

TEMPLE



TOPICS

TEVET/SHEVAT/ADAR 5784

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Rabbi Ilana's Message*Getting Lost, Together*

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full article on page 3

President's Message*Building Bridges*

There was a feeling that everyone was thanking the people around them just for showing up. Before one word was even uttered, I was moved to tears. Maybe it was the fact that everyone who showed up understood that we are all in pain and yearning to understand how to make the world a better place.

full article on page 2

Director of Education*Hanukkah and Beyond*

Maybe you were there for the dose of adorable that is the annual K-3 Hanukkah concert, especially the sight of over 20 K-1 students on the bimah belting out "I Have A Little Dreidel"! Or perhaps were you outdoors in the seasonably cold temperatures for the BHSS congregational menorah lighting at which our Tuesday 4th and 5th graders led the singing and readings.

full article on page 5

B'NAI MITZVAH

January 13

Sarah Rosenstock

January 13

Zachary Rosenstock

THINGS TO DO:

more info on back cover and throughout

- Family Shabbat led by our 4th and 5th grade Religious School students
- Tot Shabbat...and pizza, too!
- Skyzone Youth Group event
- Healing Service via Zoom
- 6th Annual Refugee Shabbat
- Repro Shabbat to celebrate Jewish values of Reproductive Freedom
- Shabbat Shirah
- Young Adult Author Lisa Greenwald discuss her book *Ellie's Deli: Wishing on Matzo Ball Soup*
- Beat The Blues with Sisterhood Wellness Event

Happy New Year 2024



**UNION for
REFORM
JUDAISM**

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President's Message

Linda Ellman Schwartz

Building Bridges

The Great Healing Forum at Rockland Community College in November was an event initiated by Imam Syed Ali who reached out to Rabbi Ilana and select other clergy to try and promote healing across communities in times of conflict. The flyer for the event said, "RSVP only & Limited Seating. No flags, signs or banners permitted." The RSVP deadline was two days prior to the event and security was clearly dictating the parameters. This felt scary to me and yet, I was immediately drawn to attending this event which was bringing people from different backgrounds together to bond and find comfort.

Walking up to the Cultural Arts Theater at Rockland Community College, I was immediately overcome by emotion. A sea of eager security officers and volunteers greeting and checking people in- all with the same welcoming eyes communicating intense emotion and an overall embrace for just being there. There was a feeling that everyone was thanking the people around them just for showing up. Before one word was even uttered, I was moved to tears. Maybe it was the fact that everyone who showed up understood that we are all in pain and yearning to understand how to make the world a better place.

We heard from several speakers. The messages were about compassion and not being selfish. Most compellingly, we heard the incredibly moving words of our brave and brilliant Rabbi Ilana. She spoke about how a common historical story binds virtually all of us, and how we have common fears based upon tragic stories our ancestors experienced. She spoke about the importance of seeing more than just your own point of view, and of recognizing that we can make sure that we bring peace to others by how we respond.

A common theme from all the speakers was the importance of truly listening to others, of human, in-person connections. How relationships make all the difference in the world. Rabbi Ilana encouraged everyone in attendance to meet someone new before they left. I met

Ernst. He was there alone and talked about how listening to the speakers tonight gave him hope that people could indeed get along. I left feeling fortunate to live in a community where this tremendous effort was embraced by not just the local mosque and synagogues, but by the community college, the local government, the police departments and yes, the 100+ people who attended on a Wednesday night.

My strong sense is that this should be the beginning of something, and not a one-time event. I think that we, as a community should bond with people from all different backgrounds, even more than we already do. By talking to people and hearing their stories, by developing relationships that will evolve over time, we will do what is needed - to foster these connections so that we can continue to build hope and strength to forge ahead even in challenging times.

Stay tuned for future peacemaking opportunities!



Getting Lost, Together

Rabbi's Reflections

Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman



My daughter and I have a game we play. Every once in a while when we're driving—and not in any hurry—she asks, “Can we get lost?” What she wants is for me to turn off my GPS (who's named Carol) and drive aimlessly. She gets to determine whether we go right, left, or straight. Ideally, we get completely turned around and end up in an area we don't know. We never go for more than around 20 minutes, so we're never really outside of our own backyard. Sometimes we end up back in a place we recognize or we come across something breathtaking. Mostly, we're driving together, separate from our usual routine of going directly from one activity to another. Sometimes we crank up the radio and sing, other times we point out what we find interesting. It's a treat. It's also a retreat.

I want to invite you to a similar departure from the familiar—the BHSS Congregational Retreat at Camp Harlam from March 1-3. Like our car rides, this is an opportunity to diverge from the day-in day-out life we live. We get a chance to turn off the GPS of our lives and to connect to others who need a break from the relentless speeding through getting from one place to the other.

I have now participated in two off-site BHSS retreats and one “stay-treat” as the pandemic was still throwing us curve-balls, and what strikes me is the way that those who attend relate to each other. We share that first cup of coffee in the morning. We experience the way we relax, laugh, and pray. We share our passions and hobbies. And none of us has to cook or get too gussied up. I know that there are people who love the official and unofficial wine-tastings, those who love the hands-on learning, and those who love lighting our Havdalah candles at the end of Shabbat and singing in the glow. What I love is when we've all gotten settled and let our guard down. The way we all just get to be.

The theme of this year's retreat is **BHSS B'Yachad: Better Together**. This is our chance to turn off the Carols in our lives (apologies too all those named Carol) and relinquish a little control. It's a chance for us to observe the familiar in a place and way that is new to us. It's a way to engage in a kind of holiness, where we are able to see with new eyes.

In the Torah, the Israelites wander the wilderness for 40 years. The wandering is presented as a kind of punishment for the

spies who questioned God's plan. There are also benefits of the wandering—they get to know each other and God in a new way. They coalesce and finally become a people rather than a collection of individuals.

We have this amazing chance to wander together, to join in a different place, and to experience the new and the holy. We have the chance to grow deeper in our community. I hope you will join us to get lost *b'yachad*, together.

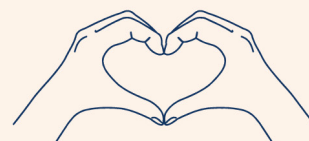
Door is open...Come on in!

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

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Birthdays



January

Madeleine Baker

Jacob Brown

Jayden Brussel

Ava Madison Diamond

Abby Fein

Levi Forman

Shelby Greene

Harrison Kipnis

Noah Leyden

Eli Margolis

Reagan Stein

Jeffrey Waldbaum

Lucas Weiner

February

Mason Brussel

Samuel Cohen

William Franklin

Aron Gamsey

Charlotte Geller

Cody Levine

Sean Levinson

Kaitlin McNulty

Olivia Rosenberg

Ava Rozenblat

Dylan Wood

Hanukkah and Beyond

From The Educator

Rebecca Bernstein McVeigh



As I write, our last session of religious school for 2023 is finishing up. As you can imagine, we've had the aroma of latkes and the sounds of Hanukkah songs ringing through our halls for the last couple of weeks. It has been chaos – but good chaos, happy chaos, educationally joyful chaos!

Were you there on Friday, December 1 when our Family School families helped to lead services? I don't think anyone will soon forget the sight of the Family School 3rd and 4th grade students acting out the story of Jacob's dream and the wrestling (or rather, gentle shoving) that the Torah portion described!

If you're a Family School family, you probably also engaged in some serious competition during Hanukkah "Jewpardy" or Hanukkah Family Feud, enhanced by Hanukkah singing led by *Rosh Shirah* Brian Gelfand.

Maybe you were there for the dose of adorable that is the annual K-3 Hanukkah concert, especially the sight of over 20 K-1 students on the bimah belting out "I Have A Little Dreidel"! Or perhaps were you outdoors in the seasonably cold temperatures for the BHSS congregational menorah lighting at which our Tuesday 4th and 5th graders led the singing and readings.

We know you turned out to donate toys to the D.A.R.E. toy drive, because our Kadimah students sorted and packed over 10 large bags of toys that Roberto delivered the next day to the Suffern police station. The lieutenant running the drive was

thrilled and thanked us on behalf of all the families who will benefit from YOUR generosity and willingness to help heal the world.

We also know how much our religious school families appreciate our teachers; Thank you for your donations, from all of us who work to help Jewish children feel more connected to their heritage, in a safe and welcoming environment.

We're looking forward to mixing purple and white grape juice together for Tu B'Shevat, having our 4th and 5th graders help to lead services on Friday, January 5 (mark your calendars!) and continuing to learn about and celebrate the many facets of our Jewish heritage here as a part of the BHSS family.

And speaking of family... The **BHSS Retreat** is coming up the weekend of March 1–3, 2024. (See the flyer elsewhere in this *Temple Topics*.) We are **CANCELING school on Sunday, March 3**, to give every family who wants to come the chance to participate. Many of our teachers will be there and every 4th grader and up who attends and is there for our "camp-style" Shabbat service on Friday and/or Saturday, will receive credit towards their b'nei mitzvah requirements! There really is something for everyone, so even if you can only come up for Saturday. You can be there with friends you know and friends you're about to know!

Wishing everyone a Happy and a Healthy New Year, and we'll see everyone back in class the week of January 7.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR January - February 2024

	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.
January		1 no school	1 no school	2 no school	3 no school
2024	7	8	8	9	10
	14 no school	15 no school	15 no school	16	17
	21	22	22	23	24
	28	29	29	30	31
	4	5	5	6	7
February	11	12	12	13	14
2024	18 no school	19 no school	19 no school	20 no school	21 no school
	25	26	26	27	28



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



***Sarah Rosenstock –
January 13, 2024***

Lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Parents, Adam Rosenstock and Jennifer Abramowitz, Natalya and David Rusnak, Brother, Zachary, 13, sisters, Lyla, 7, and Ella, 2 is a 7th grader at Woodcliff Middle School Her interests include softball, basketball, and spending time with friends. “I’m proud to become a Jewish adult and celebrate this special day with all my friends and family. For our mitzvah project, my brother and I organized an indoor cycling ride for teens at CycleBar to raise money for medical first responders in Israel. With a match from CycleBar corporate, we were able to donate \$5,000 to Magen David Adom, Israel’s national emergency service.”



***Zachary Rosenstock –
January 13, 2024***

Lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Parents, Adam Rosenstock and Jennifer Abramowitz, Natalya and David Rusnak, Sisters, Sarah, 13, Lyla, 7, and Ella, 2 is a 7th grader at Woodcliff Middle School His interests include baseball, fishing, video games, and football. “I would like to be a sports analyst. I am excited for this important milestone in my life and look forward to celebrating with family and friends. For our mitzvah project, my sister and I organized an indoor cycling ride for teens at CycleBar to raise money for medical first responders in Israel. With a match from CycleBar corporate, we were able to donate \$5,000 to Magen David Adom, Israel’s national emergency service.”

Candlelighting Times:



January 5, 2024 Sh'mot 4:24 pm
January 12, 2024 Va'era 4:31 pm
January 19, 2024 Bo 4:39 pm
January 26, 2024 B'Shallach - Shabbat Shirah 4:47 pm

February 2, 2024 Yitro 4:56 pm
February 9, 2024 Mishpatim 5:05 pm
February 16, 2024 Terumah 5:13 pm
February 23, 2024 Tetzaveh 5:21 pm



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Whether you're a half full or a half empty kind of person, when we get to January, the school year is definitely half over. Everyone has their own list of what makes something good or bad, but I hope we can all agree that learning in general is a good thing.

I used to refer to my weekly trips to BHSS as driving Hebrew School carpool. Then I noticed the BHSS website, Rebecca McVeigh's title, any emails I received referred to the institution as Religious School. In my own mind there was very little distinction, and I kept with my own definition. As I sit here today, I now understand there is a distinction and do my best

to correct myself. Truly if all that was taught and learned was Hebrew, I would have been right, but it is so much more. Don't get me wrong, learning the Alef Bet and being able to read Hebrew is a big part of the puzzle. And if you're me, trying to learn Haftarah for my Bat Mitzvah, it may be an even bigger piece!

Learning traditions, when we sit, stand, or bow our heads, knowing the melodies used for different prayers or how BHSS sings certain songs, becomes muscle memory as students go from the K-1 classroom to Kadimah. The historical significance behind Hanukkah and Passover, understanding the terminology, like fasting, atoning, *Tanach* – those are expected. How different families hide the afikomen, whether you are an applesauce or sour cream, or how Nana makes charoset (no nuts) are also important discussions to have. I always loved when our son, Bobby, would tell us the Kadimah options for the next session: Jews in Comedy, Jews in the Movies or Jewish Cooking; this shared history with artists, musicians, comics, and others who have influenced and changed the world we live in was so much more than just his weekly 'pizza party' with friends.

As children go through their schooling, religious and secular, we ask - will it stick, is it sticking, how will we know? Sometimes it's at services when you look at your child next to you and they are singing and smiling just like they do to the radio (dating myself; I know earbuds would be more up to date). Sometimes it's when your daughter texts you from college that she's ordered big bags of dreidels and gelt to hand out to her non-Jewish friends so she can share Hanukkah with the uninitiated. Or maybe, it's a call asking for a family recipe. Whatever it is, big or small, it says that they were paying attention, and it means learning took place, which is a win for all of us.

Well-rounded and well informed is how we hope to see our children and ourselves. BHSS's religious school not only teaches our children, it sometimes serves to remind us as adults about the things we've not necessarily forgotten, but maybe packed away waiting for the right moment for us to use them.

–Ronnie Seif, Education Committee Chair

Beloved author of the
TBH and friendship series books

Lisa Greenwald

comes to BHSS
Sunday, February 4
11:00am-12:30pm



Come join us as Lisa talks about her latest book *Ellie's Deli- wishing on Matzo Ball Soup*

If you have a 2nd- 6th grader... you need to read this adorable book and be here on February 4th!

Get your copy to read from Amazon or...pick up a copy at BHSS (limited stock) **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Lisa Greenwald is the author of the TBH books, the Friendship List series, the Pink & Green trilogy, the newly released *Ellie's Deli: Wishing on Matzo Ball Soup* and several other novels for tweens and teens. A graduate of the New School's MFA program in writing for children, she lives in New York City with her husband, daughters, and mini Bernedoodle, Kibbitz.



January Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Office Closed No School	No School	No School		6:30 pm Tefilot Family Service grade 4 & 5 help lead	Sh'mot
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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	Va'era 10 am Sarah & Zachary Rosenstock
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
No School	Office Closed No School	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Exec Comm Mtg	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir		5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7 pm Tefilot	Bo
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir		7 pm Tefilot Shabbat Shirah	B'shallach 9:30 am Family School Creative Service
28	29	30	31			
9 am 6th trad & FS noon YG event 7 pm Healing Svce via Zoom	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			

February Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
					7 pm Tefilot Refugee Shabbat	Yitro 9:30 a.m. BM Shabbaton service
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 am 6th trad & FS 11 am "Ellie's Del" - book event with author	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 Repro Shabbat	Mishpatim
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 am 6th trad & FS 11 am Youth Group Event	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Exec Comm Mtg 7:30 pm MMG Mtg	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir		6:30 pm Tefilot Family Service	T'rumah
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
No School	Office Closed No School	No School 7:30 pm Board Mtg	No School 7:30 pm Adult Choir		5:15 pm Tot Shabbat 7 pm Tefilot	T'tzaveh
25	26	27	28	29		
9 am 6th trad & FS noon Sis'hood Wellness Event	4:15 pm grades K 1 2 3 6:45 pm Kadimah	4:15 pm grades 4 & 5 7:30 pm Music Comm Mtg	4 pm Remote 6th 7:30 pm Adult Choir			

Eternal Lights 2023 - 25th Anniversary Celebration

The candlelight glow of the Lodge at Valley Rock created the perfect environment for our 25th year of Eternal Lights. We celebrated our strength as a community, made new connections and mingled with familiar faces. Eternal Lights was created to extend additional programming at our synagogue and to ensure that everyone who wants to be part of our Jewish community can be. With the help of all of you, we raised over \$19,000 - bringing us to over \$450,000 since inception. Good friends enrich our lives by being there for us when we need them most – whether through lending a helping hand, sharing a kind word, or providing emotional strength. We need each other more than ever and it's because of all of you Eternal Lights continues to shine bright. Our future is strong with all of you by our sides.

Your Hosts,

Sydelle and David Aarons | Blair and Ari Molivinsky | Jann and Marc Reissman
Sara and Lawrence Weiner | Vida and Eric Weiner

Bronze Sponsorship

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MARCH 1 - 3 @ URJ CAMP HARLAM

BHSS CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT 2024

BHSS B'yachad: Together is Better!

Art, Music, Discussion, Learning, Outdoor Activities, Sessions for Kids
New this year: Diamond Painting, Intro to Classical Music Appreciation, Bracelet Beading, Kids' Yoga!

Come for Informal Services and inspiring Song Sessions!
Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Ilana and Rosh Shirah Brian Gelfand!

Note: Retreat Shabbat services count towards Bar/Bat Mitzvah attendance requirements AND retreat attendance through Sunday morning excuses an absence for Sunday 6th graders.

Come for the weekend or Saturday only!

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

Pricing (Friday through Sunday)

Ages 13 and up: \$95 | Ages 3-12: \$75 | Children under 3 are free!

Saturday Only (No overnight)

Ages 13 and up: \$75 | Ages 3-12: \$55 | Children under 3 are free!

For more information, contact Lisa Lamster at lisalamster222@gmail.com

**Are you an expert in something interesting or fun?
Share your talents and enhance the retreat for everyone!**

Name(s) _____
No. of Adults _____ No. of Youth (ages 7 - 16) _____ No. of Children (ages 3 - 6) _____
Ages of Youth / Children _____
Email address _____ Cell# _____
Dietary Restrictions (Food is kosher style) _____
Credit Card Type _____ Name on Card _____
Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Please tear off and give to Iris in the BHSS office by 12/31/23.



MARCH 1 - 3 @ URJ CAMP HARLAM

BHSS CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT 2024

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is the retreat for? It's for everyone at BHSS! If you like to have fun, try new things, eat, meet new people, learn, sing, and relax, the retreat is for you! Individuals, couples, families, friends. All ages. Everyone helps make the retreat one of BHSS's most valued programs!

What will I do there? The retreat has choices for everyone! Sports. Arts. Cooking. Music. Crafting. Photography. Jewish fun and games. Learning sessions with Rabbi Ilana. Music sessions with Rosh Shirah Brian Gelfand. Havdalah and other informal services. Campfire - with s'mores, of course. You name it, we've got it! And if you have a new idea based on what you like to do, we'll make it happen! Above all, this is a chance to get to know members of the BHSS community in a different setting, over a longer period of time than we usually get to have together.

Will we have our own heated room and bathroom? Yes. Accommodations are NOT bunk style. We stay at a Reform Jewish camp in the Poconos, Camp Harlam, but we use the staff quarters, not camper bunks. You will have a private room with your own bathroom. BHSS is the only group at the camp for the weekend. All the buildings we use are heated and winterized.

Will the kids be bored? Not a chance! There are fun, active sessions customized for all ages and there's also downtime to do your own thing or just chill.

What is there to eat? The camp serves all meals, and we eat together in the dining hall, plus everyone brings plenty of snacks to share in between meals so you'll always find something to nosh on. We can accommodate dietary restrictions, no problem.

I can't stay over. Can I come just for the day? Yes! You can come out for part of the retreat. The programming lasts from dinner on Friday to mid-morning on Sunday, but if you can't make the whole weekend, you're welcome to join for some of the time.

It's in the middle of winter and if the weather isn't great I don't want to drive a long distance. **Could I get a ride out there?** Once we know you are interested, we will work to find you someone who can give you a lift.

I have a toddler or infant in my family. Can we bring them? Absolutely! A few of the staff housings have portable cribs in them, or you can bring your "pack 'n play" with you. There are also plenty of adults at the retreat who would just love to hold/entertain your very young child for a bit to give you a break.

Are the facilities accessible for individuals who use wheelchairs? Yes. The buildings we use have wheelchair access and it's easy to drive around the grounds once at camp.

What if I don't know anyone who's going? The retreat is the perfect opportunity to make new friends. Rabbi Ilana, Rebecca McVeigh, and the Retreat Committee make it a priority for people to get to know each other. If you'd like to expand your community and hang out with people who have a lot in common, the retreat is a can't-miss opportunity! It's also perfect for bonding with people you don't get to spend time with at home, so encourage your friends to attend with you!



**SHABBAT
family
SERVICES**

January 5
(grades 4/5, Rabbi and
Brian Gelfand lead)

February 16
(Rabbi and Jane
Koch lead)

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!

Join Rabbi Ilana
for a healing service




Healing Service
Sunday, January 28
7:00 pm via Zoom

Tot Shabbat!

**Fridays, January 19 and
February 23 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!*



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.



The Ginsberg Family

We are the Ginsberg family—Justin, Erin, Hannah (11) and Abby (8). We joined BHSS in 2022.

In addition to being part of the vibrant BHSS community, we have the honor of maintaining and operating *Bikur Cholim B’Nai Israel*, a historic synagogue in Swan Lake, NY. This synagogue is not only a place of worship but also a symbol of enduring Jewish history and culture. Originally constructed in 1926, *Bikur Cholim B’Nai Israel* was recognized as both a New York State and Federal Historical Landmark in 1999, a testament to its architectural and cultural significance.

Our connection to *Bikur Cholim B’Nai Israel* is deeply rooted, constructed by Erin’s great grandparents. Since then, it has been maintained by the Lyman, Lindenbaum, Millman and Ginsberg families. While services used to be held daily, due to proximity to congregants, the shul is now open and operational only during the High Holidays. There’s more info at littleblueshul.com. Upholding this family tradition has been a meaningful part of our Jewish identity. Photos and more in-depth history can be found at www.littleblueshul.com and Wikipedia.



Erin, in her professional capacity, is a School District Leader in New York and an elected member of the Board of Education in Upper Saddle River. Her dedication to education and community service mirrors our family’s commitment to learning and leadership.

Justin founded “OnHold.com” 22 years ago, a company that creates improved phone experiences for businesses

nationwide. Indeed, his company creates many of those recordings that you hear when you call to book a flight, a dental appointment or to cancel cable. Go figure!

Our daughters, Hannah and Abby, active in Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Religious School, enrich our lives with their unique perspectives and enthusiasm, contributing to the vibrancy of both our family and the spiritual communities they are a part of. Family school has served as an important connection for us as we seek the best ways to uphold our family traditions.

The joy that fills our family as members of the BHSS community is beyond words. Together, things are better. It’s not just about the big moments or the celebrations; it’s about the everyday journey that we’re on, side by side.

There’s a special kind of magic when we come together. Each simcha, each get-together, each milestone—they don’t just happen; they come alive.

Our laughter rings out a little louder, and even the smiles seem to stretch wider when we’re together. And when the going gets tough, it’s this togetherness that makes the burden feel lighter. We’ve found strength in unity, support in our shared experiences.

We’re truly grateful for the warm welcomes, the shared smiles, and the sense of belonging in this community that we’re lucky to call our home. Thank you for being part of our story, together.

L’Chayim!

LIBRARY LADIES COMMITTEE

As the saying goes...
"We are known by the company we keep".

We are the Library Committee. We meet at the library on the third Thursday of each month at 11 am. We welcome you to join us in maintaining the collection, choosing new books and planning programs for our community.

We love books.
We don't just "love books"
we really LOVE BOOKS!



Come in and look around the library. It houses books which engage and educate us. The children's and young adult's books are rich with wonderful stories and teachings for your kids. We will continue to provide books and opportunities to read, learn and discuss important issues and themes that enrich our lives. In each library book is a card for you to sign out and put in the shelf on the wall.

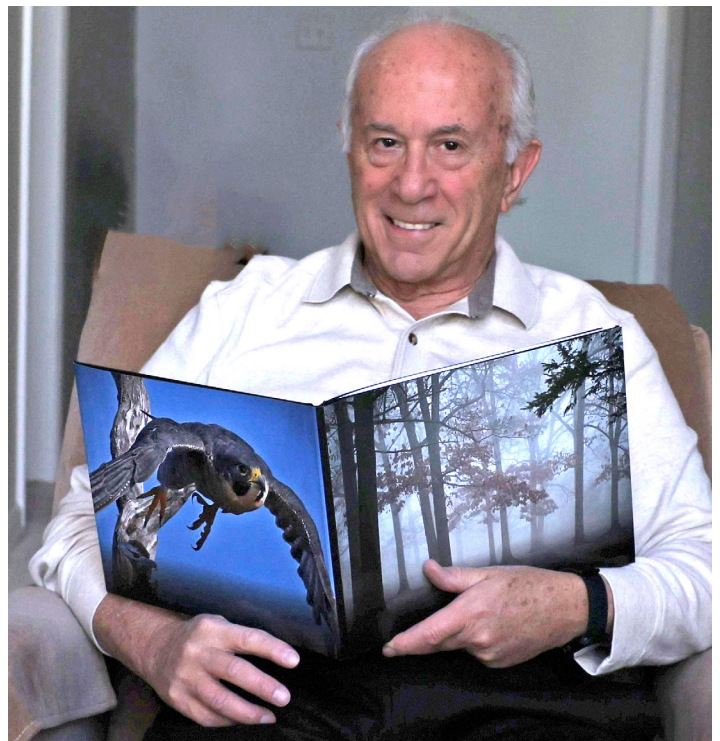
Let us know if there is a book that you think would be an important addition to the library. Often, someone reads a book that they want to share and then donates it to the library. We appreciate interesting newish Jewish books!

Want to be a better photographer?

The library, in conjunction with Brotherhood and Sisterhood are sponsoring, **"A Photography Talk with Joel Ives."** This program will be held at BHSS on Monday May 6, 2024, 6:45-8:45... in the Ulam.

Several years ago, Joel generously delighted us with his love and creativity of photography. He and Sheryl (a library lady!) are active members of BHSS.

This time Joel would like you, if you wish, to text him one or two photos you've taken (any subject). He will use these to discuss strategies to help us become better photographers. Text to Joel: 201 919-6543 by Monday April 29. We are all looking forward to an interesting and informative evening with Joel.



Library Committee:

Francine Allen, Sheila Groskin, Sheryl Ives, Sue Ellen Johnson, Lisa Lamster,
Sherry Levitt, Susan Reinstein, Jane Simon, Ruth Turner, Lynn Zall

Happy Reading!

BHSS YOUTH GROUP

Shalom Everyone!

We are so excited to bring back our **Midnight Run!** Midnight Run is an organization that sets up routes for places to donate food, clothes, and toiletries to those in need in NYC. We will be collecting clothing until February 10th. Students in grades 7-12 will help us sort through the donations and drive throughout NYC donating goods to those in need.

We would love as much help as we can get. If you can be a driver, please reach out!

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

Sky Zone

January 28, 1:30-3pm

BHSS Congregational Retreat

March 1st-3rd

Purim Carnival

March 24th 10:30-12:30 pm

BINGO @ The Promenade at Chestnut Ridge

April 21, 11-12:15 pm

Family Fun Day

May 19 at noon

Dave and Busters

June TBD

BHSSTY Grades 7-12

Soup Kitchen

January 28, 10:45-12 pm

MIDNIGHT RUN!!!

February 10, 4pm-12 am

BHSS Congregational Retreat

March 1st-3rd

Purim Carnival SET UP

March 23rd 8-9 pm

Purim Carnival

March 24th 10:30-12:30 pm

Creative Service

April 19, 7 pm

BINGO @ The Promenade at Chestnut Ridge

April 21, 11-12:15 pm

Family Fun Day

May 19 at noon

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.

Follow us on Instagram @bhsstyinsta.

Become a member of the youth group!

NOTES FROM MUSIC

Hello everyone,

Welcome to 2024!

We hope this year gives you many opportunities to share in what BHSS has to offer.

One of the favorite musical services at BHSS is **Shabbat Shirah** – **January 26 at 7:00 p.m.** It commemorates the Israelites crossing the parted Red Sea. Our choir is rehearsing special music for the occasion!

In honor of Shabbat Shirah, I would like to thank the choir and Jane Koch for all the work they do and all the dedication to our community. They rehearse every week, learn new music, practice the oldies – all to give us the most beautiful experience in our sanctuary. What would our services be without their music? We have new members adding their voices. Welcome! To those of you who are considering joining, contact Michelle at the synagogue office for details.

We are interested in exploring the kind of programming you want to see. Email me at niberger@aol.com ; I would love to discuss it further with you.

Musically yours,
Nora Berger

A poster for Shabbat Shirah. It features a light blue background with a large, stylized treble clef on the left. Several colorful musical notes (red, purple, green, blue) are scattered across the page. The title "Shabbat Shirah" is written in a large, elegant, dark blue script at the top right. Below it, the date and time "Friday, January 26 7 pm" are written in a smaller, purple script. Further down, the text "Join Rabbi Ilana, Musician and Choir Director Jane Koch and the BHSS Choir for the Sabbath of Song...an evening of beautiful music and spirit!" is written in a purple sans-serif font. At the bottom, the phrase "Join us!" is written in a large, light blue script.

Shabbat Shirah

*Friday,
January 26
7 pm*

Join Rabbi Ilana, Musician and Choir
Director Jane Koch and the BHSS Choir
for the Sabbath of Song...an evening of
beautiful music and spirit!

Join us!



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.

Good & Welfare

from and for the congregation

Condolences to:

Bill Pearlman on the death of his stepmother,
Barbara Pearlman

Linda Vogel on the death of her husband, Ed Vogel

Jonathan Theodore on the death of his aunt,
Bonnie Sontupe

Mazel Tov to:

Deborah and Jeffrey Klein on the birth of their
granddaughter, Riley Sage Cohn, born to Sydney
and Seth Cohn and big brother, Mason!

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

Joel Goldfarb

Welcome New Members:

Vlad & Zarina Kontorov & family,
Upper Saddle River, NJ

Brad & Arielle Lutzer and family, Allendale, NJ

Brendan and Simone Cahill and family,
Ramsey, NJ

Ann Schwartzstein, Wayne, NJ

Gratitude:

to Ramsey ShopRite for donating 9 cases of
Golden's latkes for use in our school!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the overwhelming outpouring of support that my children and I received from this community on Ed's passing. There is no way I can individually thank the approximately 300 people who came to the funeral and paid shiva calls. Rabbi Ilana went above and beyond in being there for me and Ed for the past 2 years and especially the last month. My SISTERS especially stepped up to handle my every need, both emotionally and with set up, clean up, food etc. but more importantly to just be there for me and assure me that I have their love (and all of yours) now and in the future.

Many people not in the temple have come up and told me what an amazing community we have. I am so lucky to be a part of this incredibly warm group.

Again, on behalf of Jenn, Mark and myself thank you all.

Linda Vogel

BROTHERHOOD

Dearest brothers in the 'hood:

The end of 2023 brought a massive tropical storm to our area causing heavy rains, intense flooding, and property damage. Whether or not you believe in the human component increasing the severity, climate change is on the rise. Warmer temperatures during our coldest months, storms, rising sea levels.

There is another climate change that has been brewing since October 7, 2023, and that is the incredible rise of antisemitism across the globe. Let's be frank. Antisemitism is not a new concept, and it is important to recognize that we, as Brotherhood, always supported community, teamwork, and providing support to each other in both good times and challenging times.

In recent months, we had another successful Pizza in the Hut, we had collected and continue to collect coats, clothing, shoes and other items for Midnight Run, and usually make a delivery once per month...but now, we are focused on collecting for the February run when our Youth Group goes out on the streets and distributes directly to those in need. We continue to work alongside Social Action and support our Youth Group and, each year, we reserve a suite at the New York Boulders stadium for a baseball game in June during the same weekend as Brotherhood shabbat, and Father's Day.

Around October, however, we suspended our monthly Brotherhood Raps and monthly dinners, partly because of scheduling, but mostly because of events of recent days. Beginning in January, BHSS Brotherhood will resume our monthly breakfasts at Panera and our monthly dinners - to create a forum for us to get together and discuss the issues of the day, and provide a safe place where we can express our thoughts and ideas.

BHSS Brotherhood stands with Social Action, Michelle Mitzvah, Sisterhood, BHSS Youth and ALL members and friends of the congregation as well as the community at large to support and develop education, learning and humanitarian opportunities to create community, solidarity, and strength... and promote Brotherhood as a concept for all people who are looking for a place to meet with friends, make a new friend, or just to have a safe space to be.

Please keep an eye on your emails for upcoming dates. To get onto our mailing list, or to just reach out with questions or comments, please feel free to email us at bhssbrotherhood@gmail.com or reach out to any of our leadership.

L'shalom. Peace to all.

-BHSS Brotherhood

Facebook: [groups/bhssbrotherhood](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bhssbrotherhood)

Google Calendar: contact us for website

(201) 512-1983 - BHSS Office

(845) 596-6680 - Ian Coyne

(917) 531-0043 - Jonathan Theodore

(201) 310-2796 - Rod Mcveigh



The poster is for a 'Clothing Drive' by Midnight Run. It features a blue background with a yellow banner at the top that says 'midnightrun.org'. Below the banner, the words 'Clothing Drive' are written in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath, in white text, it says 'The Midnight Run donates needed goods directly to people on the streets in New York City.' and 'Our next drive is February 10!'. In the center, there is an illustration of various clothing items: a brown coat, a blue hoodie, a red t-shirt, a pair of blue jeans, a pair of blue sneakers, and a pair of orange pants. To the right of the illustration, it says 'Adult sizes ONLY' in yellow. To the left, it says 'Gently used or new please' in white. Below the illustration, it says 'Especially in need:' in white, followed by 'Men's sneakers, hooded sweatshirts and jeans' in yellow. At the bottom, it says 'The following items are always in need:' in white, followed by a list of items in yellow: '- Shoes/sneakers of all sizes', '- Jackets, Coats, Wraps', '- Jeans/trousers of all sizes', '- Sweatpants of all sizes', '- Sweaters, Fleece Pullovers', '- Tee Shirts', '- Socks & Underwear - only new, in packages', '- Hats, Scarves, Gloves', and '- Toiletries'.

midnightrun.org

Clothing Drive

The Midnight Run donates needed goods directly to people on the streets in New York City.

Our next drive is February 10!

Adult sizes ONLY

Gently used or new please

Especially in need:

Men's sneakers, hooded sweatshirts and jeans

The following items are always in need:

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

SISTERHOOD

Here's to good women! May we raise them---may we know them---may we be them!

Happy 2024 from your BHSS Super Sisterhood! We hope your holidays were full of family, fun and delicious food, and we know you're all with us as we hit the January gyms. Lol

Hanukkah was extra-special for Sisterhood this year. We had not just one, but two events for our members and friends. Our joint Pickleball/Holiday Celebration was awesome. Friends young and "more experienced" came together on the courts for instruction. Then the round-robin competition was fierce! We enjoyed a wonderful array of salads, wraps and other goodies, and the wine and beer were flowing. You don't need to be a pickleball pro to have had a great time with Sisterhood and Brotherhood that night. We also collected \$200 to donate to the Center for Food Action, to brighten up holidays for those in need.

Then, on December 11, we met up at Bergen PAC in Englewood for an evening with the Maccabeats. To listen to their *a capella* sounds brought us all some extra pride in being who we are, and coming together in community for prayerful song, mixed with a lot of rhythm and laughter.

As soon as we can breathe from all the holiday shenanigans, Sisterhood will be back with our winter and spring programs. Please be on the lookout for our February event: **Beat the Blues** on Sunday, February 25 from 12 -2 pm. We'll be trying out some new things, and caring for ourselves in the midst of the winter season.

Save the Date
Sunday, February 25
Beat the Blues with Sisterhood
Details to follow.

March 8 brings **Sisterhood Shabbat**, and we hope every sister will share in the celebration. Watch your weekly emails for details.

On Saturday April 6, we bring back a Sisterhood tradition: the **Dine-A-Round**. Enjoy appetizers together, be hosted by

a member for dinner and come back all together for desserts! It's such a fun evening, and a chance to meet and get to know members you haven't interacted with before. Don't miss it!

April 11 will bring the **Miriam Seder**. We'll have more information as the time gets closer, but plan on joining us. More events are in the works, so stay tuned!

If you've got a great idea for Sisterhood to explore, please reach out anytime. We'd love to hear from you!

Happy New Year from Linda and Stacey

JEW FOR
ABORTION
ACCESS
National Council of Jewish Women

REPRO
SHABBAT

Friday, February 9
7:00 pm

**Reproductive freedom is a Jewish value,
and we're going to celebrate it!**
Repro Shabbat takes place annually on *Parshat Mishpatim*,
the reading of which contains the verses commonly
referenced as the foundation of Judaism's approach to
reproductive health, rights and justice.

**We hope you'll come and support this
crucial initiative!**

Yizkor Appeal 2023

In loving memory of...

Harry Shames <i>-The Shames Family</i>	Allen Nudelman, Gertrude Silver <i>- Roni & Andy Silver</i>	Sue Iskowitz <i>- Sheryl & Joel Ives</i>
Phyllis and Harold Landau <i>-Audrey & Steve Flynn</i>	Miriam and Irving Lichtenfeld <i>- Michelle & Adam Gilbert</i>	Gloria Goldberg <i>- The Cole Family</i>
Miles Alter <i>- Roberta Alter</i>	Linda and Harvey Lenchner <i>- Dan Lenchner</i>	Brad Perlstein <i>-Lori Perlstein</i>
Amy Lynn Berger <i>- Sandra Berger</i>	Joel Berkowitz <i>- Bilha Berkowitz</i>	Eric Fields, Leah and Nathan Rocker <i>- Lynne Feldman</i>
Paul Levitt, Eva Steadman, Saul Steadman, Beatrice Levitt, Thelma Levitt, Benjamin Levitt <i>- Sherry Levitt</i>	Israel & Sima Kreigel, William and Annette Waldbaum <i>- Jewell & Stanley Waldbaum</i>	Dave and Sophie Stiglitz <i>- Sheila Nathanson</i>
Jerome & Rosalyn Root <i>- Lee Root</i>	Theo Liebman, Danny Stettin <i>- Tara & Marc Leibman</i>	Annette & Jesse Sills, Hattie and Willard Galland <i>- Joanne Ehlermann</i>
Samual Bornstein, Marion Stansfield, Ethel and David Salzman <i>- The Arlingtons</i>	Charles Romano, Vernon Taylor, Leon & Dorothy Auerbach, Ed Ruzinsky <i>- Marilyn, Gregory & Tanya Taylor</i>	Our beloved family <i>- Susan & Harris Reinstein</i>
Barbara Moss, Ethel Pesin, Irving Pesin, Charles Pesin, Sarah Blacher, Victor Levy, George Moss and Esther Moss <i>- The Moss Family</i>	Joel Becker <i>- Irma Becker</i>	Ruth & Manny Ansin, Margo Simmons <i>- Helen Milstein</i>
Louis Miller, Sandy Koppelman, Robert Koppelman <i>- Laura & Mitchell Miller</i>	All our family members <i>- Arlene & Rich Mandel</i>	Leslee Ann Feinsod, Natalie and George Weston <i>- Jane & Mark Young</i>
Jeremy Zall <i>- Lynn & Michael Zall</i>	Vera Selman <i>-The Selman Family</i>	Thelma and Seymour Oventhal <i>- Joanne Oventhal</i>
Edith Ruth, Morris Ruth, Paul and Gertrude Jeanette <i>- Sandi & Bob Jeanette</i>	Rosalind Kamlet <i>- Leslie Sapienza</i>	
Mildred Platten, Steve Platten <i>- Pamela & Paul Platten</i>	Sofia Revich <i>- Inna & Igor Berin</i>	
Helen Kassover, Ben Kassover, Robert Kassover, Shirley Marks, Murray Marks and Chip Bargetzi <i>-Candy & Mike Kassover</i>	Arnold Peller <i>- The Peller Family</i>	
	Jack Homnick, Edna Homnick, Selma Elterman, Sam Lionel, Evelyn Ebbin <i>- Barbara Heitmann</i>	
	Rosa & Harold Weinberg, Esther Lonow <i>-Rhoda & Marty Lonow</i>	



👁 Contributions 👁

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

with thanks for everything!

- Karen Ekus

in honor of Lainey's baby naming. With thanks!

- the Koch & Toribo families

in memory of Barbara Penrose and Paul Penrose

- Monica Wiener

in memory of Margot Charne

- Karen & George Charne

to the Prizel/Zalensky family in honor of
Skylie's Bat Mitzvah

- Sheryl & Ira Rappaport

Life Fund

in memory of Ed Vogel

- Judy Blackman

- Diana & Ken Goldstein

- Gail & Ranan Wichler

- Candy & Mike Kassover

- Sheryl & Joel Ives

- Sue-Ellen Johnson

- Lisa & Ken Glick

- Sisterhood of BHSS

- Lisa Lamster

- Donna & Adam Kotz

- Gayle & Steven Weiss

- Linda & David Schwartz

- Marci & Harvey Weinberg

- the Spencer & Nathanson families

- Laurie & Marc Daniel

in memory of Ely Gordon

- Sheri & Allan Schott

in memory of Lori Rosenblum Brown and Robert Estrin

- Lisa Estrin

in memory of Enid Marcus and David Goldfarb

- Joel Goldfarb

in memory of Claire Novak, Norman Novak and Kurt Daniel

- Laurie & Marc Daniel

to the Chais family, in honor of Ben's Bar Mitzvah

- Elisa Schwartz

in memory of David Haberman, Renee Kupchin
and Sylvia Haberman

- Marilyn & Irwin Haberman

in memory of Jerome Weinberg

- Marci & Harvey Weinberg

Center for Food Action

Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

Bar Mitzvah of Ben Chais

Bar Mitzvah of Miles Swerdloff

Ramapo Bergen Animal Refuge

Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

Bat Mitzvah of Michelle Waldbaum

Bat Mitzvah of Skylie Prizel

Jewish Family Services of Rockland

Donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

Bat Mitzvah of Michelle Waldbaum



High Holiday Appeal 2023

Maxine & Howard Abner	Marilyn Israel	Joanne Oventhal
Sarah & David Adelson	Sheryl & Joel Ives	Pamela & Paul Platten
Roberta Alter	The Jeanette Family	Susan & Harris Reinstein
Jen & Brian Altman	Sue-Ellen Johnson	Jann & Marc Reissman
Sandy & Bill Arlington	Candy & Mike Kassover	Lee Root
Brittany & Weston Baker	Julie & Adam Kaufman	Ethel Rosen & Stuart Kirshner
Irma Becker	Joyce Keshner	Leslie Sapienza
The Bergers	Deborah & Jeff Klein	Sheri & Allan Schott
Hank Bordowitz	Samuel Kotz	Linda & David Schwartz
Karen & George Charne	Howard & Kathryn Zukof	Ronni Schwartz
Laurie & Marc Daniel	Dan Lenchner	The Shames family
Lisa Estrin	Sherry Levitt	Roni & Andy Silver
Susie & Jon Fein	Kathy & Peter Liebmann	Elisa & Stuart Strow
Audrey & Steve Flynn	Ed & Robin Lockwood	Jill & Chris Torrente
Renee & Gary Garbus	Rhoda & Marty Lonow	Jewell & Stanley Waldbaum
Mary & Alan Geisenheimer	Arlene & Rich Mandel	Leona Wayser & Martin Gordon
Michelle & Adam Gilbert	The McVeigh Family	Marci & Harvey Weinberg
Lisa & Kenneth Glick	Lori & Lance Millman	Lynn & Gerald Weston
Deena & Scott Goldstein	Phil Moss	Gail & Ranan Wichler
Susan & Dennis Gralla	Vida Mylson & Eric Weiner	Helene Yagoda
Marilyn & Irwin Haberman	Sherri & Ron Nahum	Lori & Ritch Yanowitz
Lori Herman & Ian Setless	Sheila Nathanson	Lynn & Michael Zall
	Judy & John Neumann	

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).



MICHELLE MITZVAH GROUP

Think back a few months ago to the High Holidays: How many of us wanted to do a mitzvah and “get involved” to usher in 5784? A few months later and you feel like “you’re always stuck in second gear.” With January upon us, here comes a new opportunity to reset, get involved, and do good in 2024. Here are a few options to help get your “mitzvah” on.

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, free juice and cookies, and I then am able to take the rest of the day off? Where do I sign up—right here: vitalant.org.

Donate Food- Over the years, BHSS has continually had donation baskets at both entrances for people to help donate food for the Center for Food Action. Every year, we have the High Holiday Food Drive to help fill the bins with donations. Despite our efforts in the beginning of the school year, CFA continues to need donations throughout the year. I encourage you the next time you come to a meeting, Shabbat Service, or any event at the synagogue, to bring a can of food to drop off at the donation baskets. The following items are of most pressing need. You can always find additional information at cfcfanj.org.

- Supermarket Gift Cards
- Canned Hearty Soups
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Diapers- Sizes 4,5,6
- Pasta, Rice, & Beans
- Baby Formula
- Bar or Bottled Soap
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Tomato Sauce

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. With the winter months approaching, some of our drivers have migrated down to Florida for the winter. If you are available to help, please donate an hour or two of your time.

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 (usually 30 lunches) to guests “take-out” style from 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. This is a great opportunity for the whole family. Sign up to provide all the meals yourself or you may partner up with another volunteer/family. You can contact me to sign up.

I would like to mention, in response to the horrific attack in Israel on October 7, the Michelle Mitzvah Group made a donation to Magen David Adom, Israel’s version of the Red Cross. In addition, individual members made their own contributions and were able to get a matching gift from their employer(s). If you are interested in making your own donation, you can go to their website at afmda.org.

So, these are just a few ways to help get your “mitzvah” on for 2024. For all questions, comments, inquiries, please reach out to Steven Simon via call/text/email at 201 788-6755 or steveoum@verizon.net.

B'Shalom
Steven Simon
Michelle Mitzvah Group Chair

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR BLESSING זכרונם לברכה ☆

January Yahrzeits

ELLEN ABRAMS	JOSEPH GINDIN	SYLVIA MANDEL	EDWARD SPENCER
HERMAN ACKERMAN	ALVIN GOLDBERG	CELIA MEYERS	TODD SPENCER
ARLENE AMSTER	WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN	ELIOT MEYERS	EVA STEDMAN
FRED "CHIP" BARGETZI	ELY GORDON	HOWARD MEYERS	JUDITH STEINMAN
PAUL BASKIN	BRIAN GRIFFIN	JAY MEYERS	LOUIS STERNBERG
LENA BENDALIN	SHARON GUZY-LEVINE	MURRAY MILLER	ARI STROW
ESTHER BERNSTEIN	MAX HEFFLER	HAROLD MILLMAN	SHIRLEY SULKIES
CLAIRE BENDER	IRA HIEGER	MYRA MINTY	MICHAEL TEITELBAUM
RONALD BRENNER	NATHAN HIEGER	NANCY MORGAN	PAULA TENENBAUM
SUSANNE BUCKLER	SHARYN HOFFMAN	MARIA PEKARSKY	YEFIM TEPERMAN
TERRI COFFEL	JACOB ISRAEL	PAUL PLOTT	JACOB WEINBERG
FR. GEORGE COYNE	PHOEBE JAFFE	RUTH RIVKIND	ARNOLD WEINER
MARGARITA COYNE	RONALD JOHNSON	DAVID SALTZMAN	MILTON WEISS
KURT DANIEL	IRVING KESHNER	SELMA SCHECHTER	MARTA WICHLER
RUTH DOBLIN	GERALD KLEIN	LOUIS SCHLUSSEL	NATHAN WIDMAN
WILLIAM EISENSTEIN	SYLVIA LACHER	RUTH FRIEDMAN SEAGER	BETTY WILDMAN
THEODORE EPSTEIN	FRANK LEDERMAN	SYDNEY L. SEILER	KARL WILDMAN
ROBERT ESTRIN	SAM LEHRFELD	HARVEY SHANKMAN	JACK WILNER
ARTHUR GEISENHEIMER	DR. THEODORE LEIBMAN	JAN SIMON	HARRY ZALL
BERDIE GELFENBEIN	ABRAHAM LEVY	MILTON SITOMER	JEREMY ZALL
GLENN GELFENBEIN	NOAH MANDEL	CHRISTOPHER WEBB SPEDDING	



MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR BLESSING זכרונם לברכה ☆

February Yahrzeits

ALYSSA ALHADEFF
LEIZER ALPERSTEIN
ROBERT ANESETTI, SR.
HERMAN ASHKANAZY
MURRAY BENDER
SAMUEL BORNSTEIN
FLORENCE BRESSLER
MARTIN BROWN
HOWARD COLE
LAUREN COYNE
HOLLY FEWES
CELIA FORMAN
ANNA HEFFLER
PAUL JEANETTE
NORMAN KAHN
JANICE KAPLAN

GLORIA KIRSHNER
NOEL LAMSTER
MILDRED LANDAU
RACHEL LEHRFELD
BESS LEVENE
BERT LEVITT
THELMA LEVITT
MIRIAM LICHTENFELD
JEANE LISK
RONALD MAINZER
DINA MARX
GEORGE MENDELSON
GLORIA MENDELSON
STEPHANIE MULFORD
SEYMOUR OVENTHAL
LAWRENCE ALLEN POLEY

HERB PORTNOY
TOBY PUTTERMAN
FLORENCE REIN
RUBIN REIN
SAMUEL ROTH
JOEL SANKEL
HARRY SAULT
ARTHUR SHERRY
GERTRUDE SILVER
IRVING SILVER
MARGO SIMMONS
JULIUS SLAVIN
MANDEL STEIN
ANDREA GREEN SWAN
JACOB WIDMAN
LEONARD ZINN



Israel Rally 2023

Bring Them Home! Bring Them Home! Bring Them Home NOW! Being at the Israel rally on the DC Mall was amazing. Lots of flags, lots of voices, and a strong sense of everyone coming together to support Israel.

— LOIS SCHWARTZ



It's was an incredible day to be on the National Mall with 300,000 of our brothers and sisters. I feel so proud to be an American and a Jew. I had chills when we sang the Star Spangle Banner and Hatikva. I left the March for Israel with a feeling of urgency. An urgency to "Bring them home" and an urgency to fight antisemitism.

— JUDY TEICH



Thank you to BHSS for organizing the logistics so we can attend this important event. It was so important that we were present and showed up in numbers!

— MARLENE PORTNOY



Thank you BHSS for organizing this. And thank you to everyone for making this day so special and important. I am so grateful to everyone for the support and kindness to each other.

— GLORIA LEDER

**AMERICANS
MARCH FOR ISRAEL
MARCH TO FREE HOSTAGES
MARCH AGAINST ANTISEMITISM**

Israel Rally 2023



I'm so glad that our group was able to experience the largest pro-Israel rally in America's history. Mona and I felt as if we were with 300 thousand of our mishpocha, Jew and non-Jew alike. All of the Israel supporters there yesterday realize that Israel is in a just struggle not only for its survival but as a protector of all those who prize our Western values against the forces of darkness. The speakers were all very powerful and no doubt our leaders in Washington were forced to take heed that we are proud Jews who stand for Israel. Am Yisrael Chai!

—JEFF AND MONA LEFKOWITZ



SOCIAL ACTION

Greetings and a happy and healthy 2024 to everyone. At this time of year, with less outdoor daylight and colder temperatures, BHSS's Social Action Committee has been busily planning programs and initiatives designed to infuse light, positivity, and hope into your lives.

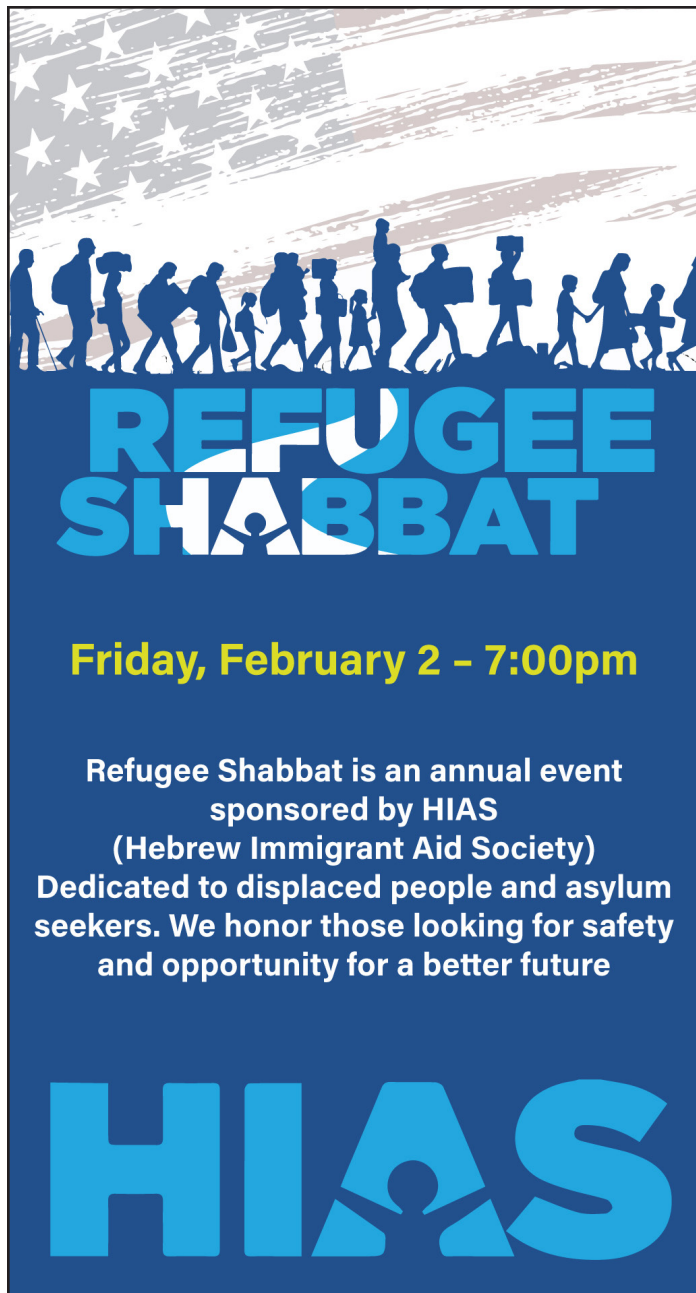
Right now, the strength, unity, and bonds of community are paramount. We will continue to respect universal human rights while still preserving our dignity as Jews. Unfortunately, antisemitism domestically and world-wide has increased since October 7, underlining the significance of our original goal to address this issue even before the tragic massacre in Israel had taken place. We are planning to hold educational programs to address antisemitism and how to cope with it. We will also continue to support organizations which treat the trauma Jews face domestically and abroad, especially in Israel.

It is also important to show compassion toward our Muslim brothers and sisters in our surrounding communities who are suffering from a concurrent rise in Islamophobia as a result of the events of October 7. The Suffern mosque's Imam had immediately reached out to Rabbi Ilana and our congregation plus planned a recent Global Healing panel at Rockland Community College after the massacre occurred. Therefore, interfaith outreach is vital during these turbulent times. NO PERSON IS AN ISLAND.

Like last year, BHSS's Social Action members will be organizing and participating in HIAS's sixth annual Refugee Shabbat on February 2. BHSS's Friday night Shabbat service will address the difficult journey of the refugee and further solidify our strength and unity as a welcoming Jewish community.

BHSS's Social Action committee meets once monthly, usually the last Tuesday evening, in person or online. We always welcome new members and input, as well as attendees from other synagogue committees. Please reach out to us with any questions and new ideas.

Our contact information is below and our committee's email address is bhsssocialaction@gmail.com.



REFUGEE SHABBAT

Friday, February 2 – 7:00pm

Refugee Shabbat is an annual event
sponsored by HIAS
(Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)
Dedicated to displaced people and asylum
seekers. We honor those looking for safety
and opportunity for a better future

HIAS

Stay safe and warm, fellow advocates.

Jonathan Theodore: theodore.central@gmail.com Lisa Estrin:
lbestrin@aol.com

Lisa Glick: lisarglick@gmail.com

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Educator's Discretionary Fund..... \$ _____

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In honor/memory of _____

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

_____ Yahrzeit Plaque _____ "Wish List"

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

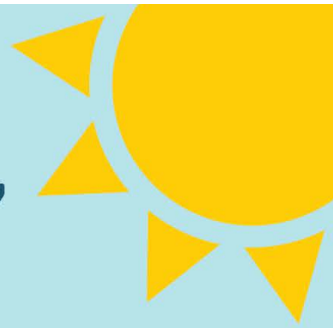
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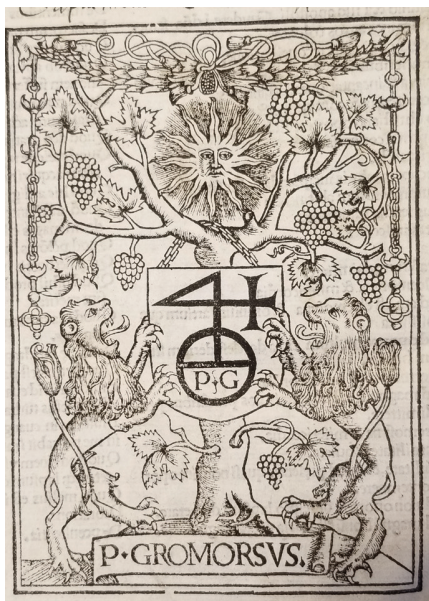
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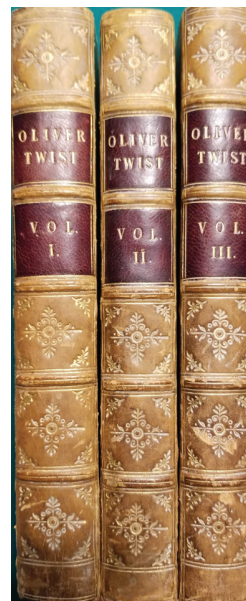
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Worship Schedule

Friday, January 5	6:30 pm	Shabbat Family Service with grades 4/5 <i>Birthdays in January will be celebrated</i>
Friday, January 12	7:00 pm	Shabbat Evening Service Oneg Shabbat host: The Rosenstock family
Saturday, January 13	10:00 am	B'nai Mitzvah of Sarah and Zachary Rosenstock
Friday, January 19	5:15 pm 7:00 pm	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Evening Service
Friday, January 26	7:00 pm	Shabbat Evening Service - Shabbat Shirah
Friday, February 2	7:00 pm	Shabbat Evening Service - Refugee Shabbat
Friday, February 9	7:00 pm	Shabbat Evening Service - Repro Shabbat
Friday, February 16	6:30 pm	Shabbat Family Service <i>February birthdays will be celebrated</i>
Friday, February 23	5:15 pm 7:00 pm	Tot Shabbat 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 7, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 25
Mondays: January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 26
Tuesdays: January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 27
Wednesdays: January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 28

Office Closed:

Monday, January 1, 2024
Monday, January 15, 2024
Monday, February 19, 2024



To do in January and February

- *Join our Religious School 4th and 5th graders as they lead Family Shabbat on Friday, January 5 at 6:30 pm.*
- *Tot Shabbat is so much fun...bring your little ones, and meet new friends over pizza after! Friday, January 19 and Friday, February 23 at 5:15 pm*
- *Sing along during the Shabbat of Song...Shabbat Shirah! Friday, January 26 at 7:00 pm*
- *Jump at the chance to join Menschmakers and the Senior Youth Group at Skyzone on Sunday, January 28 at 12:00 pm*
- *We could all use a little TLC these days...join Rabbi Ilana for a Healing Service via Zoom on Sunday, January 28 at 7:00 pm*
- *Show your solidarity in supporting those seeking asylum around the world at the 6th Annual Refugee Shabbat on Friday, February 2 at 7:00 pm*
- *Reproductive freedom is a Jewish value...and we'll celebrate it at Repro Shabbat on Friday, February 9 at 7:00 pm*
- *Perfect for a chilly Sunday morning...come meet Young Adult author Lisa Greenwald, who will be leading a fun discussion about her latest book: Ellie's Deli: Wishing on Matzo Ball Soup. That's on Sunday, February 4 at 11:00 am.*
- *New year...new you! Save the date to Beat The Blues with Sisterhood Wellness event Sunday, February 25 at noon*