

## TEMPLE



## TOPICS

CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5784

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

**Rabbi Ilana's Message***How Are You?*

We are not alone. I hope that you, like I, have gotten emails, texts, and notes from acquaintances, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. BHSS has gotten communications of support from clergy, friends of B'nai Mitzvah families, local school districts...and so many more.

*full article on page 3*

**President's Message***All About Perspective*

... I had a similar feeling of "wow" from the different perspective I was exposed to as president of BHSS. Sitting on the bimah during those services, I had an incredibly inspiring and unique view. Seeing the congregation looking intently at Rabbi Ilana, or student Cantor Molly May, or our amazing choir, heartfelt speakers, committed torah and haftarah readers and honorees was actually extremely powerful.

*full article on page 2*

**Director of Education***The "Bold and the Beautiful" aka our High Holiday Chanters*

Rabbi Weinberg z"l, having successfully convinced me to join the choir and the Education Committee, cajoled, begged, wheedled, and finally convinced me that I could do it! He gave me a cassette of the 4th aliyah on Yom Kippur morning, chanted by Cantor Josee Wolff, whose voice influences my chanting of that same section on Yom Kippur to this very day.

*full article on page 5*

**B'NAI MITZVAH**

November 4	Jessica Levinson
November 18	Miles Swardloff
December 2	Benjamin Chais
December 9	Michelle Waldbaum

**THINGS TO DO:**

*more info on back cover and throughout*

- Sisterhood Girls Night Out
- Family Shabbat
- Youth Group movies, games and trivia
- Kristallnacht commemoration with Itay Goren
- Sisterhood/Brotherhood Hanukkah Pickleball
- Tot Shabbat
- D.A.R.E. Toy Drive
- Upper Saddle River Hanukkah Menorah Lighting with Rabbi Ilana
- The Maccabeats at BergenPAC with Sisterhood
- Shabbat Hanukkah
- Community Hanukkah Menorah Lighting at BHSS





## President's Message

Linda Ellman Schwartz

Something about the Taylor Swift craze made me crave going to see the movie to just get a small sense of the phenomenon that swept the nation this summer. WOW! It was an amazing performance and I can only imagine how much better it would have been if I knew all the lyrics. The filming was spectacular. From some views it felt like you had front row seats to the concert, and from others you could see the massive crowd as if you were performing! *Perspective.*

While the crowds were not quite the same at our High Holiday services, I must say I had a similar feeling of "wow" from the different perspective I was exposed to as president of BHSS. Sitting on the bimah during those services, I had an incredibly inspiring and unique view. Seeing the congregation looking intently at Rabbi Ilana, or student Cantor Molly May, or our amazing choir, heartfelt speakers, committed torah and haftarah readers and honorees was actually extremely powerful. I realized that as a lay congregant we see the faces of the clergy and others in the services, but only the backs of everyone else's heads! It was an entirely different experience to participate in the service while seeing everyone's engaged and attentive expressions! *Perspective.*

As president I also see the committed work from Rabbi Ilana, Iris, Rebecca, Michelle and Roberto from a new vantage point, too. Every day I marvel at the heartfelt dedication of this incredible team. They do not tire and will stop at nothing to provide the best they can for all of us. Their enthusiasm and optimism make it seem like what they are doing is easy, but I know more now than before that there is nothing easy about what they do. *Perspective.*

Yesterday we were energized by our amazing High Holiday season and today we are doing our best to gather our strength to support Israel in this unfathomable time, to assert ourselves to halt anti-semitism, and to focus on the good that we can do to help those directly suffering. *Perspective.*

Rabbi Ilana never misses the opportunity to share wisdom with all of us, and she recently taught me that one of the most optimistic things we do as Jews is we plan. And thus we focus

*All About Perspective*

on all of the positive and exciting things we have going on at BHSS even while we Stand with Israel in this challenging time. *Perspective.*

Wishing us all strength during this difficult time. Please remember, your BHSS community is here for you....

Happy  
**Hanukkah**

*So much happening!*

**Thursday, December 7**  
Join Rabbi Ilana at the  
**Upper Saddle River Menorah Lighting**  
6:00pm outside the Municipal Building in Upper Saddle River  
- ★ -

**Friday, December 8**  
BYOC (bring your own Chanukiyah) and let the light shine with BHSS!  
**Shabbat Hanukkah Service**  
7:00pm at BHSS  
- ★ -

**Tuesday, December 12**  
Celebrate the joy of Hanukkah...including hot cocoa and sufganiyot!  
**BHSS Community Menorah Lighting**  
5:15pm on the lawn at BHSS

## How Are You?

# Rabbi's Reflections

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman



"How are you?"

"Terrible. How are you?"

"Terrible."

This was the greeting to a BHSS member as we met in the hallway of the Kaplen JCC. We smiled at one another. What else was there to do? We were there at one of the local rallies in support of Israel after the vile Hamas terrorist attack against Israel.

I am writing this article for *Temple Topics*. I do not know how the situation in Israel will unfold between now and the time of publication.

Here's what I know:

Jewish and Israeli pain is legitimate. There is no possible excuse for the unspeakable crimes committed against our people. Please talk about what you're feeling and get the help you need.

Prayer alone does not make peace. I wish it did. I wish that very "Oseh Shalom," every "Shalom Rav," and every "Sim Shalom" could erase hate. Israel will need us to remind the world that more than prayer must be done.

Prayer is valuable. As written in *Mishkan T'fillah*:

*Prayer invites*

*God's Presence to suffuse our spirits,*

*God's will to prevail in our lives.*

*Prayer may not bring water to parched fields,*

*Nor mend a broken bridge,*

*Nor rebuild a ruined city.*

*But prayer can water an arid soul,*

*Mend a broken heart,*

*Rebuild a weakened will.*

We are not alone. I hope that you, like I, have gotten emails, texts, and notes from acquaintances, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. BHSS has gotten communications of support from clergy, friends of B'nai Mitzvah families, local school districts...and so many more.

The BHSS commitment to Israel and Jews is strong. The outpouring of grief and love from our membership is sincere and poignant. We care about human life and we know our kinship with every other Jew in the world.

We must keep hope alive. We hope that all hostages will be returned to their homes and families. We hope for a time when violence, vengeance, and hatred will end. We hope for a world where each life is valued.

At the moment, the lights of Hanukkah each feel like a memorial to lives lost. May it be our will and God's that those flames light the way to a time of celebration and peace.

Door is open...Come on in!

tuesdays with  
**Ilana**

A little talk, listening  
and a whole bunch of  
caring

8:45-10:30 am

TLC with Rabbi Ilana  
Tuesday mornings at BHSS



## BETH HAVERIM SHIR SHALOM 2022-2023

### CLERGY

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman	201-512-1983	rabbischwartzman@gmail.com
Rosh Shirah, Brian Gelfand	201-512-1983	brian.g.gelfand@gmail.com
Jane Koch, Choir Director/Musician	201-512-1983	ejkoch8892@gmail.com

### PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Executive Director, Iris Greenberg	201-512-1983	irisgreenberg@optonline.net
Director of Education, Rebecca McVeigh	201-512-1983	schoolatbethhav@optonline.net
Administrative Assistant, Michelle Sherry	201-512-1983	bethhaverim@optonline.net
Dir. of Jr. Youth Programming, Samantha Spencer	551-427-3663	bhssyouth@gmail.com

### OFFICERS

President, Linda Ellman Schwartz	917.538.1260	lindas.bhss@gmail.com
Past President, Jen Cole	201-891-2438	thecole6@yahoo.com
Vice President, Lauren Theodore	917-767-8973	laurenstheodore@gmail.com
Vice President, Andrew Silver	917.587.8468	ajs418@yahoo.com
Vice President, Larry Palant	845.304.6996	rotary.palant@gmail.com
Treasurer, Alexia Feldman	201-704-3321	alexiafeldman@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer, Harvey Weinberg	201-970-8528	hbweinberg@gmail.com
Secretary, Donna Kotz	201-722-8838	donnakotz@gmail.com

### TRUSTEES

Trustee, David Aarons	201-962-9316	daarons@afd-inc.com
Trustee, Jana Defrino	516-672-3599	D579@aol.com
Trustee, Field Brussel	212.317.1650	field.brussel@gmail.com
Trustee, Cheryl Franklin	215.964.3622	cherylbrody@gmail.com
Trustee, Jann Reissman	914.319.4771	jreissman13@gmail.com
Trustee, Dana Weeks	718.344.7957	danaweeks33@gmail.com

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS & AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Building & Grounds, Harris Reinstein	201-652-0898	harrisreinstein@msn.com
Caring, Audrey Flynn	201-825-1746	ablaundau@aol.com
Caring, Laura Miller	201-337-4503	mlctsmiller@verizon.net
Communications, Lisa Lamster	201-760-1935	lisalams@optonline.net
Endowment, Harvey Weinberg	201-825-8781	hbweinberg@gmail.com
Education, Ronni Seif	845.664.2994	Seif4email@gmail.com
Library, Sheryl Ives	201-794-1017	sjives17@yahoo.com
Life Long Learning, Lori Yanowitz	201.445.3613	loriyano@gmail.com
Membership, Michelle Gilbert	201-661-8033	mich319@hotmail.com
Membership, Lauren Theodore	917-767-8973	laurenstheodore@gmail.com
Music, Nora Berger	201-703-0132	niberger@aol.com
Social Action, Lisa Estrin	845-369-3059	bhsssocialaction@gmail.com
Social Action, Jonathan Theodore	917-531-0043	bhsssocialaction@gmail.com
Youth Group, Annabel Theodore		bhssyouth@gmail.com
Tradition & Culture, Ritch Yanowitz	201.445.3613	ritchiano@gmail.com
Tradition & Culture, Marin Greene	201.962.7478	marinrene@aol.com
Brotherhood, Jonathan Theodore	917-531-0043	bhssbrotherhood@gmail.com
Sisterhood, Stacey Coyne	845.300.3505	staceycoy@aol.com
Sisterhood, Linda Vogel	845.642.0033	lsv0407@aol.com
Michelle Mitzvah Group, Steve Simon	201-788-6755	steveoum@verizon.net

## Birthdays



## November

*Zachary Asher Aarons*

*Alexandra Barbach*

*Olivia Bender*

*Eli Victor Burrows*

*Jordana Harris*

*Dylan Hyman*

*Rachel Kissin*

*Leila Kotz*

*Elle Lieberman*

*Alex Popowitz*

*Alex Roberts*

*Alexander Somberg*

*Benjamin Spungin*

*Mia Steinberg-Rodriguez*

*Dylan Strow*

*Maddie Sumper*

## December

*Ethan Brown*

*Benjamin Chais*

*Lillian Ikin*

*Morgan Koppelman*

*Nathan Kramer*

*Benjamin Marder*

*Jake Schlosser*



## The “Bold and the Beautiful” aka our High Holiday Chanters

## From The Educator

Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh



A long time ago...(ok, the 90s) in a place far, far away (Mahwah High School) I chanted Torah for the first time since my Bat Mitzvah.

Rabbi Weinberg z”l, having successfully convinced me to join the choir and the Education Committee, cajoled, begged, wheedled, and finally convinced me that I could do it! He gave me a cassette of the 4th aliyah on Yom Kippur morning, chanted by Cantor Josee Wolff, whose voice influences my chanting of that same section on Yom Kippur to this very day. I listened like crazy to that tape, and refined my pronunciation with Rabbi Weinberg.

I. Was. Terrified. For the first year, and the year after that, and the year after that. Let’s face it, it’s a scary thing! But it got easier and while I can’t say I’m not still nervous, it’s better. That is why I am so incredibly proud of and grateful to every single lay Torah chanter that you heard over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:

Charlotte Barbach  
Josh Barbach  
Rebeca Berger  
Ben Berman  
Steve Brown  
Field Brussel  
Adam Buchalter  
Jen Cole  
Cora Einhorn  
Hailey Feldman  
Lisa Glick  
Dara Kotz

Lisa Lamster  
Sammi Lamster  
Nancy Levene  
Rachel McKenna  
Mat Mendel  
Brooke Reissman  
Aldine Rostolder  
Gail Spencer  
Nancy Teichman  
Annabel Theodore  
Linda Vogel

And if you’re not quite ready for Torah, how about the Haftarah blessings or a little Haftarah (you get to keep all your vowels!) This year our gratitude goes out to:

Irma Becker  
Joe Berman  
Shana Brown  
Stacey Coyne  
Cydney Coyne Brady  
Noa Kaufman

Samone Kaufman  
Al Levene  
Jay Peller  
Leslie Sapienza  
Lauren Theodore

YOU can do this too! It’s not easy, and it is a bit scary – and it’s a tremendous way to serve your BHSS community. As I received help all those years ago, I am honored to “pay it forward” to ensure you’ll be successful – providing recordings, Hebrew with vowels, transliteration, and my time, as much as you need. You don’t have to be able to read Hebrew well, you don’t have to be able to read music, or even carry a tune. As I told a student recently, the key to Torah chanting is the “ups” and the “downs” and the “holds” and to know where they all belong. If you are a Jewish adult over 13 – whether you became a bar or bat mitzvah in your childhood or not – you CAN do it. Please ask me how and let’s start learning together NOW for next year!

It’ll be scary. You’ll be brave. Rabbi Ilana will be right there with you on the bimah. Your entire congregation will be rooting for you. And you’ll be ready.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR November - December 2023

	Sunday Family School & traditional 6th 9:00-10:30 a.m.	Monday K, 1, 2 & traditional 3rd 4:15-5:45 p.m.	Monday Kadimah grades 7-12 6:45-8:15 p.m.	Tuesday traditional 4th & 5th 4:15-5:45 p.m.	Wednesday 6th Remote 4 - 5 p.m.
<b>November</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 no school</b>	<b>6 no school</b>	<b>7 no school</b>	<b>8 no school</b>
	<b>12 no school</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 no school</b>	<b>22 no school</b>
	<b>26 no school</b>	<b>27 no school</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 no school</b>
	<b>24 no school</b>	<b>25 no school</b>	<b>25 no school</b>	<b>26 no school</b>	<b>27 no school</b>
	<b>31 no school</b>				



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

---



***Jessica Levinson –  
November 4, 2023***

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Marjorie, Father, Drew, Sister, Nicole, 15, Brother, Sean, 9 ..... is an 8th grader at Cavallini Middle School ..... Her interests include cheerleading, dance, crafts, and spending time with family and friends. “I want to have a career that I enjoy and help others. I am thankful to become a Bat Mitzvah. My community service project involves helping children with literary difficulties. For the past three years, I hosted a weekly Zoom Storytime for a child. Seeing her love for reading grow has been incredible!”



***Miles Swerdloff –  
November 18, 2023***

Lives in Suffern, New York. Mother, Jessica, Father, David, Brothers, Jack, 18, and Eli, 16 ..... is an 8th grader at Suffern Middle School ..... His interests include basketball, soccer, and football. “I would like to be an engineer or study physics one day. I am proud to become a Jewish adult with my friends and family there to support me. I am working with community gardens to help grow healthy food for those that don’t have access to the foods they need.”



***Benjamin Chais –  
December 2, 2023***

Lives in Ringwood, New Jersey. Mother, Celia Beddoe, Father, David, Brother, Maxwell, 10 ..... is a 7th grader at Ryerson Middle School ..... His interests include boxing, running, gaming, drawing, and diving. “I would like to become a boxer. I am excited to celebrate with my friends, family, and community. I am interested in volunteering at my local animal shelter. In addition, I also love to serve my town of Ringwood and I have volunteered at my school’s Halloween event and hope to help out more.”



***Michelle Waldbaum –  
December 9, 2023***

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Jennifer, Father, Brian, Brother, Jeff, 9 ..... is a 7th grader at Cavallini Middle School ..... Her interests include sports and spending time with friends. “I love being around animals and hope to one day become a veterinarian. I am excited to take on my role as a Jewish adult and celebrate with family and friends. My community service project is to provide upgrades to the BHSS classrooms to enhance the learning experience of young children .”

Thursday, November 9  
7:00 PM

# BANNED MUSIC:

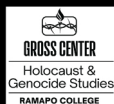
SOLO CONCERT BY  
PIANIST ITAY GOREN  
IN COMMEMORATION OF

# KRISTALLNACHT

Join us to mark and memorialize the eighty-fifth anniversary of *Kristallnacht* (or Reichspogromnacht), a nationwide pogrom perpetrated by the Nazis against the Jewish population of the German Reich on November 9-10, 1938.

In a return appearance at BHSS, renowned pianist and former Ramapo College faculty member Itay Goren will offer a solo piano presentation called "Banned Music." Mr. Goren will perform and speak about the lives and works of five composers from different nationalities – Pavel Haas, Erich Korngold, Luigi Dallapiccola, Darius Milhaud and Paul Hindemith, all united by the fact that their music was banned by the Nazis.

Co-sponsored by





Monday,  
December 11  
7:00 pm

**Come celebrate Hanukkah by joining the Sisterhood of BHSS and seeing the Maccabeats at BergenPAC. We have reserved a block of seats for this performance.**

You do not need to be a Sisterhood member to attend. All are welcome.

BergenPAC is located at 30 North Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ.

Cost: \$35 per ticket.  
Your payment is your reservation.  
Please provide your own transportation.

Payment options:  
Venmo to @Lisa Lamster  
Via Zelle to [Lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:Lisalams@optonline.net)  
or check made out to Sisterhood of BHSS and mailed to Lisa Lamster, 1053 Ash Drive, Mahwah, NJ 07430

Please RSVP by November 5 to [lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:lisalams@optonline.net)



## Candlelighting Times:



November 3, 2023 Vayera 5:32 pm  
November 10, 2023 Chayei Sarah 4:24 pm  
November 17, 2023 Tol'dot 4:18 pm  
November 24, 2023 Vayeitzei 4:14 pm

December 1, 2023 Vayishlach 4:11 pm  
December 8, 2023 Vayeishev 4:10 pm  
December 15, 2023 Miketz 4:11 pm  
December 22, 2023 Vayigash 4:14 pm  
December 29, 2023 Vay'chi 4:18 pm



# November Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir	Sisterhood Girls Night Out - @Chili's	6:30 pm Tefilot Family Service	Vayeira 10 am Jessica Levinson
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 am 6th trad & FS 11 am Youth Group Movie games & trivia	No School	No School	No School 7:30 pm Adult Choir	7 pm Kristallnacht Program with Itay Goren	7 pm Tefilot	Chayei Sarah
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
No School	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Exec Comm Mtg MMG Mtg	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir		5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7 pm Tefilot	Toldot 10 am Miles Swerdloff
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 am 6th trad & FS	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	No School 7:30 pm Board Mtg	No School	Office Closed	Office Closed 7 pm Tefilot	Vayeitzei
26	27	28	29	30		
No School	No School	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Music Comm Mtg	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir			



# December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					6:30 pm Tefilot Family Service	Vayishlach 10 am Benjamin Chais 7 pm Sis'hood/ Bro'hood Hanukkah Pickeball
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 am 6th trad & FS	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir		7 pm Tefilot Shabbat Chanukah	Vayeishev 10 am Michelle Waldbaum
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 am 6th trad & FS	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 5:15 pm BHSS Menorah Lighting 7:30 pm Exec Comm MMG	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir		5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7 pm Tefilot	Miketz
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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 Board Mtg	No School 7:30 pm Adult Choir		7 pm Tefilot	Vayigash
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
No School	Office Closed No School	No School 7:30 pm Music Comm Mtg	No School 7:30 pm Adult Choir		7 pm Tefilot	Vay'chi
31						
No School						

## ***HANUKKAH MENORAH LIGHTING HINTS:***

The first day of Hanukkah is on December 8; therefore the first candle is lit the evening before (December 7). 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 לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן 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  
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן 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.



**SHABBAT  
family  
SERVICES**

**November 3 and  
December 1**

Join Rabbi Ilana for our  
Shabbat Family Service!

We hope you join us for this  
fun, music-filled service for the whole family  
to participate in and enjoy!

join us for Oneg Shabbat  
right after the service

**Everyone Welcome!**

**SISTERHOOD AND BROTHERHOOD OF BHSS  
PRESENT:**

**AN EVENING OF**



**PICKLEBALL**  
**OPEN TO ALL!!**

**WHERE:**  
**Bergen Pickleball Zone** (by Wayne Tile)  
50 Spring Street  
Ramsey, NJ

**WHEN:**  
**Saturday, December 2 from 7pm-10pm**

**COST:** \$36 per person (fee includes food,  
beverages, instruction (if desired), and play (round  
robin) Equipment will be provided

**LIMITED NUMBER OF SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE**

Please RSVP to [lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:lisalams@optonline.net) by  
November 15, 2023 and indicate if you would like  
instruction, if you will be playing in the round robin,  
or if you do not wish to play.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:** via Venmo to @ Lisa-Lamster, via  
Zelle to [lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:lisalams@optonline.net), or a check made out to  
Sisterhood of BHSS and mailed to Lisa Lamster, 1053 Ash  
Drive, Mahwah, NJ 07430

*\*Please consider adding an optional donation for the Center  
for Food Action with your payment. The donation for the total  
will then be sent by Sisterhood\**

# Tot Shabbat!

**Fridays, November 17 (Gratitude) and  
December 15 (Hanukkah) at 5:15 p.m.**

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

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

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



# LIBRARY LADIES COMMITTEE

*"Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world."*

- Lauren Ward, American singer/actress

Our temple library is a second home to the Library Ladies, a place where we all feel comfortable, welcomed, and engaged. Very recently, one of our library ladies gifted two new and beautifully created needlepoints to hang on our library walls. (See the photos).



Artist Sherry Levitt calls one piece "The Tree of Life," and the other, "The Star of David." Judaism is near and dear to her. She says, "I want congregants to understand my love for my religion which is reflected in my needlepoint projects." Sherry has given all of us a gift...a gift of her incredible talents and the gift of her commitment to the work we do in the library.

Each one of Sherry's projects take time and energy, and she aims for perfection. Her journey began at a young age, when at 6 or 7 years old, she watched her mother knit. When her mom presented her with yarn and knitting needles, she thought she was a "real knitter." Then as a teenager, Sherry searched the aisles of the notions department searching for the perfect cross stitch project.

Fast forward, Sherry and husband Paul moved to Florida, where needlepoint was put on hold for a time as the suburbs of Orlando lacked craft stores. When Paul passed, Sherry reinvented herself. She joined a Stitch and Chat group and eventually worked in the store helping others with their projects.

Most recently, Sherry created four needlepoints to identify the torah scrolls that are read from during the High Holidays. Seeing her needlepoint on the scrolls gave her immense satisfaction and pride. These creations, a labor of love, will have a place of honor on our scrolls each High Holidays, further enhancing her gift.



A second new addition enhances our library. A small statuette of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, president of the Ukraine, sits next to the statuette of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was an associate justice of the Supreme Court. Both statuettes were donated by Larry Palant, for very different reasons. The Ginsburg statuette arrived several months ago after the library hosted a successful Book and Bagel event featuring a discussion of Ginsburg. More recently, the Zelenskyy statuette was gifted to the library. It captures the Ukrainian president's daily dress and demeanor, and reflects the temple's commitment to democracy. Thank you, Larry, for adding a special touch to our environment and for keeping all of us connected to the greater world.





# LIBRARY LADIES COMMITTEE

We hope you will visit the library to sample some of our collection. We are proud to report our collection is diverse, from fiction to nonfiction, from special interest titles to specific local history and on and on.

For this issue of *Temple Topics*, we recommend the works of Daniel Silva, the author of 16 spy novels, approximately one book per year. Silva's character, Gabriel Allon appears in all his novels. The reader becomes attached to Allon, viewing him as a friend, a relative, or role model. He is an art restorer and head of Israel's secret intelligence service, all of which takes him into the world of terrorism. The library holds two of Silva's novels, *The Other Woman* and *The Black Widow*, we will give a brief plot summary of *The Black Widow*.

A violent attack in the Marais section of Paris claims the lives of four Israeli citizens. Allon is asked to find the brains behind the attack, a terrorist who uses the alias Saladin. He cleverly employs a black widow of his own creation to destroy Saladin's organization.

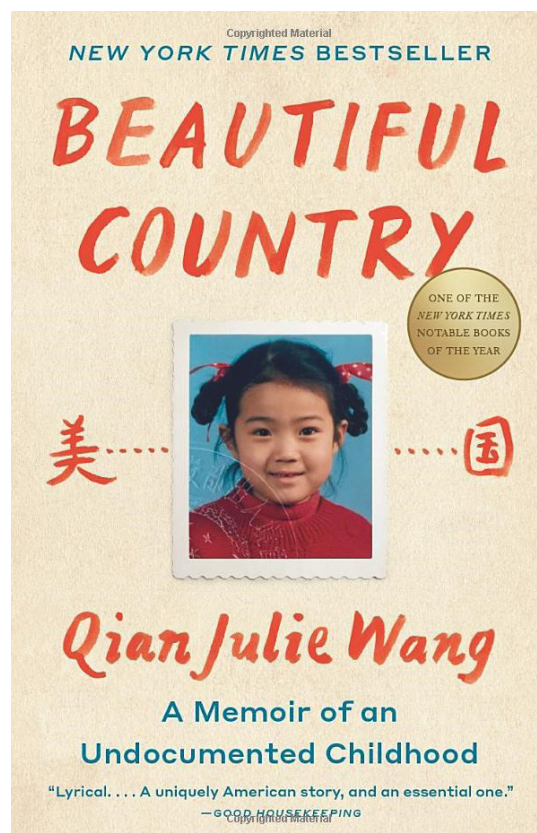
Please visit our library, check out a book or two, and provide us with any suggestions you may have.



## BOOK AND A BAGEL

Join us for our next Book and a Bagel on Sunday, November 12 via Zoom at 1:00 pm.

The book we will be discussing is *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang. This is a memoir of an undocumented child living in poverty in New York City. 7-year-old Qian came to America in 1994 with her parents, who were college professors in China. Qian was told, "whatever happens, say that you were born here, that you've always lived here." Qian was shunned by her classmates and she sought refuge in the public library. She mastered English through books, and thought of the Berenstain Bears as her first American friends. Today, Qian Julie Wang is a lawyer and the founder of the Jews of Color group at Central Synagogue in New York City.



RSVP to Lisa Lamster at [lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:lisalams@optonline.net) by November 5.  
A link will be sent for the Zoom on November 10.

# BHSS YOUTH GROUP

*Shalom Everyone!*

I would like to introduce you to our 2023-2024 BHSSTY BOARD!

- **President: Annabel Theodore**
- **Treasurer: Danielle Kissin**
- **Communications Vice President: Cora Einhorn**
- **Membership Vice President: Hailey Feldman**
- **Religious and Cultural Vice Presidents: Brooke Einhorn and Emily Cole**

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*

**Build A Bear Social Action**

**November 19, 11:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Hanukkah Party**

**December 10, 11:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Sky Zone**

**January TBD**

**BINGO @ Promenade at Chestnut Ridge**

**February 11, 11:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Purim Carnival**

**March 24, 10:30 am-12:30 pm**



## *BHSSTY Grades 7-12*

**Painting Party**

**November 19, 1:00-2:30 pm**

**Hanukkah Party**

**December 10, 11:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Midnight Run**

**January TBD**

**BINGO @ Promenade at Chestnut Ridge**

**February 11, 11:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Purim Carnival**

**SET UP March 23 from 8:00-9:00 pm**

**March 24, 10:30 am-12:30 pm**

**Creative Service**

**April 19, 7:00 pm**

**Family Fun Day**

**May 19, 2024**

**Elections End of Year Sendoff**

**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](mailto:bhssyouth@gmail.com).  
Follow us on Instagram @bhsstyinsta.  
Become a member of the youth group!

## NOTES FROM MUSIC

Hello everyone!

We hope you were able to participate in the Simchat Torah service last month and enjoy the music of Metropolitan Klezmer. It was a joyous event for the whole family!

Our next event is scheduled for **November 9, at 7 pm.** for the commemoration of **Kristallnacht**. Itay Goren will be presenting "Banned Music". He will be playing and speaking about the works of five composers whose works were banned by the Nazi. Itay is an old friend of BHSS and has performed here in the past. We are lucky to have him back!

We are very interested in what kind of programming you want to see. Classical music? Israeli Dancing? Sing-along for the kids? Email me at [niberger@aol.com](mailto:niberger@aol.com); I would love to discuss it further with you.

Join our choir! Here is your chance to join in the fun. They are always looking for new members. No previous experience on knowledge of Hebrew is required. Contact Michelle at the synagogue office for details.

*Musically yours,*

*Nora Berger*



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 Wednesdays.

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

## TRADITION & CULTURE

"How are you?" It's an everyday question. It's a simple question that is part of our vernacular. However, these days it's quite a loaded question, isn't it? Our feelings are BIG. They are varied, and complex. Among all of those feelings, one that can stand out is "lonely".

After all (according to the Pew Research Center), Jewish people make up just 0.2% of the world's population, and very often we find ourselves at the center of so much international vitriol, judgment, and in some cases, pure hatred.

As a minority, that is when the word "community" becomes so important. The culture of the Jewish people cherishes family, friends, our fellow BHSS members, and the Jewish people as a whole. We must remember that we are part of many communities...big and small. All 0.2% of us.

Why do we feel so connected to a country 5,713 miles from

New York City? Israel and its people are part of our community as well. Many of us have family and friends who live there. We also feel the connection to strangers, as we share a history that has lasted 5,784 years, and survived through much adversity and atrocity.

During these times, we need to use whatever opportunities we can find to come together both physically at synagogue by attending services or religious school, or spiritually by doing something so simple as lighting the Shabbat candles at home.

Though we may be 0.2%, we are loud. We can speak up. We can spread truth. We can use our voices to educate.

We can love each other, and hold our dear ones close. We can do whatever we can to help those in immediate danger. We can ACT as a community.

# *Good & Welfare*

## from and for the congregation

---

### *Condolences to:*

**Pearl Meyers** on the death of her husband, Robert Meyers

**Barry Cassell** on the death of his father, Lewis Cassell

### *Mazel Tov to:*

**Carol Diamant** on the birth of her grandson,  
Zev Ari Diamant, born to Joshua and Hannah  
Wolff Diamant, and big sister, Elana

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

**Ed Vogel**

**Joel Goldfarb**



### *Welcome New Members:*

**Josh & Kristi Daniel and family**, Ringwood, NJ

**Jeff & Kerri Koppel and family**, Upper Saddle River, NJ

**Warren & Samara Krieg and family**, Mahwah, NJ

**Ariel Borujow & Juliet Lerman and family**, Suffern, NY

**Igal & Rachael Katan and family**, Suffern, NY

**Joshua & Jennifer Margolis and family**,  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Harvey & Monica Wiener**, New York, NY

**Jonathan & Andrea Erde and family**, Ramsey, NJ

**Ari Molovinsky & Blair Baumwell and family**,  
Upper Saddle River, NJ

**Brian & Melanie Sumper and family**, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Jonathan & Jennifer Heit and family**, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Gerald Zaks & Beth Grossman**, Mahwah, NJ

**Michael & Kim Gold and family**, Upper Saddle River, NJ

**John Moros & Veronica Fellman and family**, Allendale, NJ

**Paul & Pamela Platten**, Park Ridge, NJ

**Elan & Meredith Rosenberg and family**, Park Ridge, NJ

**Ed & Robin Lockwood**, Suffern, NY

**Alan & Mary Geisenheimer**, Ramsey, NJ

**Michael Mittelman & Joyce Griffin and family**,  
Suffern, NY

**Jason & Ranita Fooks and family**, Upper Saddle River, NJ

**Eric & Lauren Brown and family**, Airmont, NY

**Nicholas & Megan Lewis and family**, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

**Matthew & Lauren Gamsey and family**,  
Upper Saddle River, NJ

**Janis Schwartz**, Mahwah, NJ

**Michael and Marissa Edrich and family**, Woodcliff Lake, NJ



# EDUCATION COMMITTEE

I hope all is well and that things are settling down (as much as they can) after a busy fall. I recently got a chance to look behind the Wizard(s) curtain and it was awesome! No, not Oz or Harry Potter and Dumbledore, I attended the Religious School teachers first staff meeting of the year. Rebecca McVeigh thought it might be an opportunity for me, as education chair, to meet anyone I didn't know and vice versa. I wasn't really sure what to expect, and even though I know what a great job they all do, it was neat to get a sneak peek of the inner workings.

At this point in life, we've all been to school, sat in classes of many kinds and there's a general assumption that we all know what teachers "do" -- they teach. But what about who they are and what they know? What they bring to the table?

So, who are our Teachers and  
*Morei Derech* (classroom assistants)?

- Retired Elementary School Teacher (over 20 years)
- Middle School Teachers Aid
- HS Special Education Teacher specializing in Math
- Elementary Resource Room Teacher
- Children of our Synagogue (adults now!)
- A Former Youth Group President
- A Present Youth Group President
- Education Committee Member
- A School Parent and Former Hebrew School Teacher
- HS STEM Instructional Supervisor
- Temple Musician
- Family School Attendee
- Recent BHSS Adult B'nai Mitzvah

You may, or you may not know, our director of education celebrated her 27th year of BHSS membership, and her 20th year as educator; that she is mother of three who attended our school, and grandmother of two, one of whom is currently a BHSS student. Rebecca loves learning, and not just Hebrew.

She loves technology; if you've been in her office, you've seen the multi-screen set-up, but she's also all about the latest software, and using the many connections she's made over the years with other educators and members of the Reform Jewish community near and far to continue to adapt and keep abreast of the latest, greatest, and most productive ways to teach our children. Complacency is not in her vocabulary. Recognizing that the individual Hebrew learning sessions that were initially a response to the pandemic, had a positive impact on the students and incorporating that learning model into the curriculum moving forward is just one example.

Of the many things I've learned about Rebecca as she's been preparing me for my own Bat Mitzvah, is how much she pays attention to the individual as much as the curriculum. That shared philosophy was apparent for all of the teachers at the meeting I attended during the second week of school. As a parent, knowing your child is a visual or auditory learner is one thing, getting their teachers to recognize and make the necessary personal modifications is another.

One of the first questions asked of each teacher as they went around the room is there anyone in your classroom that has a different way of learning? Not only did each teacher immediately recognize the needs of their students, but also what they already had in place to best serve their respective requirements. They also came ready with new ideas as to how to best utilize the time they have with all of their students, incorporating technology and music, to enhance age-appropriate learning. What blew my mind is that each one of them knew which prayers and songs their students know, need to know, would like to know, and fun new ways for them to learn. Keep in mind most of them have day jobs!

I'll let you try and figure out who's who, or you can just ask them next time you see them...

Be well,  
Ronni Seif, Education Committee Chair

# SISTERHOOD

*"Because there's one thing stronger than MAGIC: Sisterhood!"*

Here we are, going head-long into the holiday season! Thanksgiving is coming, Hanukkah is right behind it, and soon enough it will be 2024! Before the crush of the season overcomes us all, take a moment or two to catch up with your BHSS sisters.

We kicked off our Sisterhood year in the sukkah on October 1, sharing hugs, conversation and SANGRIA! We tasted three different sangrias, and the overwhelming favorite was---wait for it---pumpkin spice sangria! That apple-y, spicy taste blew us away. Does it sound like something that belongs on your Thanksgiving table, or on a Netflix Saturday night? Check to the right for the recipe. L'chaim!

Sooooo, who actually reads Sisterhood news (we know, everyone does)? You might have noticed a blurb about Girls Night Out in the last issue...and THEN you might have noticed an announcement that it was being postponed. Well, it's been rescheduled for November 2. One thing we know for sure, whenever and wherever we gather, a good time is always had! We promise you; Girls Night Out is no exception.

Coming up on Sisterhood's calendar are two great events:

**December 2**—We gather with Brotherhood for our Chanukah Pickleball party from 7-10 p.m. at Bergen Pickleball Zone in Ramsey. \$36 per person gets you food, beverages, instruction (if desired) and round robin play. Equipment is provided. Contact Lisa Lamster at [lisalams@gmail.com](mailto:lisalams@gmail.com) to RSVP.

**December 11**—Join Sisterhood for a special performance by the Maccabeats at BergenPAC in Englewood at 7 pm. This amazing a capella group is definitely worth the trip! There are a limited number of tickets for this event, and it is sure to sell out fast, so watch your emails and the synagogue bulletin board for more info.

Did you know that almost every Sisterhood event has a social action component? Is there a community group that you believe needs our help? Drop in to our board meetings

on the first Monday of each month. We'd love for you to get involved.

Many more events are in the works for winter and spring, including the incomparable Sisterhood Dine-A-Round, Sisterhood Shabbat and so much more. Please make it a point to join us for any and all of them.

Wishing you wonderful holidays, and a happy 2024.  
Linda and Stacey

## PUMPKIN SPICE SANGRIA

(Serves 8-10)

### Ingredients

3 cups apple cider  
2 bottles chilled white wine (Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Riesling if you like it sweet)  
½ - 1 cup spiced rum  
2 apples, chopped  
2 pears, chopped  
1 cup pumpkin pie syrup\*  
Cinnamon sticks for garnish

1. Combine apple cider, wine, rum (start with ½ cup, add as desired), apples and pears
2. Add in 1 cup of pumpkin pie syrup, more to taste (I use 1-1/2 cups)
3. Stir well and chill for at least 30 minutes
4. To serve, garnish with cinnamon stick(optional)

### \*Pumpkin Pie Syrup:

½ cup pure pumpkin puree  
½ cup granulated sugar  
½ cup maple syrup  
¾ cup water  
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Combine all ingredients in saucepan.

Bring to simmer, stirring frequently until all sugar is dissolved—about 3 minutes. Remove from heat and chill at least 2 hours. This syrup can also be used to top pancakes, ice cream, oatmeal. Enjoy!



# Meet the Members

## 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 or past members' individual stories.

### Sherri & Ron Nahum



We come from very different religious backgrounds. I grew up in a kosher home; 2 sets of dishes and silverware. During Shabbat and the Jewish holidays, I was dressed up and could do nothing but take walks and read – no TV! One of my vivid memories of my grandmother is her preparations for Shabbat, making sure she tore enough toilet paper in advance of Shabbat so she wouldn't have to do any "work." I also remember sitting in the women's section of the synagogue. Passover seders for me lasted for hours with dinner not happening until midnight! After Ron and I began dating (in high school), I began going to services at Temple Beth El, a reform synagogue, with Ron and his family. I was horrified that there was an organist playing music. Nevertheless, I began to enjoy the services because I was able to understand the prayers, as many were in English. Reform Judaism has become my way of life now. Yet, to this day, while we don't keep a kosher home, we still do have two sets of dishes and silverware! Even Ron couldn't possibly eat a *milich* meal on *fleishig* dishes!

Ron's background was a mix of Ashkenazi and Sephardic culture. While his grandparents were more observant, Ron's upbringing was in a Reform Jewish home. While he enjoyed many of the same dishes as I did from my grandmother, he had the added benefit of the dishes from his Turkish and Greek grandparents. The way he loves to eat made him a favorite of his grandmothers.

We imagine that our decision to join BHSS is not much different than anyone else's, but our journey getting here may be....

Our family was associated with Temple Beth El in Spring Valley for over 50 years. Ron's parents joined Temple Beth El when it was time for Ron to begin Hebrew school (1963). They immediately got involved in all aspects of temple life, serving as Sisterhood and Men's Club presidents and board members.

Ron and I met at a youth group meeting in 1970! We were very active in temple life during our children's formative years, from running the youth group (Sherri) to serving as treasurer (Ron), and everything in between. We all celebrated becoming B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Beth El, Ron in 1967, Josh and I in 1995, and Jason in 1999. We were married there in 1975. You can see that it was an important part of our life story. It was our spiritual home.

As we all know, the only constant in life is change. As the demographics in Rockland County changed, so, too, did the membership of Temple Beth El. Few young families moved to the

area. With diminishing membership numbers, TBE merged with Temple Beth Torah in Upper Nyack. We continued our membership in the new congregation, now called The Reform Temple of Rockland. However, we never felt the sense of warmth and belonging at this new house of worship.

We knew it was time to make a change. It was important to both of us to be a part of a warm, thriving and accepting congregation.

During this time, a neighbor of ours invited us to attend an outdoor service at BHSS, which was an accommodation for the COVID pandemic. We immediately felt a sense of warmth when we were greeted by Iris and Rabbi Ilana. The services were inspiring and the ice cream truck afterwards was a nice touch!

By the time we met with Iris about membership, we were convinced that Beth Haverim Shir Shalom was exactly the type of congregation we were looking for. It has been two years since we joined and we have found our new spiritual home. To cement our connection to BHSS we immediately purchased memorial plaques for our parents, which represented to us our family history of temple involvement.

Since we joined, we have enjoyed Friday night services, the new membership social, High Holiday services, Broadway night and a variety of other social events. We have brought our grandchildren to Tot Shabbat, family services and Family Fun Day. Our children and grandchildren love being at BHSS as much as we do.

After so many years of direct involvement with temple committees, we wanted to experience temple life as "just" members, and it has allowed us to appreciate the warmth, spirituality and feeling of community that we have found at BHSS. Ron has enjoyed helping to build and dismantle the sukkah, we have participated in social events and look forward to continuing to do so in the years ahead. When we choose to join other committees to do the good work of the temple, we know that we will be welcomed with open arms and enthusiasm.

We have been thoroughly taken by the friendliness and welcoming spirit of the clergy, staff and congregants. We feel as if we have been members for years. As in life, there is a difference between a house and a home. Beth Haverim Shir Shalom is our new and permanent spiritual home.

-Sherri (and Ron) Nahum

# Contributions

---

## *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

with thanks and appreciation - *Robin & Barry Cassell*

to Susan and Sean Levin, in honor of their anniversary  
*Lauren & Jonathan Theodore*

with thanks and appreciation for all that you have done for  
our family... both happy and sad - *the Feldmans*

with thanks for all the visits to my dad - *Lisa Lamster*

to Jane Young, with gratitude for the beautiful service  
- *Marin Greene & Faith Kaufman*

## *Life Fund*

in honor of my grandson, Zev Ari - *Carol Diamant*

to Renee Konigsberg and family, in memory of  
Dr. David Kornblatt - *Howard Peckler*

in commemoration of Isabella Allweiss Goldschmidt's yahrzeit  
- *Monica & Harvey Wiener*

with thanks for the wonderful High Holidays - *Joyce Keshner*

in commemoration of the yahrzeit of my brother,  
Arthur Grove - *Joyce Keshner*

in memory of my father, Richard Silverman - *Judy Neumann*

to Carla Wheeler, in memory of your mother, Margaret Ryan  
- *Harvey Weinberg*

in memory of Susan Ives and Betty Sankel - *Sheryl & Joel Ives*

to Pearl Meyers, in memory of Bob Meyers  
- *Gail & Ranan Wichler*  
- *the Spencer family*  
- *Barbara Lacher*  
- *Elyse Victor Berman & Joe Berman*

in commemoration of Myron Greenzwieg's yahrzeit  
- *Marilyn Haberman & family*

to Gail and Ranan Wichler, in honor of their new  
granddaughter, Nora  
- *Alison & Norman Axelrod*

in memory of Lloyd Goldfarb and Linda Goldfarb  
- *Joel Goldfarb*

in memory of Linda Goldfarb  
- *Lisa Lamster*

## *Center for Food Action*

*Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas*

Bar Mitzvah of Drew Tetefsky  
Bar Mitzvah of Alex Popowitz

## *Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge*

*Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas*

Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Einhorn  
Bar Mitzvah of Alex Roberts  
Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Flanz  
Bat Mitzvah of Madison Torrente

## *Jewish Family Services of Rockland*

*Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas*

Bar Mitzvah of Jared Bendayan



# *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**

ALLISON & JOSH BERWITZ  
ELENA & ALAN BLANKMAN  
RACHEL & STUART CROCKFORD  
MARIN & DARYL GREENE  
LEN KAPLAN  
LINDA & DAVID SCHWARTZ  
RUTH TURNER  
JEWELL & STANLEY WALDBAUM  
GAIL & RANAN WICHLER

## **SIMCHA IS A JOY**

BILHA BERKOWITZ  
ALEXIA & ELLIOTT FELDMAN  
RENEE & GARY GARBUS  
SHERYL & JOEL IVES  
SUE-ELLEN JOHNSON  
DONNA & ADAM KOTZ  
LAURA & MITCHELL MILLER  
FRAN & JEFF ROWBOTTOM

## **TZEDEK MEANS RIGHTEOUSNESS**

SANDY & BILL ARLINGTON  
ALISON & NORMAN AXELROD  
ELYSE VICTOR BERMAN & JOE BERMAN  
LAUREN & FIELD BRUSSEL  
LAURIE & MARC DANIEL  
DARA & CHRISTINE DIAMOND  
BLAIR & DUSTIN GORDON  
LEE WAYSER & MARTIN GORDON  
SHEILA & LARRY GROSKIN  
DEBORAH & JEFF KLEIN  
PHIL MOSS  
SAM REINER  
MARCI & HARVEY WEINBERG

## **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. This year 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.

It is easy to participate. **Beginning in November**, you can drop the new unwrapped gift at the synagogue when you come for services, school, or any of our programs. There will be bins to put the gifts in by the religious school entrance. Remember, you can always check with Michelle or Iris. Please note that the last drop-off date at the synagogue will be **December 15**.



# MICHELLE MITZVAH GROUP

Shalom. The final shofar blast has sounded and the gates have closed, concluding another High Holiday season. Every year, around this time, people express to me the desire to help out and do more for the community. There is no better time than the present and there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer with the Michelle Mitzvah Group.

**Donate Blood-** “Always give 100%, unless you’re donating blood.” There is always a need for people to donate blood, and blood products (plasma, platelets, and red blood cells). Personally, I always donate platelets as much as I am able to. All donations are welcome. Two good things about donating- 1) free juice & cookies after your donation, and 2) no “honey-do” list as you need to rest and relax and drink plenty of fluids. Donate blood, enjoy free juice and cookies, and I then am able to take the rest of the day off? Where do I sign up—right here- <https://vitalant.org/>.

**Donate Food-** Help students faced with food insecurity receive “Snack Packs” (care packages) for the weekend. This allows them to eat so they do not arrive at school Monday morning feeling malnourished. Please consider donating food to the Center for Food Action. You are always welcome to drop off the food at the temple in the baskets by both entrances- the religious school entrance and the sanctuary (main) entrance. Below is the list of items most requested. You can always find additional information at [www.cfanj.org](http://www.cfanj.org).

- Supermarket Gift Cards
- Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Canned Hearty Soups
- Canned Vegetables
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Tomato Sauce
- Toothpaste, Toothbrush & Dental Floss
- Cold Cereal (low sugar) and Oatmeal
- Powdered Milk and/or Boxed Milk, such as Parmalat
- Canned Fruits
- Instant Potatoes
- 100% Juice
- Baby Formula & Diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6
- Bar or Bottled Soap
- Canned Dog Food & Canned Cat Food

**Food Deliveries-** During the week, members of Michelle Mitzvah will pick up food at Fresh Market in Montvale, NJ, and drop it off at either Center for Food Action, Oasis in Paterson, or Christ Episcopal Church in Suffern, NY.

**Soup Kitchen-** Speaking of Christ Episcopal Church, every Sunday, we help serve meals to our neighbors in need through their Feeding Ministry. Volunteers provide the entire meal, consisting of an entrée, beverage, snack, & fruit (about 30 lunches) to guests “take-out” style from 11:30 am – 12 pm. Please contact me to sign up for a Sunday. It is a quick and easy way to help those in need.

These are just some of the ways to help out the community. We are always looking for a few good men and women. For questions and inquiries, please contact Steve Simon via email at [steveoum@verizon.net](mailto:steveoum@verizon.net) or call/text at 201-788-6755.

midnightrun.org

## Clothing Drive

The Midnight Run donates needed goods directly to people on the streets in New York City. After the Youth Group's successful Midnight Run in January, we will increase our donations to monthly!



**Adult sizes ONLY**

Gently used or new please

The following items are always in need:

- Shoes/sneakers of all sizes
- Jackets, Coats, Wraps
- Jeans/trousers of all sizes
- Sweatpants of all sizes
- Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Sweaters, Fleece Pullovers
- Tee Shirts
- Socks & Underwear - only new, in packages
- Hats, Scarves, Gloves
- Toiletries



We can always use help with this work. If you're interested in sorting, driving or delivering for our next Midnight Run, please reach out to us.

Sam Spencer - (551) 427-3663 - [bhssyouth@gmail.com](mailto:bhssyouth@gmail.com)

Steve Simon - (201) 788-6755 - [steveoum@verizon.net](mailto:steveoum@verizon.net)

Jonathan Theodore - (917) 531-0043 - [theodore.central@gmail.com](mailto:theodore.central@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL ACTION

As the seasons change, temperatures drop, and Hanukkah arrives, BHSS Social Action continues to spread its warmth with its *tikkun olam*/social justice initiatives to fellow congregants, our surrounding communities, and our brethren in Israel.

We made our final delivery of personal and household items to the Afghan refugee families in Valley Cottage at the end of September and a few volunteers continue to help them learn English, job hunt, deal with immigration, and travel to important medical appointments. We are also continuing to collect items of clothing and toiletries for the Midnight Run.

The vicious Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on Saturday, October 7, 2023 caught us all by surprise and continues to be heartbreaking. Nevertheless, BHSS Social Action sprung into immediate action and composed an email sent out to the entire congregation listing agencies that need help.

The list and relevant links are below, in case you missed our email:

### **Israel Emergency Fund:**

[www.ujafedny.org/israel-emergency-fund](http://www.ujafedny.org/israel-emergency-fund)

**Magen David Adom:** [www.mdais.org/en](http://www.mdais.org/en)

**War and Terror Related Trauma:** [www.afnatal.org](http://www.afnatal.org)

**NATAL** is an especially important apolitical agency which exclusively addresses the TRAUMA suffered by Israelis who lost loved ones in the October 7 massacre, its survivors, the Hamas hostages who have been and hopefully will continue to be released, and members of the IDF, Israel Defense Forces.

Of course, please contact us for even more agency names because the list has become endless.

BHSS Social Action is still planning to hold virtual or in-person programs about the recent rise of anti-Semitism both in the United States and abroad. Unfortunately, it has increased even more rapidly due to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. We, along with other synagogue committees and members, will reach out to and promote programs with our fellow Jews and other faith partners in surrounding communities. Please check the weekly BHSS emails as well as emails that come directly from us for additional updates. Our monthly meetings are held on the third or final Tuesday evening of the month.

We continue to welcome new members and feedback.

At a “Stand With Israel” rally at Rockland Community College, audience members were instructed to practice self-care and write what was on their minds on paper or on their smartphones. Here is a message I composed that I would like to share with my fellow Social Action Committee members, Rabbi Ilana, and the rest of my

congregational family:

“My goal is to strengthen my body, soul, and psyche to help repair the profound chasm of horror that has not only befallen the State of Israel, Jews world-wide, and innocent Palestinians but has engulfed the entire world in a conflagration of pure evil”.

Surrounding you all with infinite love and support,

Jonathan Theodore: [theodore.central@gmail.com](mailto:theodore.central@gmail.com)

Lisa Estrin: [lbestrin@aol.com](mailto:lbestrin@aol.com)

Lisa Glick: [lisarglick@gmail.com](mailto:lisarglick@gmail.com)



MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR BLESSING זכרונם לברכה ☆

## November Yahrzeits

DOROTHY ADLMAN	DAVID GOLDFARB	RENEE KUSHER	PAUL SHERMAN
VERA ALTMAN	HARRY GORDON	PNINA LANDAU	HOWARD SHMARUK
MANUEL ANSIN	ALBERTA GREENBERG	ROSE LEFKOWITZ	STUART SIMON
MAX BEHAR	EUGENE GREENBLATT	ISIDORE LEVINE	IRENE STEINMAN
SAMUEL BERGER	SYLVIA GREENE	ALEJANDRO LLIBRE	LON STEINMAN
LILLIAN BERMAN	LEO GROSSMAN	JODI LYONS	DIANE STROW
MATTIE BIALER	SAMUEL GROVE	MURRAY MARKS	RAE SUESKIND
STEWART BIALER	SYLVIA HABERMAN	MIRIAM NAHUM	ERNA TUTEUR
DONNA BLUMENTHAL	ELAINE HAGER	NORMAN NOVAK	EDITH UNGER
WILLIAM BRENDER	ALLAN HEFFLER	ESTHER OPPENHEIM	INDA VAYSBURD
JENNIE COHEN	MAE HEILBRAUN	VI PEARLMAN	MAX VOGEL
MARVIN COMISKY	HERMAN HERSHMAN	BARBARA PENROSE	HOWARD WEINBERG
ADRIENNE DETSCH	BESSIE HIEGER	PAUL PENROSE	ELEANOR WEINER
EVELYN EBBIN	LAWRENCE ISRAEL	AARON PREMSLAAR	DORIS WEISS
SELMA ELTERMAN	ELSIE KLEIN	SALLY RABINOVICH	SUSAN LITTMAN
BURTON FREEMAN	HENRY KOLB	SEYMOUR SAIFF	WESTERVELT
MARILYN FRIEDMAN	BETTY KURSMAN	SAMUEL SCHECHTER	SARAH YERUSHALMI
NAOMI FRIEDMAN	IRVING KURSMAN	SUSAN SCHNEIDER	WARREN YOUNG
BETTY GELFAND	JEROME KURSMAN	MORITZ SCHOTT	SARAH ZALL
	LILLIAN KURTIN		MOLLIE ZUKOF

## 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).





## *December Yahrzeits*

LEAH ADLMAN	ABRAHAM FINKELSTEIN	DAVID LEVINSON	BEA SHERMAN
NORMAN ARKAWY	WALTER FONDILLER	HERBERT LEVY	ARIEL SORIANO
SYLVIA ASH	SUZANNE FRIEDMAN	DODY MAGAZINER	HARVEY STEDMAN
DONNA BARRACK	ARNOLD GAMSEY	OSCAR MAIER	SAUL STEDMAN
ALFRED BAUM	EMANUEL GARBUS	ENID MARCUS	ALLEN STEIN
MARVIN BENDALIN	GLORIA GOLDBERG	MADELINE MATLOWSKY	SUSAN SHERB STERNFELS
ELAINE CRAMER BERNSTEIN	SCOTT GOLDBERG	NORMAN MATLOWSKY	LOUIS STIGLITZ
HOWARD BETTMAN	SHELDON GOLDSTEIN	SARAH MATLOWSKY	ANITA GAIL SUESKIND
ADAM BIALER	MARVIN GOODMAN	NATHAN MAYERS	SYLVIA SVETCOV
GREG BRABEC	ESTHER GOODMAN-ZASLOW	BEATRICE MENDELOWITZ	FRIDA TEPERMAN
JULES BRESSLER	RICHARD GRIFFIN	LOUIS MILLER	FLORENCE TURNER
IDA BRODY	AARON HALL	DAVID MULFORD	SARA VERBEL
LARRY BROWN	ELAINE HALL	MICHAEL NANUS	SUMNER VICTOR
LORI ROSENBLUM BROWN	SHIRLEY JACOBS	JOAN RUTH NITZBERG	ANNETTE GORDON WALDBAUM
BARBARA CASSELL	LOTHAR KAHN	CLAIRE NOVAK	JEROME WEINBERG
ALBERT COHEN	LOTHAR KAHN	HILDA OPELL	MILTON WEINER
JOE COYNE	BARUCH KAPELUSHNIK	ILYA PECKERMAN	ROSE WEINSTEIN
GERALD DEFOREST CROUCH	RITA KERN	MAURICE REISSMAN	ROBERT WEISS
SONIA DEMSKY	HARRY KESHNER	CARL RICHARDSON	SONDRA WELLS
SOPHIE EISENSTEIN	JERZY KIERES	FAYE RICHARDSON	ERIC WIENER
BEATRICE FARBER	ANN KIRSHNER	LEO RIVKIND	AL YAGODA
JULIA FIHRER	MILTON KLEIN	LEAH ROCKER	JANE YANOWITZ
	HOWARD LEIBOWITZ	NEIL SAVITCH	BERTA ZAKS
	LEONARD LERNER	RABBI SYLVAN SCHWARTZMAN	
	HERBERT LEVINE		



# BROTHERHOOD

An open letter:

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Friends in the 'hood:

Those of you who wonder what Brotherhood is about, you will now find out.

We don't need to highlight the atrocities unleashed by Hamas, Hezbollah, and all the haters around the world. We don't need to highlight the incredible uptick in anti-Semitic attacks, aggressions, rhetoric and hate against the Jewish community.

We don't need to highlight because we always knew this was there. Maybe we became a little complacent...or comfortable within our surroundings, but nowadays? It's very difficult to pretend this isn't real. Not anymore.

What needs to be said is that your friends, brothers of other mothers, sisters of other misters, and fellow members of our community are here for you. Watching the constant atrocities on the news, on the internet, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, whatever medium you choose is easy. Why? It sparks our anger...inspires us to want to do more...to ACTUALLY do more...to stand up for what's right, good and decent in the world - yes, there still is some level of humanity left amongst us.

But...

Know that you are not alone. BHSS Brotherhood is here for you. We are here to listen, help, talk, and mostly to remind everyone that BHSS is a community. We are family, we are friends, we are here. When things get a little tough, or if you just need to reach out to someone for ANY reason, reach out to one of us.

This is what Brotherhood means.

Let's all stick together, and support one another.

L'Shalom

BHSS Brotherhood Legion of Past Presidents

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bhssbrotherhood>

(201) 512-1983 - BHSS Office

(845) 596-6680 - Ian Coyne

(845) 269-1773 - Erb Cooper

(201) 615-7088 - Allan Schott

(917) 531-0043 - Jonathan Theodore

**Israel was not created in order to disappear -  
Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child  
of hope and the home of the brave. It can  
neither be broken by adversity or demoralized  
by success. It carries the shield of democracy  
and it honors the sword of freedom.**

**— John F. Kennedy —**



**WE STAND WITH ISRAEL  
NOW AND ALWAYS**

## ***Contribution Opportunities at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

***Life Fund*** (Minimum donation \$18.00 for each)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

***Tree of Life*** (Minimum donation \$100.00 per leaf) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

***Sustaining Membership*** (Minimum donation \$250.00)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Rabbi's Discretionary Fund***..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Educator's Discretionary Fund***..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Michelle Mitzvah Group***..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(for above groups)

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

---

***Other/Special*** - Please contact us to discuss further opportunities, such as:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yahrzeit Plaque      \_\_\_\_\_ "Wish List"

---

***Payment Information:***

Check No: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_ Discover

Credit Card Info: \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

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



# BERGEN BOOK STUDIO

Books, art, and other necessities

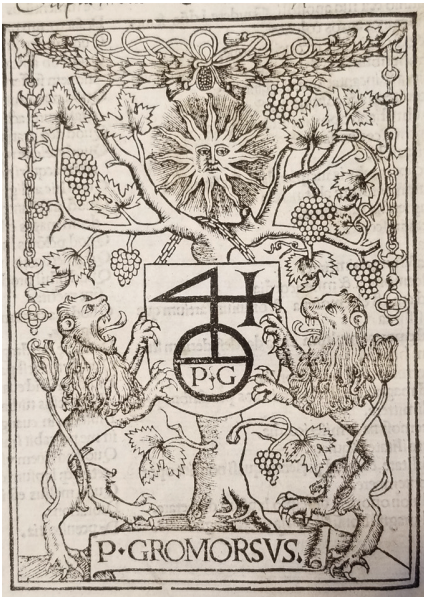
We're open and rocking it. We also do bookbinding and book repair. Our bookbinding classes are super fun and fill up quickly. Only 19 minutes from BHSS!



132A Broadway  
Hillsdale, NJ 07642

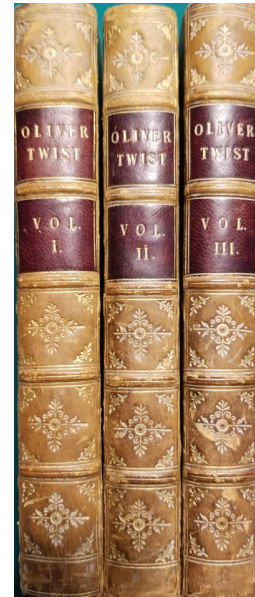
[www.bergenbookstudio.com](http://www.bergenbookstudio.com)

[art.k@bergenbookstudio.com](mailto:art.k@bergenbookstudio.com)



Printer's imprint from the oldest book in the shop, 1525.

New, Used & Rare Books  
for adults and children  
Library/Office Supplies  
Original Art  
Posters / Graphic Design  
Stationery, Pens, & Pencils  
Book Collecting Supplies  
Historical Ephemera  
Decorative Paper  
Bookbinding Supplies  
Art Supplies  
Toys, Games, & Gifts



1st Edition of Oliver Twist part of our extensive Dickens collection

We plant a tree for every 10 books we sell  
and 50% of our profit goes to tzedakah!

# No Sign Speaks Louder!!

Prominent  
Properties

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



## STACEY FRIEDMAN LIPKIN

Broker Associate

c. 201.819.3552 o. 201.825.3600

stacey.friedmanlipkin@sothebysrealty.com

Let my 39+ years of experience in the real estate market work for you. Please call me today for a complimentary consultation to discuss your real estate needs.

152 West Saddle River Road | Saddle River, NJ 07458

sothebysrealty.com

 Each franchise is independently owned and operated.

## LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY S. LIPKIN

- General Litigation
- Business Disputes
- Employment Disputes
- Landlord-Tenant Disputes
- Real Estate Disputes
- Municipal Court
- Medical Malpractice
- Insurance Claims
- Partnership Disputes
- Contract Drafting and Disputes
- Commercial Litigation/Collection
- Bad Neighbor Disputes
- Personal Injury
- Products Liability

- 20 years of "big firm" experience at affordable rates

1000 C Lake St., Ramsey, NJ • (201) 962-3876

www.jefflipkinlaw.com

## — DANIEL FAMILY — CHIROPRACTIC

DR. MARC DANIEL • DR. JOSH DANIEL

WWW.DANIELFAMILYCHIROPRACTIC.COM

EMAIL: STAFF@DANIELFAMILYCHIROPRACTIC.COM

65 N. FRANKLIN TURNPIKE, RAMSEY, NJ 07446

OFFICE: (201)934-1166 | FAX: (201)934-8170



## Teaching For Success: Support/Acceleration in Reading and Math

- Is your child struggling in reading and/or mathematics?
- Is your child bored in math class?
- Do you want to learn math concepts to help your child?

Pre-teaching, remediation, and acceleration are all components of **Teaching for Success**. TFS is a virtual tutoring program for students in Kindergarten-Adult taught by a master educator with experience as a teacher, principal, and college instructor. If interested, please contact **TFS** at [kidsdeservethebest@gmail.com](mailto:kidsdeservethebest@gmail.com) or 224-588-6291 for more information and to discuss your needs. All learners deserve the best, so let's keep them on track in terms of their learning progress.

# Worship Schedule

---

Friday, November 3      6:30 pm      **Shabbat Family Service**  
*Birthdays in October and November will be celebrated*

Saturday, November 4      10:00 am      Oneg Shabbat hosts: The Levinson family  
 Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Levinson

Friday, November 10      7:00 pm      Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, November 17      5:15 pm      **Tot Shabbat**  
 7:00 pm      Shabbat Evening Service  
 Oneg Shabbat hosts: The Swerdloff family

Saturday, November 18      10:00 am      Bar Mitzvah of Miles Swerdloff

Friday, November 24      7:00 pm      Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, December 1      6:30 pm      **Shabbat Family Service**  
*Birthdays in December will be celebrated*

Saturday, December 2      10:00 am      Oneg Shabbat hosts: The Chais family  
 Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Chais

Friday, December 8      7:00 pm      **Shabbat Hanukkah Service**  
 Oneg Shabbat hosts: The Waldbaum family

Friday, December 9      10:00 am      Bat Mitzvah of Michelle Waldbaum

Friday, December 15      5:15 pm      **Tot Shabbat**  
 7:00 pm      Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, December 22      7:00 pm      Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, December 29      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: November 5, 19, December 3, 10, 17  
Mondays: November 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18  
Tuesdays: November 14, 28, December 5, 12, 19  
Wednesdays: November 1, 15, 29, December 6, 13

**Office Closed:**

Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24  
Monday, December 25



## To do in November and December

- *Join Sisterhood for cocktails at Girls Night Out at Chili's in Ramsey on Thursday, November 2 at 6:30 pm*
- *Gather the whole family and join us for Family Shabbat on Friday, November 3 and Friday, December 1 at 6:30 pm*
- *Youth Group always has something fun up their sleeves...join them for movies, games and trivia on Sunday, November 5 at 11:00 am*
- *Commemorate Kristallnacht with a very moving program by musician Itay Goren called "Banned Music." It is on Thursday, November 9 at 7:00 pm*
- *Been wanting to try Pickleball? Join Brotherhood and Sisterhood for Hanukkah Pickleball at Bergen Pickleball Zone in Ramsey on Saturday, December 2 at 7:00 pm*
- *Begin Shabbat with the little ones at Tot Shabbat (pizza included!) on Friday, November 17 and Friday, December 15 at 5:15 pm*
- *The D.A.R.E. Holiday Toy Drive will be accepting new toys for kids in need - throughout November through December 15*
- *The Maccabeats are ringing in Hanukkah, and Sisterhood has 50 tickets for Monday, December 11 at Bergen PAC in Englewood, NJ. Order now!*
- *Rabbi Ilana will be lighting the first candle at the Upper Saddle River Menorah Lighting on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 pm*
- *Get ready for Hanukkah Shabbat on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 pm. Bring your menorah and join in the fun!*
- *We'll shed some light at the Community Hanukkah Menorah Lighting on Tuesday, December 12 at 5:15 pm*