDEN – WITH THANKS
FOR SHARING THE HOLIDAY WITH ME
HELENE YAGODA
LORI & RITCH YANOWITZ



MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR BLESSING זכרונם לברכה ☆

January Yahrzeits

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ELLEN ABRAMS | BERDIE GELFENBEIN | CELIA MEYERS | MARILYN SOLOMON |
| HERMAN ACKERMAN | GLENN GELFENBEIN | ELIOT MEYERS | EDWARD SPENCER |
| LEAH ADLMAN | JOSEPH GINDIN | HOWARD MEYERS | TODD SPENCER |
| NORMAN ARKAWY | MARVIN GOODMAN | JAY MEYERS | EVA STEDMAN |
| FRED BARGETZI | ESTHER | HAROLD MILLMAN | ALLEN STEIN |
| LENA BENDALIN | GOODMAN-ZASLOW | MYRA MINTY | JUDITH STEINMAN |
| ESTHER BERNSTEIN | ELY GORDON | NANCY MORGAN | LOUIS STERNBERG |
| CLAIRE BENDER | SHARON GUZY-LEVINE | PAUL PLOTT | SUSAN SHERB STERNFELS |
| RONALD BRENNER | AARON HALL | MAURICE REISSMAN | WILLIAM D. STRAUSS |
| IDA BRODY | NATHAN HIEGER | LEO RIVKIND | ARI STROW |
| VINCENT BRUNHARD | SHARYN HOFFMAN | RUTH RIVKIND | MICHAEL TEITELBAUM |
| SUSANNE BUCKLER | JACOB ISRAEL | DAVID SALTZMAN | SUMNER VICTOR |
| GERALD DEFOREST | PHOEBE JAFFE | NEIL SAVITCH | ARNOLD WEINER |
| CROUCH | RONALD JOHNSON | SELMA SCHECHTER | SONDRA WELLS |
| RUTH DOBLIN | GERALD KLEIN | LOUIS SCHLUSSEL | NATHAN WIDMAN |
| SOPHIE EISENSTEIN | SYLVIA LACHER | RABBI SYLVAN | KARL WILDMAN |
| WILLIAM EISENSTEIN | SAM LEHRFELD | SCHWARTZMAN | JACK WILNER |
| THEODORE EPSTEIN | THEODORE LEIBMAN | RUTH FRIEDMAN SEAGER | BOB WITT |
| ROBERT ESTRIN | LEONARD LERNER | SYDNEY L. SEILER | JEREMY ZALL |
| WALTER FONDILLER | DODY MAGAZINER | BEA SHERMAN | |
| | NORMAN MATLOWSKY | MILTON SITOMER | |

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.

If you are interested in getting involved, there are many ways to volunteer, whether it be cooking a meal, donating restaurant gift cards, or making a phone call to a congregant in need. You would be surprised at how much you get back from devoting a little time to call and 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)
or Laura Miller (mlctsmiller@verizon.net).

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR BLESSING זכרונם לברכה ☆

February Yahrzeits

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ALYSSA ALHADEFF | HENRY GREENBERG | JEANE LISK | ARTHUR SHERRY |
| ARLENE AMSTER | STEWART GROSSMAN | MARTHA MAIER | GERTRUDE SILVER |
| ROBERT ANESETTI, SR. | LYNDA HARRIS | RONALD MAINZER | IRVING SILVER |
| PAUL BASKIN | ANNA HEFFLER | NOAH MANDEL | MARGO SIMMONS |
| SAMUEL BORNSTEIN | MAX HEFFLER | SYLVIA MANDEL | JAN SIMON |
| MAUREEN BOYLE | IRA HIEGER | DINA MARX | JULIUS SLAVIN |
| FLORENCE BRESSLER | ROY ISRAEL | GEORGE MENDELSON | CHRISTOPHER |
| MYRON BUCHALTER | PAUL JEANETTE | GLORIA MENDELSON | WEBB SPEDDING |
| TERRI COFFEL | NORMAN KAHN | MURRAY MILLER | SUSAN STERN |
| HOWARD COLE | JANICE KAPLAN | STEPHANIE MULFORD | ANDREA GREEN SWAN |
| BETTY COYNE | GLORIA KIRSHNER | RITA NURNBERG | EDWARD TAPP |
| FR. GEORGE COYNE | SEYMOUR KRICHMAR | IRWIN ORSHALICK | PAULA TENENBAUM |
| MARGARITA COYNE | SEYMOUR LANDAU | HERB PORTNOY | MORRIS UNGER |
| SHARON DANTZIG | SHAYE LANDAU | TOBY PUTTERMAN | JACOB WEINBERG |
| HOLLY FEWES | RACHEL LEHRFELD | FLORENCE REIN | LAURIE WEINBERG |
| CELIA FORMAN | RUTH LEVINE | SAMUEL ROTH | SALLY WEINER |
| ROSE FRIEDMAN | BERT LEVITT | JOEL SANKEL | MARTA WICHLER |
| ALVIN GOLDBERG | THELMA LEVITT | HARRY SAULT | JACOB WIDMAN |
| MITCH GOLDMAN | ABRAHAM LEVY | SOL SCHLOSSER | BETTY WILDMAN |
| WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN | MIRIAM LICHTENFELD | ANN SEIDNER | HARRY ZALL |
| | | | LEONARD ZINN |

Tot Shabbat!

Fridays, January 20 and February 17 at 5 p.m.

*For children ages birth-kindergarten
and their families.*

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

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



👁 Contributions 👁

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

with appreciation and in honor of Alanna's Wedding
- *Lori Perlstein*

with thanks and appreciation and in memory of Ann Sherry
- *Michelle & Randy Sherry*

in heartfelt memory of our beloved mothers
- *Al & Gail Schlosser*

with love
- *Cindy Buchalter & family*

with thanks for all you do for our community!
- *the Brussel family*

with thanks and appreciation for your beautiful services
- *Judy & Barry Lass*

in memory of Renee Kupchin, David
Haberman and Sylvia Haberman
- *Marilyn & Irwin Haberman*

with thanks and appreciation
- *Jane & Eric Koch*

to Alexia and Elliott Feldman, Mazel Tov on
the occasion of Hailey's Bat Mitzvah
- *Gail & Ranan Wichler*

to Ronni Seif, in memory of her father
- *Linda Schwartz*
- *Deena Goldstein*

in honor of our new grandson, Ridge Elliot Axelrod
- *Alison & Norman Axelrod*

to Jane Young, in memory of her dear sister Leslee
- *Leslie & Howie Kirzner*

in memory of Moritz Schott and Erna Tuteur
- *Sheri & Allan Schott*

Life Fund

in memory of Howard Leibowitz
- *Judy Leibowitz*

in memory of Beatrice Mendelowitz
- *Linda Gottlieb*

in memory of Enid Marcus and David Goldberg
- *Joel Goldfarb*

in memory of Leah Rocker
- *Lynne Feldman*

in memory of Jerome Weinberg
- *Harvey Weinberg*

in memory of Kurt Daniel, and Claire and William Novak
- *Laurie & Marc Daniel*

to Susan Diamond, in memory of your dear husband
- *Ethel Rosen*

to Jaime Kreshpane and family, in
memory of your dear father
- *Ethel Rosen*

to Al Schlosser in honor of his 80th birthday, with love
- *Jaime, Jeff, Eliza & Turtle*

Sustaining Membership

Michelle & Randy Sherry
Jewell & Stanley Waldbaum

Jewish Family Services in Rockland

Given by their families in honor of the following simchas:

the Bat Mitzvah of **Sophie Smith**
the Bar Mitzvah of **Gavin Shecter**
the Bat Mitzvah of **Madison Dworkin**

Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge

Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas:

the Bat Mitzvah of **Sophie Smith**
the Bat Mitzvah of **Hailey Berwitz**
the Bar Mitzvah of **Gavin Shecter**

Meet the Member

Congregational stories

Each month a congregant writes about how they became involved at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom. We hope you enjoy learning about your fellow members' individual stories.

Cindy Buchalter



My Jewish journey is probably a bit different than most people's. Strong rumor has it that my maternal grandfather, Izzy Perlman, punched out the rabbi and obviously, did not study Hebrew. My father, Harvey Greenberg, supposedly got into an argument with his rabbi and also, did not study Hebrew. I don't believe any of his three brothers did either.

I was born on Long Island, then moved to the not very Jewish Middletown, New York at 6 months old. We pretty much knew all the Jews in the town. I experienced some antisemitism as one of our neighbors would call me some not very nice names and scribbled antisemitic words on our driveway in chalk one 'Gate Night'.

At nine years of age, we relocated to Spring Valley, New York where the majority of the population nearest to me was Jewish. Talk about a culture shock! Ironically, until I attended high school, all of my friends were not Jewish.

Our parents raised my brother and me with Judaism purely as a culture. We heard some Yiddish from our mother and our two sets of grandparents and we ate Jewish foods, but I did not see the inside of a synagogue until I was an adult. My husband, Gary grew up very conservative and did not love attending Hebrew school as it was torturous. He was committed, as I was, to having our potential children attend Hebrew school and we both wanted to raise our children as reform Jews. Happily, even with our different upbringings, we were on the same page.

Our boys attended preschool at a local synagogue, but I never felt a sense of belonging. The congregation was far from welcoming and many of its congregants made me feel that I was beneath them. I think I was feeling much of what my mother felt about the synagogues when my brother and I were kids.

As we lived in Mahwah, it was only logical that our boys would attend Hebrew school at BHSS and we had heard so many wonderful things about the temple. My dear friend talked my

son, Logan, and me into joining Family School with her and her daughter. I'd not had a bat mitzvah, nor much exposure to services besides the boys' preschool programs. Gary was fully on board and encouraged me to go; he even happily filled in when I couldn't be there. Joining Family School was one of the best decisions I ever made; I learned Hebrew and Jewish history alongside Logan (and then Adam). I never felt judged; I was welcomed with open arms and encouraged. Because of Family School, I was comfortable enough to start joining committees to give back to BHSS. Through Family School and the committees, I have met the most wonderful people who I possibly would never have met otherwise. This place truly is *Beth Haverim...House of Friends*.

All three of my "boys" had encouraged me to become a bat mitzvah; I chose to wait until both of my sons were officially done with their bar mitzvah studies. I had a Jewish wedding; I was raising my sons to be Jewish and was married to a Jewish man. I always felt I lost out because I never had a bat mitzvah and never attended Hebrew school; although I probably would have complained like all kids if I DID attend Hebrew school as a child! My father claimed that he and my mother gave me the option to go to Hebrew school but that I didn't choose to go; I have no such recollection.

If I am correct, back in 2019, Rebecca McVeigh, educator extraordinaire, contacted me about the upcoming adult b'nei mitvah class. I told Rebecca that I was interested, although I came up with every excuse under the sun as to why I didn't have time to pursue it. I did tell her that I had to check with my dear friend and fellow student, Shana Brown to whom I said, "I'll do it if you do it." The process was a great bonding experience for all four of us. We remain close nine months later.

Almost twelve years ago, I started a page on Facebook along with a non-Jewish friend who knew a few words of Yiddish and wanted to learn more. We named it 'Yiddish Word Of The Day'; we invited all my Jewish friends and family and a few of her Jewish students and friends to join. I posted all the

Continued on page 22

Continued from page 21

Yiddish words and phrases that I heard growing up and ran out of material; we were lucky if someone posted a word a month! It grew slightly to about 200-300 people and then, out of the blue, in late September of 2021, our group started exploding. Facebook had started recommending our page to users with similar interests! As of December 2022, we have over 150,000 members!

Sometime in the late spring or early summer, Rebecca (educator extraordinaire, as you recall) asked me to teach

Hebrew school students on Tuesday evenings and Sunday morning Family School. I was very hesitant, as it would be my first foray into teaching. Happily, I agreed and am really enjoying teaching the fourth and fifth grade students. I didn't think I'd have this much fun!

The ultimate lesson I've learned from being a member of BHSS is to have more 'faith'...faith in my community, my religion...and most importantly, faith in myself.

BHSS SISTERHOOD
Paint Party



It's back!

Bring your creativity and join Sisterhood and Arty Time Painting.
All ages and temple members welcome.


Sunday January 29 - 2:30 - 5 pm
at the temple social hall

Cost: \$30pp includes supplies

RSVP: By Tuesday 1/24 to Lisa Lamster lisalams@optonline.net

Payment: Venmo @Lisa-Lamster or
send check payable to BHSS Sisterhood

Rabbi Ilana's




Spotlight on
The Patient and Inside Man
*It's not a book club...but
a binge-worthy series of discussions*

Abductions, depravity, deceit and danger are at the heart of some of our favorite binge-worthy shows.

This TVMA (for mature audiences) content that we are streaming is filled with material that invites us to interpret it through a religious lens.

Join us as we look at the Jewish content and symbolism of Hulu's *The Patient*, and the Christian themes and moral implications of Netflix's *Inside Man*. It should make for some riveting conversation!

All sessions Wednesdays at 7:30pm - VIA ZOOM



February 15 - Episodes 1-4
February 22 - Episodes 5-10

March 8 - Episodes 1-2
March 15 - Episodes 3-4



THANK YOU!!!!

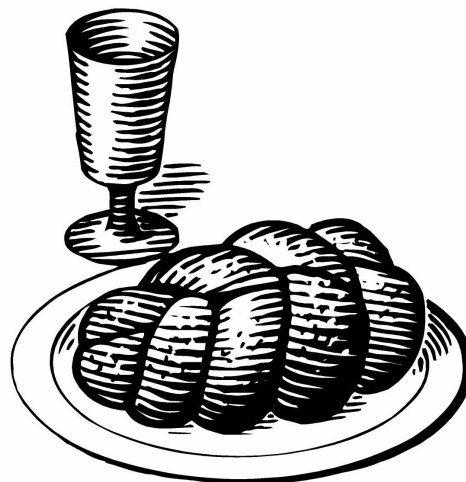
The Goods and Services Auction Committee wants to thank our awesome community at BHSS for all of their support. We appreciate all those who donated their time, donated money for class baskets, those who donated items and to all that came to our auction.

With all of that generosity, once again we had a very successful auction. We can't thank you enough for your support.

We hope everyone had a great time at the auction.

All the best,
Lisa, Carrie, Gail,
Linda & Stacey

A poster for 'REFUGEE SHABBAT'. At the top, there is a silhouette of a group of people, including adults and children, carrying bags and walking. Below this, the text 'REFUGEE SHABBAT' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath, it says 'Friday, February 3 - 7:00pm' in yellow. Then, it says 'Join Rabbi Ilana, Jane Koch and the BHSS Choir, and the Social Action Committee for' in white. Below that, 'REFUGEE SHABBAT SHIRAH' is written in yellow. Then, it says 'Refugee Shabbat is an annual event sponsored by HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) dedicated to displaced people and asylum seekers.' in white. Below that, it says 'Shabbat Shirah is the Shabbat of Song...when we join together for an evening of spiritual songs and prayers.' in white. Then, it says 'This year, we combine the two for a moving, music-filled evening honoring those looking for safety and opportunity for a better future.' in white. At the bottom, there is a graphic of musical notes on a staff.



Join Rabbi Ilana
for a healing service



Healing Service
Wednesday, January 4
7:00 - 7:30 pm via Zoom

Join Rabbi Ilana, the Lifelong Learning Committee and
the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Ramapo
College for a recorded lecture and live discussion

Where are the Nazis? Memory and Myth in Russia, Ukraine, and the USA

Tuesday, January 31 - 7:00pm at BHSS



Together we will watch a fascinating lecture given by
Professor Benjamin Rifkin, Dean of the Maxwell Becton
College of Arts and Sciences at Fairleigh Dickinson
University. He asks the question, "why do large numbers of
citizens of the Russian Federation believe that the Ukrainian
government and its people are Nazis?"

Professor Rifkin will go back in time from present day
through centuries of interactions between Russians and
Ukrainians, and explore how myths create memories, and
how memories create or reinforce myth.

This will be followed by discussion with Dr. Jacob Ari
Labendz, director of the Gross Center for Holocaust and
Genocide Studies at Ramapo College. He will lead the talk
about fascism in the United States in myth and memory.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR TORAH STORIES: TU BISHVAT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - 7:30PM VIA ZOOM**

NOTES FROM MUSIC

Hello everyone!

The feeling of sharing community and song on Friday night at BHSS after a long work week to me is exactly what the definition of the Fourth commandment means – "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy". If you would like to help in planning events, we would love to have you join the committee. We meet monthly via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. I am available any time to chat if you have an idea about programming or a question. Email me at niberger@aol.com

and I will send you the invitation link. Our choir rehearses in person every Wednesday evening. Here is your chance to join in the fun. They are always looking for new members. No previous experience or knowledge of Hebrew is required. Contact Michelle at the synagogue office for details.

*Musically yours,
Nora Berger*

JCC and BHSS come together for two fun events for the kids!

Shabbat
MUSIC CIRCLE



Register: jccnnj.org/wintershabbat | Questions: info@jccnnj.org

Jewish Community Center of Northern New Jersey | PJ Library

Family Concert
FEATURING AHUM MUSIC



SUNDAY JANUARY 8, 4 PM
DOORS OPEN 3:30 PM

BETH HAVERIM SHIR SHALOM
280 RAMAPO VALLEY RD MAHWAH

\$10 PER FAMILY

Register: jccnnj.org/concert | Questions: info@jccnnj.org

Jewish Community Center of Northern New Jersey | PJ Library

Keep Calm And...

Tuesday's, 7pm-8:15p
1/10, 2/7

Our first experience together was so enjoyable, we are offering 4 upcoming monthly sessions! \$20 per class. Register by emailing Iris at irisgreenberg@optonline.net

Beth Haverim Shir Shalom
280 Ramapo Valley Road,
Mahwah, NJ



Drum On...

Have fun,
feel energized,
& leave with a beautiful
sense of peace

Group drumming has been scientifically shown to boost the immune system, decrease stress, increase focus, foster a positive mood, and create a feeling of connection with others.

Think you have no rhythm? Not so...
We all have an internal beat. You will surprise yourself with how much rhythm you have.
No musical experience is necessary. It's just fun!

Don't have a drum? No worries!
Drums & other percussion instruments will be available to share. Or find things in your house. Grab a book, a bowl, a box of pasta, or some spoons! Everything works!





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Participating in adult choir is a great way to connect with fellow congregants as well as your own spirituality. You don't need to have any musical background, just a will to learn... and sing!

We are looking for new voices to join choir. Our rehearsals are every Wednesday from 7:30-9 pm.

If interested, please contact Michelle (former choir member!) at the temple office.



Candlelighting times:

January 6, 2023 Vay'chi 4:25 pm

January 13, 2023 Sh'mot 4:32 pm

January 20, 2023 Va'era 4:40 pm

January 27, 2023 Bo 4:49 pm

February 4, 2023 B'shallach 4:57 pm

February 11, 2023 Yitro 5:06 pm

February 18, 2023 Mishpatim 5:15 pm

February 25, 2023 T'rumah 5:23 pm



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Books, art, and other necessities

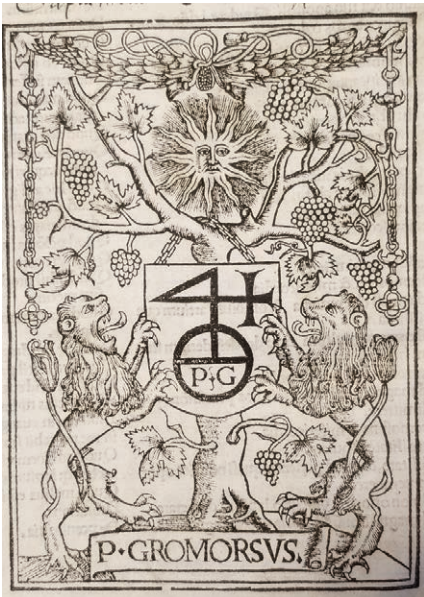
We're open and rocking it. We also do bookbinding and book repair. Our bookbinding classes are super fun and fill up quickly. Only 19 minutes from BHSS!



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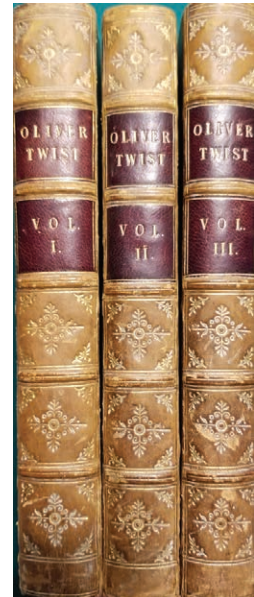
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Worship Schedule

WORSHIP SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, January 4 | 7:00 pm | Healing Service – via Zoom |
| Friday, January 6 | 6:30 pm | Shabbat Family Service <i>Birthdays in January will be celebrated</i> |
| Friday, January 13 | 7:00 pm | Shabbat Evening Service |
| Friday, January 20 | 5:00 pm 7:00 pm | Tot Shabbat Shabbat Evening Service |
| Friday, January 27 | 7:00 pm | Shabbat Evening Service |
| Saturday, January 28 | 10:00 am | Bat Mitzvah of Hailey Feldman |
| Friday, February 3 | 7:00 pm | Refugee Shabbat Shirah |
| Friday, February 10 | 6:30 pm | Shabbat Family Service <i>Birthdays in February will be celebrated</i> |
| Saturday, February 11 | 10:00 am | Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Grossman |
| Friday, February 17 | 5:00 pm 7:00 pm | Tot Shabbat Repro Shabbat |
| Friday, February 24 | 7:00 pm | Shabbat Evening Service |



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

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman
Rebecca McVeigh, Director of Education

Sessions of School:

Sundays: January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 26
Mondays: January 9, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 27
Tuesdays: January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 28

Office closed:

February 20



To do in January and February

- *Start 2023 with meaning at the Healing Service - Wednesday, January 4 - 7:00 pm via Zoom*
- *Bring the kids to Family Shabbat - Fridays, January 6 and February 10 - 6:30 pm at BHSS*
- *The little ones are in for a great time at the BHSS/JCCNNJ Family Concert - Sunday, January 8 at 4:00 pm at BHSS*
- *And get a fun start to Shabbat with the JCCNNJ Shabbat Music Circle - bring your toddlers! - Fridays, January 13 and February 10 at 10:00 am at BHSS*
- *Rabbi Ilana and Director of Education Rebecca McVeigh host Tot Shabbat on Fridays, January 20 and February 17 at 5:00 pm at BHSS*
- *Tap the artist within at the Sisterhood Paint Party on Sunday, January 29 at 2:30 pm at BHSS*
- *The Lifelong Learning Committee hosts a riveting discussion about the Ukraine on Tuesday, January 31*
- *Torah Stories will take a look at Tu Bishvat on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:30 pm via Zoom*
- *Need to relieve some stress? Just Keep Calm and Drum On - the drum circle is back for 2 sessions - Tuesdays, January 10 and February 7 at 7:00 pm at BHSS*
- *Refugee Shabbat is dedicated to displaced people and asylum seekers - we will honor them in song as we celebrate Refugee Shabbat Shirah on Friday, February 3 at 7:00 pm at BHSS*
- *Rabbi Ilana has binge-watched Hulu's "The Patient" and Netflix's "Inside Man" and leads the discussion of both through a religious lens. TV Talks is Wednesdays February 15, 22, March 8, 15 - 7:30 pm via Zoom*