

# Shofar



Nisan/Iyar 5784

May 2024

Dear Congregational Family,

Over the past twenty years, I have been playing a significant role as your director of sacred music and other assorted titles. I have loved my precious interactions with you. We have shared celebration as well as times of great disappointments and sadness. I have felt honored to share in these special moments with you.

As I approach my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, I am eager to spend more time with my growing family. I also want to make time for Dan and me to travel and do some of the things on our "bucket" list. I am conflicted. I want to free up time but I also want to maintain a meaningful, ongoing relationship with my beloved temple.

I have been working with the music committee that is comprised of dedicated congregants who cherish the unique music program we have created at B'nai Israel. After several meetings, we have come up with a plan that addresses my time needs at the same time it continues to maintain the spiritual uplifting music program. This plan also takes into account the financial limitations of a congregation our size.

I will continue in my present capacity (Director of Sacred Music) through the High Holidays to November 1<sup>st</sup>. At that time, I will lead Shabbat services alternately with talented congregants (designated the "pool of soloists") who are well equipped to lead services with Rabbi Eric. These individuals will also share the responsibilities of participating in B'nai Mitzvot, baby namings, weddings, funerals and shiva services. I will also continue to participate in these rites, alternating with our pool of soloists.

I will also continue rehearsing and directing our choir, Mahkelah, which will participate in the High Holiday services and four Shabbat services throughout the year.

A new position has been created to facilitate the functioning and scheduling of this pool of soloists. I will fill this position, the Director of Music, starting in November 2024, making sure that our services and rites of passage are covered.

B'nai Israel will advertise to find a person to fill this important position, Director of Music. When the right person is found, I will step down.

In the meantime, in addition to leading some Shabbat services and rites of passage, I will assist the pool of soloists in creating service plans, finding inspiring music and preparing them for their individual services.

I will continue to savor these moments when we share our beautiful inspiring sanctuary.

B'ahava,

Linda

*A letter from  
Linda Goodman,  
Director of Sacred Music*

## Leadership

### Rabbi

Eric Polokoff, D.D.

[rabbi@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:rabbi@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)

### Director of Sacred Music

Linda Goodman

[music@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:music@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)

### School Director

Jacqui Schulefand

[educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)

### Officers

Patti Berkowitz, President

Sheri Kipperman, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Alexis Zimmerman, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Eric Linnetz, Secretary

Paul Medina, Treasurer

Steven Reps, Past President

### Trustees

Kathryn Albee (2024)

Melissa Fleischer (2024)

Douglas Fuchs (2024)

Peggy Klein (2024)

Allen Schwartz (2024)

Dawn Tandler (2024)

Marci Durnell (2025)

Lisa Segal (2025)

Iurie Schwartz (2026)

[www.bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](http://www.bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)



## Toda Raba!

The Graduating 7th Grade BIRS Class, along with gifts from Linda Goodman and Jacqui Schulefand, has graciously donated this inflatable bounce house to B'nai Israel as their graduation gift.

Not only will our congregation have great fun using it, but it is also available for rental for use in our building or out.

Please contact Maria Cruz at [facilitymgr@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:facilitymgr@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org) for more information.

Many thanks to the Seventh Graders and their families as well as to Linda and Jacqui.

## HOW OCTOBER 7 CHANGED ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH WORLD

### Thursday, May 9, 2024 AT 7PM

Join us for an evening with **#1 Israel speaker, Yossi Klein Halevi**. This program is sponsored by Temple Sholom of New Milford, B'nai Israel of Southbury, Jewish Federation of Western CT., Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life, United Jewish Center of Danbury and Temple Beth David of Cheshire.



Special appreciation to Rabbi Walk of Temple Beth El in Springfield, MA and Rabbi Cohn of Temple Sholom in New Milford, CT.

This event is held at the Jewish Federation of Western CT Walzer Family Jewish Community Campus 444 Main Street North Southbury, CT 06488.



Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut



b'nai israel



Please RSVP to Cathy Cont [cconti@jfed.net](mailto:cconti@jfed.net) by May 3, 2024.

Make your reservations today! Prior to the address, at 6 PM, a rally will be held calling for the release of Israeli hostages kidnapped by Hamas and held in captivity since October 7<sup>th</sup>. "Let My People Go" will take place at the entrance to the campus. Speakers will include Rabbi Eric Polokoff of B'nai Israel, Rabbi Mark Cohn of Temple Sholom, and Karen Rabinovici of the Jewish National Fund's Southern New England Region will be amongst the speakers.



## Donor Opportunities



### Yahrzeit Plaque

Purchase a plaque to memorialize your loved ones with a memorial plaque  
Each plaque is \$380

Please contact  
Sharon Goldman  
sharon.goldman@hotmail.com

#### Contact Us

Phone: (203) 267-3394

office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

rabbi@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

Visit our website for a full list of staff email addresses

www.bnaiisraelsouthbury.org



Celebrate a simcha, remember a friend, or share a milestone by sending a tribute card. Cards are hand calligraphied and still only \$5 including postage!

Contact Doris Landaeta:  
dorikam1958@gmail.com

## DONATIONS

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

*in honor of*  
Rabbi loaning a Bible for swearing-in ceremony  
Evan & Ross Cooper

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

*in memory of*  
Anne Oblas  
Carolyn Strauss  
Rose Menaker  
Susan & Coby Ben-Chitrit

### Music Fund

*in honor of*  
Birth of Cecilia Grace,  
granddaughter of Linda & Dan Goodman  
Sharon Goldman

### Music Fund

*in memory of*  
Morris Stein  
Nancy & Joel Becker  
Seymour Drantch  
Evan & Ross Cooper  
Allan Crystal  
Eleanor Crystal

### General Fund

Alexis Zimmerman

### General Fund

*in memory of*  
Henry L. Fleischman  
Norma & Charles Fleischman  
Judy Marangio  
Rose & Sid Frenkel  
Heather Kornick  
Nancy Brown & Rudy Zeidler  
Sylvia Goldman  
Sharon Goldman

### Israel Advocacy Fund

*in memory of*  
Victor Sermer  
Ruth Holt

### BIRS Education Fund

*in memory of*  
Jonathan Nowak  
Joyce & Elliot Nowak

### Memorials & Dedication Fund

*in memory of*  
Helen Friedman Perretz  
Dawn Tendler  
Sylvia Goldman  
Sharon Goldman

## Centerpieces for Tzedakah

Make your simchas even more meaningful by renting our lovely centerpieces and helping those in your community.



Celebrate your next special occasion with centerpieces rented from B'nai Israel Sisterhood. Your donation is 100% tax deductible and will be used to purchase groceries and/or gifts for members of our community. These centerpieces are great alternatives for flower arrangements on the bima and on tables in the social hall. We can arrange to make custom ones as well.

For more information please contact Michelle Rosen  
at (203) 405-6576 or msr2511@yahoo.com





# Book Discussion Lilac Girls By Martha Hall Kelly



**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • *One million copies sold!* Inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this remarkable debut novel reveals the power of unsung women to change history in their quest for love, freedom, and second chances.

*"Extremely moving and memorable . . . This impressive debut should appeal strongly to historical fiction readers and to book clubs that adored Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See*."*—*Library Journal* (starred review)

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France.

An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmnick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.

For the ambitious young German doctor, Herfa Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

Date: 6/3/2024



Time: TBD

Phone: 203-267-3394  
Email: bnaisisters@gmail.com

**Contact Us**  
Phone: (203) 267-3394  
[office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org)  
[rabbi@bnaisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:rabbi@bnaisraelsouthbury.org)  
Visit our website  
[www.bnaisraelsouthbury.org](http://www.bnaisraelsouthbury.org)



## B'NAI ISRAEL SISTERHOOD MEETING & MY FAVORITE THINGS PARTY

**How does it work?**  
Each person brings 2 new items with them valued at approx. \$10 -20. All items will be displayed for all of the attendees to see. The person who brought the item will introduce herself and share why that particular item is her favorite thing. Numbers will be drawn and everyone will go home with someone else's favorite item. Prepare to laugh, learn about new items and perhaps make new friends.



**SOCIAL HALL**  
**MAY 1**  
**6:00 PM**  
**PLEASE RSVP**

**IDEAS:**  
Hand Cream, Umbrella, Bottle of Wine, Kitchen Gadget, Coffee/Tea, Socks, Hair clip, Spices, Gift Card, Perfume, Hair Brush, etc.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MICHELLE AT  
[BN AISISTERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BN AISISTERS@GMAIL.COM)



ORDERING  
KIPPOT & TALLIT  
FOR YOUR  
CHILD'S SERVICE

## B'NAI ISRAEL JUDAICA SHOP



Sheri Kipperman-  
[Stigs12@gmail.com](mailto:Stigs12@gmail.com)  
Sherrie Bitterman-  
[sbitterman5@yahoo.com](mailto:sbitterman5@yahoo.com)  
Evan Cooper-  
[evanco1128@hotmail.com](mailto:evanco1128@hotmail.com)  
Patti Berkowitz-  
[president@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:president@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)

## Tribute Cards

From: Debby Garber  
To: Paul Medina \*Condolences of the loss of his sister, Virginia Seddon

From: Joel Abramson  
To: Lindsey Noble \*Happy Birthday

From: Nancy Brown & Rudy Zeidler  
To: Kathy Brown & family \*In memory of Jack Selig, beloved father

To send a tribute card contact Doris Landaeta at [dorikam1958@gmail.com](mailto:dorikam1958@gmail.com)  
\$5 per tribute card  
(includes postage)



## Toda Raba!

For a wonderful Passover Seder we thank Chair Sandy Gold and her team-Debby Garber, Sharon Goldman, Peggy Klein, Lisa Segal, Dawn Tandler, Suzanne Meyers, Ruth Holt, Steven Repts, Carry Strauss, Paul Medina, Ada Gold-Medina, Linda Goodman, Maria, Julio & Mark.



To All our Wonderful Members!

Thank you all for being a part of our very special congregational family.

We want to make sure all our members are aware of our newly revised caring committee, renamed Chesed v'Shalom.

Chesed meaning compassion and Shalom meaning peace and love.

We have a "chicken soup for the soul" program. If you are in need of healing with homemade chicken soup, please know that it is available and we can get it delivered if and when needed.

If you need someone to talk too, please call Valerie.

If you need a ride to services, let us know.

If you need a meal or are having a health issue, we want to help!

Please let us know how we can help. Our community is growing stronger and we are here for you!

Also, if you are interested in joining our committee, we would love your help and support.

Thank you all, and Happy Holidays,

Sheri Kipperman, Sherrie Bitterman, Evan Cooper, and Patti Berkowitz

*Email contact information in the left side column*

# PURIM CARNIVAL



5784/2024



BIRS held a Purim carnival on Sunday, March 17. We had face painting, plinco, ring toss and much much more. The students and the parent volunteers had a blast! Thank you to Ariel Price for spearheading this effort! We appreciate your time along with all of the volunteers!

## Candle lighting times for May

05/03	7:33
05/10	7:41
05/17	7:48
05/24	7:54
05/31	



# B'nai Israel Religious School



If you are interested in enrolling your child in religious the school please call Education Director Jacqui Schulefand at 203.267.3396 or e-mail [educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)

## CELEBRATING OUR 7TH GRADERS

(THE FIRST IN A SERIES)

### HERE ARE THEIR MITZVAH PROJECTS FOR THEIR BAR AND BAT MITZVAHS



Ryan Rubel

My name is Ryan Rubel and I became a Bar Mitzvah on March 16, 2024. For my mitzvah project, I worked with the Southbury Needy Fund this past December. Through the Southbury Social Services Department, the Needy Fund identified families in the community who needed help with purchases for the holiday season. With the assistance of contributions from the BIRS community, we sponsored 2 kids, which provided each of them with a basic wardrobe and some holiday gifts.

Aurora Rose



On July 1st I will celebrate my Bat Mitzvah. For my Mitzvah Project I chose to volunteer as an animal care-taker at Nonnewaug High School. I will be working in the Agriscience Program on weekends helping to feed and care for the veterinary science animals: axolotls, rabbits, hamsters, turtles, snakes, a variety of lizards, etc.

I am hoping that the experience of becoming more involved in animal care will enrich and cultivate my path of learning different ways of caring for animals. I have always been an enthusiastic animal advocate and dream of becoming a wild-animal veterinarian. I have worked with bats and created posters to advocate for the dangers they face, supporting their needs and providing shelter for them. I also volunteered to work with a CT State entomologist helping to save native trees by spreading Japanese beetles as a way to control the overpopulation of Hemlock Adelgid bugs. I hope that every experience helping animals and working with them will eventually assist me in becoming a professional wild-animal veterinarian so that I can care for any animal in need and advocate for animals as a knowledgeable professional.

My goal is not just to be personally inspired by this Bat Mitzvah, but to also inspire others to help animals as well. One day I wish for us all to live in a world where humans treat animals equally. By that, I mean a huge decrease in the physical and emotional pain caused to animals. Not just minimizing the pain, but stopping it. I wish for negative behaviors such as animal testing, factory farming, inhumane pet abandonment, animal harassment, and other unkind practices to stop.

Caring for Agriscience animals is my small contribution to the wellbeing of animals. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am old enough to take responsibility for actively continuing to help the environment and sustain the animals living in it.



With the help of Heather Cieply, the students of BIRS baked hamentashen Sunday, March 10. The students had so much fun baking with Heather and everyone agreed they were absolutely delicious!

# BIRS Hamentashen Baking

Mazal Tov to Linda & Dan Goodman on the birth of their new granddaughter, Cecilia Grace!



## “Tree of Life”

Purchase a leaf on our

“Tree of Life” to honor a simcha. Each leaf is \$180

Please contact Sharon Goldman  
sharon.goldman@hotmail.com



Thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Western CT, a group of volunteers have resumed preparing PB&J once a month for Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries. If you are interested in participating, contact Sharon Goldman.

Pictured L-R: Sharon Goldman, Michelle Gross, Suzanne Meyers and Silvia Pena.



## Leadership

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rabbi@bnaaisraelsouthbury.org

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Lisa Segal (2025)  
Iurie Schwartz (2026)

[www.bnaaisraelsouthbury.org](http://www.bnaaisraelsouthbury.org)

## Yahrzeits

May their memories be for blessing

### 05/03

**Martin Bodian**  
Abram Bress  
Edna Dyme  
Carol Eisenberg  
**Dora B. Feinn**  
**Felix Freedman**  
Eli Gleiberman  
**Ethel Goldberg**  
**Leo Goldberg**  
Renee Goldman  
**Linda Haberman**  
Peter Hall  
Leopold Isaac  
Jacob Jacowitz  
Sam Levine  
Harold Levy  
**Josefa W. Lichtenstein**  
**Minnie Rich Myers**  
Donna Noble  
**H. Walter Pye**  
**Wallace Rifkin**  
**Rose Sagal**  
**Morris Spirt**  
**Dorothy Stein**  
**Leslie Strauss**

### 5/10

Jack Cooperman  
**Rachel Danen**  
Martin Falk  
Celia Karp  
Fevus Landman  
**Ruth W. Littman**  
**Rose Matzkin**  
Esther Polen  
Seymour Rosen  
**George S. Wale**  
**Ethel Weisman**  
**Marcus Howard Weisman**  
Walter Wisnefsky

### 5/17

**Max Bram**  
**Ida Rose Cantor**  
**Robert Carver**  
Hirsch Crystal  
**Oscar Dell**  
**Retta Fagin**  
Sylvia Goldman  
**Harris B. Gordon**  
**Rae S. Holczer**  
**Maurice Jackson**  
**Jennie P. Kirschner**  
**Minnie G. Levin**

Paul Noble  
**Monroe M. Pollak**  
**Marvin M. Rechtman**  
**Ary Reed**  
**Benjamin Ross**  
**Ruth Rubin**  
**Murray Schulman**  
**Esther Simon**  
**Mortimer Stammelman**  
**Ed Suib**  
**Alma Cantor Weisman**  
Mark Weiss  
Isidore Wilkin  
Norman Zelin

### 5/24

**Louis 'Nate' Danen**  
**Nathan Feinn**  
**Allan Chase Franken**  
Aaron Frenkel  
Manya Goldstein  
Morris Goodman  
Elihu Hill  
**Adela Landau**  
**Edward Landau**  
**Molly Liebeskind**  
Charles Light  
**Anne Nathanson**  
**Evelyn Beninson Sabin**  
**Selma Mazur Swerdlick**  
**Emil L. Weil**

### 5/31

**Burton Albert**  
Hilda Albert  
**Bernard Burnham**  
**Rosamond Count**  
**Meyer B. Erlanger, Sr.**  
**Tillie Fischer**  
**Jeanette Lax**  
David Ludlow  
**Sheila Mahler**  
**Gertrude Paul Miller**  
**Hyman 'Mickey' Miller**  
**Norman R. Richards**  
**Robert Schoenberg**  
Barbara Weiss  
Pansy Wharton  
Boris Woloshin



\*each name in  
bold has a plaque  
in the B'nai Israel  
sanctuary



HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.

نفرت کے لئے یہاں کوئی گھر نہیں ہے  
이집에는 미움이 없다  
לשנאה אין אין בית כאן  
الكره ليس له مكان هنا El odio no tiene hogar aquí.



# MAY

- 05/22 Margi & Michael Sermer
- 05/23 Paula & Richard Baron
- 05/24 Charlene Falk & John McNally
- 05/26 Marci Silverman & William Slepoy
- 05/28 Lorrie & Gary Diamond  
Nancy Dreishpoon & Sam Goldwitz
- 05/29 Tracy & David Hill
- 05/31 Deborah & David Augenbraun



Happy Anniversary



- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 05/02 Anna Gelfand    | 05/20 Richard Baron    |
| 05/03 Abhay Deshpande | Douglas Fuchs          |
| Linda Goodman         | 05/21 Ross Cooper      |
| Adam Packer           | Susan Haber            |
| Scott Segal           | Tikva Rose             |
| 05/06 Josh Isaac      | 05/22 Julianna Pacileo |
| 05/08 Pamela Kosakow  | 05/23 Eric Linnetz     |
| 05/09 Liliana Yelin   | 05/24 Matthew McConnon |
| 05/10 Michelle Gross  | 05/25 Alexander Lazer  |
| Sari Price            | Alexandra Pettengill   |
| Bennett Samberg       | 05/26 Michael Pratt    |
| 05/11 Sue Gostanian   | 05/27 Sharon Elias     |
| Myra Suib             | Mitchell Solomon       |
| 05/12 Maxine Liebman  | Tammy Wisnefsky        |
| 05/14 Emily Eisen     | 05/29 Eric Burner      |
| William May           | Sarah Hill             |
| 05/17 Marjorie Ross   | Stephen Rubenstein     |
| 05/18 Irv Borenzweig  | 05/31 Charlene Blatter |
| Dan Marcus            | Eli Pekovich           |
| 05/19 Ronald Isaac    |                        |
| Jonathan Kapstein     |                        |
| Allen Kovac           |                        |
| Ryan McConnon         |                        |
| Samantha Pacileo      |                        |
| Silvia Pena           |                        |



“Please God, please heal them.”

Mindful of how our *Misheberach* prayers are to be timely, as we begin the New Year 5783 we seek to check on the status of those for whom we pray publicly. Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, to maintain, add or remove a name from the list, the office *must be notified on a monthly basis*. Call the office at 203.267.3394 or email: [office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org) to maintain, add, or remove a name.