

# Shofar



Nisan/Iyar 5785

April 2025



# Chag Pesach Sameach!

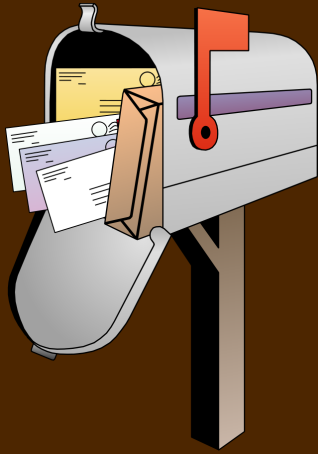
# Words From Rabbi Eric



The Hebrew word for Egypt, *Mitzrayim*, connotes “a narrow place,” of being constricted. Here in America and in Israel, many feel squeezed by heightened challenges. Observing Passover this month may we find guidance in its timeless and timely messages. Our texts understand the God of Israel, the Jewish People, to champion freedom and human dignity. May we too, be staunch advocates against forces of narrowness seeking to stifle inquiry, expression or advancement.

*Chag Sameach,*

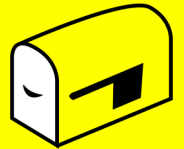
Rabbi Eric



# **Please Note!**

## **We are changing our mailing address!**

Beginning May 1st please use the  
building address

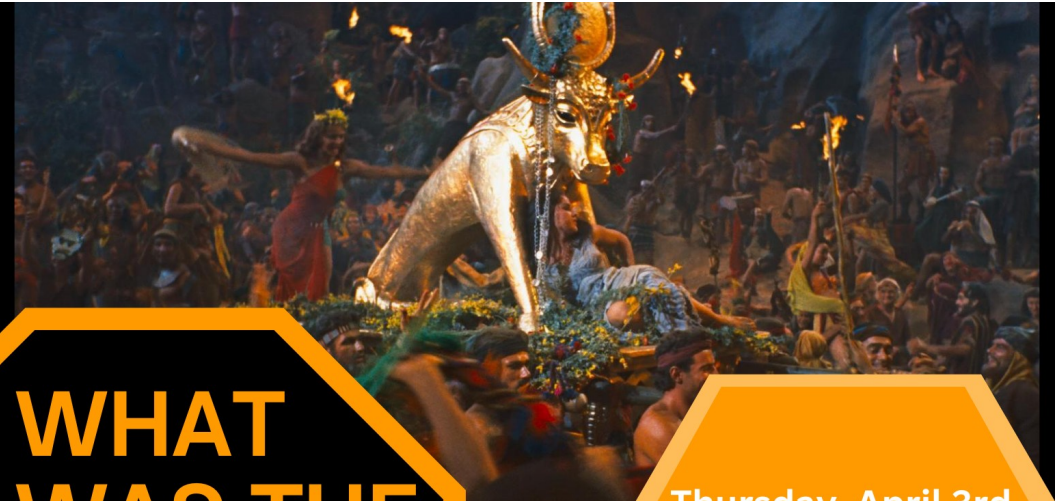
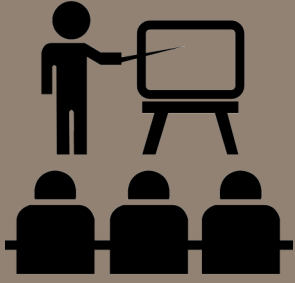


**444 Main St North  
Southbury, CT 06488**

We will no longer have our PO Box

# **Take note!**





**WHAT  
WAS THE  
SIN OF THE  
GOLDEN  
CALF?**

Thursday, April 3rd  
at 7 PM  
B'nai Israel  
444 Main Street North  
Southbury

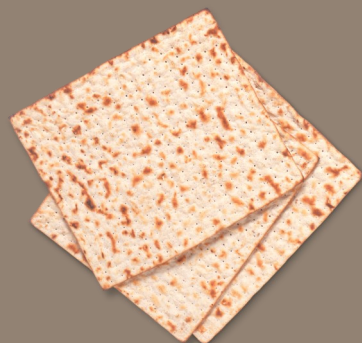
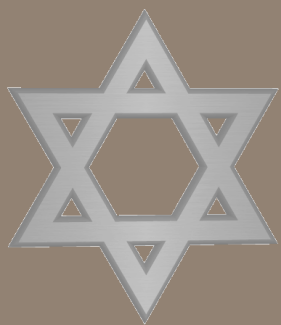
**An Interfaith Study Session co-led by:**  
The Rev. Brian Bodt, Woodbury United Methodist Church  
The Rev. Abigail Johnson, St. James Lutheran Church  
Rabbi Eric Polokoff, B'nai Israel

ALL ARE WELCOME

**It is recommended that you read Exodus 32 in advance**

Please RSVP to [office@bnaiisraelSouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaiisraelSouthbury.org)  
Sponsored by The Southbury Clergy Association and Woodbury Clericus





# B'nai Israel's Community Passover Seder

**Who:**  
**ALL are welcome!**

**When:**  
**Second Seder**  
**Sunday April 13th**  
**6pm**

**What:**  
A traditional family-friendly seder  
led by Rabbi Polokoff  
and music led by Linda Goodman  
with buffet dinner & dessert

**Where:**  
B'nai Israel  
444 Main Street N., Southbury

**How:**  
RSVP through the Google Form or call 203-267-3394  
by Friday April 4th at 5pm  
Sorry, no walk-ins or late registrations

**Cost:**  
Members & their extended family - \$36 per person  
Non-Members - \$50 per person  
Children under 13 - \$15 per child  
Children under 4 - No charge

 **b'nai israel**  SYNAGOGUE



## Scholarship Opportunity

# THE LOUIS D. TRAURIG SCHOLARSHIP

*The Louis D. Taurig Scholarship Trust at B'nai Israel Is Now Accepting College/Graduate School Scholarship Applications*

The Louis D. Taurig Scholarship Trust at B'nai Israel awards scholarships to students from the Greater Waterbury Area for college or graduate school. More than 200 scholarships have been awarded since its founding in 1988 by the late Rose & Edward Taurig. Criteria considered for this competitive application include academic achievement, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, character, quality of essays answered, and financial need. Awards, ranging from \$500 to \$3,500, will be announced on or around June 30th. Completed application packages must be submitted by May 1st. Scan the QR Code to access the online application portal. Please complete the application using this online portal. Official school transcripts can either be uploaded to this portal or mailed to: The Taurig Scholarship c/o Broderick Law Firm, LLC, PO Box 369, Middlebury, CT 06762. For more information, visit <http://bnaisraelsouthbury.org/>. For questions or technical support, contact [administrator@bnaisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:administrator@bnaisraelsouthbury.org).

Eligible Towns: Bantam, Beacon Falls, Bethel, Bethlehem, Brookfield, Burlington, Cornwall Bridge, Danbury, Goshen, Harwinton, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, Naugatuck, New Milford, New Preston, Newtown, Oxford, Plymouth, Prospect, Roxbury, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott, Washington, Woodbury







# Yom HaShoah Shabbat Service

and  
Yellow Candle Lighting  
Ceremony

Friday April 25th at 7pm

b'nai israel SYNAGOGUE

## THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST AND THE BIRTH OF ZIONISM

SUNDAY  
APRIL 27 2025  
2:00-3:00 PM  
ZOOM

Examine the profound transformations of the Middle East in the wake of World War I and the rise of the Zionist movement. This lecture focuses on the colonial reorganization of the region by the European allies, which gave birth to the modern nations we know today. Within this historical context, we'll explore the beginnings of the Zionist movement and its development alongside the growing tensions between the emerging Jewish community and the Arab world. By understanding the broader regional dynamics, this lecture sheds light on the roots of conflicts that continue to shape the Middle East today.

Open to the Community  
RSVP required for Zoom Code  
Email: [office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)



Join Yuval Zelinkovsky, an Israeli tour guide and educator, for the fourth event in this special educational series.

Jewish Federation  
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

b'nai israel SYNAGOGUE

Sponsored by the Israel Advocacy Committee





**JEWISH  
NATIONAL  
FUND  
USA**



## **Shabbat for Israel Dinner Friday May 2nd 6pm**

**Join us for an Israeli themed dinner. Enjoy  
Israeli themed foods buffet style, celebrate  
Yom Ha'Atzmaut, and learn about Jewish  
National Fund-USA.**

**All are welcome  
\$18 per person**

**RSVP must be completed through the JNF website by  
scanning the QR code or clicking the link below  
RSVP by April 22 at 5pm**



## **NEW MEMBER SHABBAT**



### **Friday May 30th**

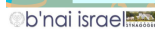
**Potluck Dinner 6pm**

**Special Shabbat Service 7pm**

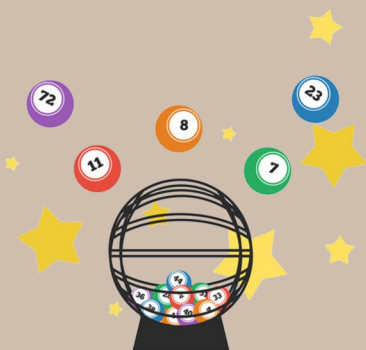
*All new members are invited to join us as  
our special guests, no need to bring a dish,  
just bring yourself!*

**Join us in welcoming our new  
members!**

**All other members, please RSVP through the  
link below or the QR code to let us know  
what you will be bringing**



<https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/EUKW4301>



**MUSIC**  
*Bingo*

Join us for an exciting evening complete with a BBQ dinner, drinks, great prizes, lively entertainment, delicious food, and lots of surprises!

**APRIL 26, 2025**  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

B'nai Israel Social Hall  
444 Main Street N.  
Southbury

**\$20 PER PERSON**      Sponsored by B'nai Israel Sisterhood      **RSVP BY APRIL 19, 2025**  
516-320-5089

**CHOCOLATE  
SEDER**

Sunday, April 6th, 12:15 PM in the Social Hall

\$18 per person Sisterhood members/family  
\$25 per person non-members  
Pre-B'nai Mitzvah \$13 per child

A "SWEET and TASTY" time will be had by all

Sponsored by B'nai Israel Sisterhood

RSVP by March 30th to  
bnaisisters@gmail.com or call (516) 320-5089

 Illustrations of a chocolate bar, strawberries, and two Seder plates (one with a hard-boiled egg and green vegetables, the other with a chocolate shell).

## Leadership

### Rabbi

Eric Polokoff, D.D.  
rabbi@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

### Music Coordinator

Linda Goodman  
music@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

### School Director

Jacqui Schulefand  
educator@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

### Temple Administrator

Abby Peklo  
administrator@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

### Temple Coordinator

Lindsey Noble  
office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org

### Officers

Patti Berkowitz, President  
Sheri Kipperman, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Alexis Zimmerman, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Eric Linnetz, Secretary  
Greg Estra, Treasurer  
Steven Reps, Past President

### Trustees

Marci Durnell (2025)  
Lisa Segal (2025)  
Peggy Klein (2025)  
Iurie Schwartz (2026)  
Kathryn Albee (2026)  
Dana Packer (2026)  
Sylvia Pena (2027)  
Brittany Weiss (2027)  
Margie Hertz (2027)

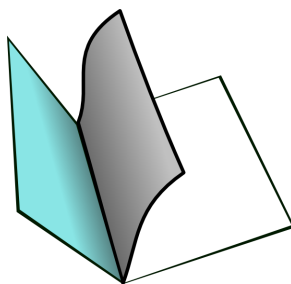
**Shabbat  
Candle lighting times  
for April**

4/4	7:01
4/11	7:09
4/18	7:17
4/25	7:24



## Would you like a printed copy of the Shofar mailed to your home?

We would be happy to send you a copy! Just contact the office to let us know and provide us with your address.



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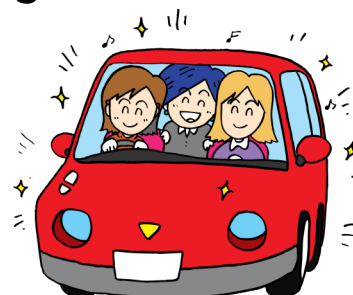
## Looking for a ride to service?

Looking for a ride to services? We have congregants who have volunteered to help drive those in need of a ride. Please contact the office if you would like assistance with arrangements.

## Willing to volunteer to give a ride?

Use the QR code to sign up, follow the link below or contact the office!

<https://shorturl.at/gtJW5>





# B'nai Israel- Stronger Connections: Opportunities for Jewish Learning and Involvement

## A Monthly Column by Congregant Melissa Fleischer

My motivation in creating this column started following the high holidays when I felt like B'nai Israel congregants might be searching for ways to feel more connected to their Jewish roots and identity. I recommended building this connection by attending any of the many adult education classes offered by B'nai Israel and Rabbi Eric. Since then, I have devoted each monthly column to sharing the details of each of the wonderful adult education classes that B'nai Israel offers, taught by our spiritual leader, Rabbi Eric, including his Tuesday weekly discussion group, Saturday Torah study, Mussar class and Introduction to Judaism class, to name just a few.

However, in this month's column, I want to provide another side of the story, to help you better understand why being connected to B'nai Israel and attending some of the many opportunities the Temple has for connecting with our Jewish selves is so important, and to motivate you to strengthen your connection with B'nai Israel. Recently, unfortunately I lost my mother, going through one of the most difficult times I can remember. This type of experience can make us feel lost and alone, dealing with excruciating pain and debilitating sadness. There was a silver lining for me through it all though because I was lucky enough to have this connection to our Temple, and it made all the difference for me. From being lucky enough to have the Rabbi there to support me through my mother's long illness and guide me in my decisions, to having him there to speak so eloquently at my mother's funeral while delivering the eulogy was immeasurable and made all the difference for me. During Shiva, the Rabbi was there to lead the beautiful and emotionally moving service and we were also blessed with Lisa Segal's beautiful singing which brought the service to a truly higher spiritual level and made the service all the more moving! But as if that was not enough, the Rabbi was there throughout to guide me spiritually and advise me on our most deeply held traditions for honoring those who have passed and mourning them properly! It was not just the Rabbi's emotional support and Lisa's beautiful singing that helped to support me throughout all of this, but it was also the wonderful leadership and congregants in our Temple, our caring committee and the President of the Temple who were kind enough to take time out of their busy days to attend the Shiva service and be there for me and my family throughout and other congregants who expressed their support during this trying time. Then there was also our wonderful temple administrator, Abby Peklo, who guided me to help me make all the right choices for refreshments at the Shiva and important customs to follow and Steven Repts, without whom we would not have been able to share the zoom service with members of my family that were not able to attend because they were too far away. Basically, it was an amazing "family" who were all there for me through this incredibly painful and trying time, my Jewish "family" of B'nai Israel!!!! Without the connection I have to B'nai Israel, I would not have had any of this. This family, as Patti Berkowitz made clear during the Kol Nidre appeal, is there for us through all the mitzvahs we have throughout our lives, through all the wonderful things we have to celebrate, including the Jewish holidays from Chanukah to Purim and Passover, but also to support us during all the most challenging times we have to endure.

I can only say that without B'nai Israel and the Rabbi's amazing support during this incredibly difficult time, I would not have been able to make it through. I want to say thank you to everyone but much more importantly, I want to stress to each congregant the value of having this "Jewish family", B'nai Israel, and how incredibly lucky we all are to have this Jewish family that we should all love and treasure. Thus, my column for this month, stresses to always stay true to our Jewish heritage and do all that we can to strengthen our commitment to this incredible Jewish community that we have the honor and privilege of being part of!!!

**Adult Education**
  
B'nai Israel Southbury

LEARN

Tuesday mornings 11:00 a.m.-noon  
 Adult Ed classes are free to members  
 Non member registration is \$72 semester

**Adult Education**
  
B'nai Israel Southbury

**Torah Study**  
 Saturdays at 10:30 in the Library

**Discussion Group**  
 Tuesdays at 11 in the Library

**Mussar**  
 One Sunday each month at 9:15 in the Library

**Intro to Judaism**  
 Sundays at 10:15 in the Library

All are welcome, please contact the office at  
[office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org) for more information



# Stream our Shabbat Services Online

Kabbalat Shabbat services are broadcast live through 3 different streaming services:

Zoom, [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#).

Zoom allows for an interactive experience where congregants can see each other and address the congregation during services when required. For reasons of security, we ask that all who would like to access Zoom to send a request to the office for the link.

[Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#) are one-way streaming services. [YouTube](#) is open to the public, while [Vimeo](#) is a higher quality broadcast than [YouTube](#).

## [Vimeo Streaming](#)

<https://vimeo.com/event/1356106>

All previous services are recorded and available. Please contact the office for links to obtain them.

## [YouTube streaming](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/@bnaiisraelsouthbury9620/streams>

# Hamentaschen

## Fundraiser a Success



If you are interested in enrolling  
your child in religious school  
please call Education Director  
Jacqui Schulefand at  
(203) 687-5745 or e-mail  
[educator@bnaiisraelsothbury.org](mailto:educator@bnaiisraelsothbury.org)



BIRS would like to thank Heather Cieply and her incredibly hardworking and dedicated crew for another successful fundraiser. Sales from Heather's Heavenly Homemade Hamentashen raised over \$2,300 this year for our religious school. The students will benefit greatly from her hard work and generosity. We thank everyone who supported this fundraiser, we're sure everyone enjoyed this delicious Purim treat.





# BIRS Students Welcome Purim



BIRS students began our Purim celebration by making hamantaschen with Heather Cieply of Heather's Heavenly Homemade Hamantaschen. The students loved making these delicious Hamantaschen and loved eating them even more. We thank Heather for spending the morning with us and sharing her scrumptious hamantaschen with us and to our parent volunteers for helping out.



If you are interested in enrolling your child in religious school please call Education Director Jacqui Schulefand at (203) 687-5745 or e-mail [educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)







# BIRS Students Welcome Purim

After hearing the reading of Megillat Esther, the students and families of BIRS, as well as community members, enjoyed a festive and fun filled Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 16. The carnival was organized by Jesse Liebman and a whole team of volunteers. There was a bounce house, axe throwing, pin the kippah on the Rabbi, mini golf, bean bag toss, guess how many jelly beans (won by Izzy Kubin), snacks, a prize table and much more.

Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating together.



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# BIRS Students Welcome Purim



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Shabbat



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educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org



# BIRS Families

## Welcome Shabbat

B'nai Israel Sisterhood, under the leadership of Michelle Rosen, has created Shabbat Bags for our students. Two students are chosen each week and share their experience of how they welcomed Shabbat.

The students and faculty of BIRS thank the B'nai Israel Sisterhood for donating everything we need for our Shabbat bags and giving our students the opportunity to welcome Shabbat with their families.



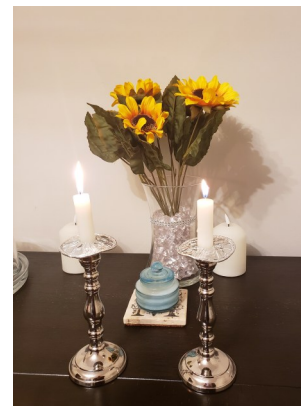
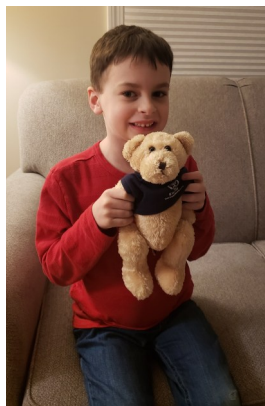
Giselle Pessin

Gisselle enjoyed singing the Shabbat blessings with her family. (I don't know how the candles ended up on the challah cover.)



Jackson Manning

The Manning family was very thankful to have a second opportunity with the Shabbat Bag at home. Jackson truly enjoys participating in the prayers and having the shabbat bear to help celebrate. We brought Shabbat in by lightning the candles together. Then we recited the Hamotzi and Kiddush, before enjoyed a wonderful meal and some great conversations about our day.



# BIRS Families

## Welcome Shabbat



Shabbat



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your child in religious school  
please call Education Director  
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[educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org)

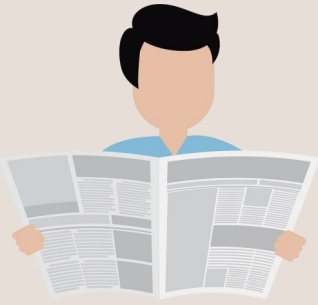


Nick Hayes

Nick, Matty, Sharon, Mike and Bubbie were at our Shabbat . Sharon lit the candles, Nick said the blessings. We ate chicken together. Nick said it made him happy



# Good News For Jews!



We would like to share **YOUR** good news in our monthly Shofar.  
Please send us simchas, happy news, newspaper photos or clippings featuring you or your family, or announcements for plays, art exhibits, shows, or other events that fellow congregants might be interested in attending or learning about.  
We would love to share your Good News for Jews!

## This Month's Good News

Congratulations to Doris Landaeta on the birth of her grandson

Archer Andrew Douglas, born to Arielle & Nick Douglas on March 15th weighing 7lb 6oz





# A Look Back at B'nai Israel: 2004



Todd Hougas / Republican-American

Rabbi Eric Polokoff unrolls the Torah for the children to see in an attempt educate children about the scroll during the Tot

Shabbat program at Temple B'nai Israel in Southbury on Saturday morning.

## Center makes room for tots

By Nicole Neroulas  
© 2004 Republican-American

SOUTHBURY — The Walzer Family Jewish Community Center has rooms for Hebrew school and Torah study, a large temple for reform services and a smaller chapel for conservative worship.

For the past eight months, young families in the B'nai Israel congregation have had their own sanctuary Saturday mornings: the teen lounge, home of the monthly Tot Shabbat for the little ones.

### Saturday schedule accommodates younger couples and children

By boiling the Sabbath service down to 30 minutes of key prayers, songs and one Bible story, Rabbi Eric Polokoff maintains rapt attention from toddlers through second-graders — the age group that typically responds to the full Friday night version with droopy eyes and fidgeting limbs.

"We have a lot of families with young children, and it's hard for them to get to services at 7:30 at night," said Rachel Barclay, of Middlebury.

"This is a way for the kids to have a nice, short service. If you're also just learning, along with your child, it's a good introduction."

Along with the heavy scrolls capped with a majestic silver crown, Polokoff removed two plush Torahs from the Ark cabinet, instructing the children to squeeze their grinning faces.

"When you hug somebody, you feel good, and the Torah makes you feel good," he explained, as the toys made their way around the room.

As the children gathered around Polokoff for the Torah reading,

Please turn to 2B, JEWISH

## JEWISH: Mom says her kids love being at center

Continued from 1B

5-year-old Kyle Berkowitz, of Prospect, expertly explained why no one should touch the parchment.

"You don't want the scroll to get

messed up," he said, as his 7-year-old brother, Drew, nodded.

Near the end of the service, parents placed their hands on the heads of their children and prayed aloud: "May God make you like Ephraim and

Menasseh" and "May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah."

The first blessing, for sons, refers to Joseph's offspring; the latter, for daughters, to the matriarchs in the

book of Genesis.

"We bless our kids because our greatest hopes are always with our children," Polokoff said, smiling.

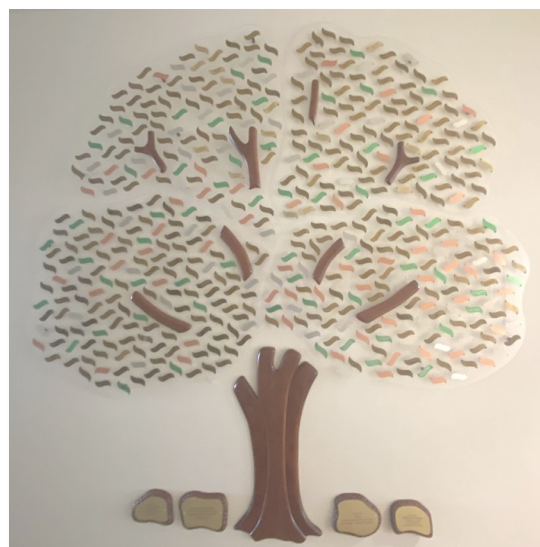
Afterward, as parents socialized or attended discussions elsewhere in the large complex, the children snacked on juice, cookies and challah bread. Barclay's daughter, 3-year-old Anna Pekovich, rummaged through a box of toys, while Berkowitz boys took turns on the football and air-hockey tables.

"They just love being here and interacting with all the kids," said Patti Berkowitz, their mother. "They look forward to coming."



## B'NAI ISRAEL JUDAICA SHOP

Stop in and check out the beautiful Judaica on offer!



Thank you to these individuals for purchasing leaves on our newly re-designed "Tree of Life"!

Please consider purchasing a leaf for our new tree.

Contact Sharon Goldman at [sharon.goldman@hotmail.com](mailto:sharon.goldman@hotmail.com) for more information.

"Please God, please heal them."

Mindful of how our *Misheberach* prayers are to be timely, we seek to check on the status of those for whom we pray publicly. 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@bnaisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org) to maintain, add, or remove a name.

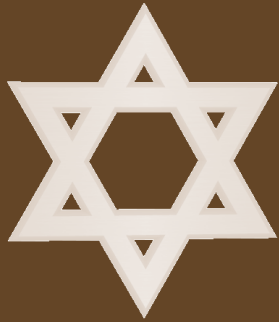
To our B'nai Israel Family -

Caring for others is an important Jewish value. Our congregation's caring committee is called *Chesed v'Shalom*. *Chesed*, in Hebrew, means compassion and *Shalom* translates to peace and love. Our Chicken Soup for the Soul program delivers homemade chicken soup to those in need. Volunteers can provide a ride to worship services, prepare a meal for those who are ill, or lend a friendly ear when you are experiencing a challenge. Please let us know how we can help you.

Sheri Kipperman  
Sherrie Bitterman  
Evan Cooper  
Patti Berkowitz

[Stigs12@gmail.com](mailto:Stigs12@gmail.com)  
[sbitterman5@yahoo.com](mailto:sbitterman5@yahoo.com)  
[evanco1128@hotmail.com](mailto:evanco1128@hotmail.com)  
[president@bnaisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:president@bnaisraelsouthbury.org)





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



## Yahrzeits

May their memories be for blessing

4/4

Sarah Cohen  
**Allan Crystal**  
**Nathan Davidson**  
Michael Dorf  
Joseph David  
Dover Seymour Drantch  
David Elliot  
**Florence Erlanger**  
Henry Fleischman  
**Joseph Goldberg**  
**Manning Greenberg**  
Morris Horn  
**Heather Rose Kornick**  
**Meyer Land**  
**Ann Protter**  
Jacob N. Rearson  
**Benjamin Saunders**  
Charlotte Smotroff  
**Rae Spearo**  
Rose Zetzer

4/11

Max Berland  
Franklyn Danen  
**Freda Erlanger**  
Bernard Feinman  
**Jennie Berman Finkelstein**  
**Bertha Fleisher**  
**Rita Friedman**  
Murray Goldberg  
**Mollie Goldfarb**  
**Harold G. Green**  
**Joseph Halperin**  
Aaron Jarmak  
Judy Kipperman  
**Celia Kosersky**  
**Albert Leopold**  
Pauline Leredu  
**Rose Menaker**  
Helen Friedman Perretz  
**C. Howard Shore**  
**Morris Stein**  
**Edward Traurig**  
**Marvin Yaffe**



4/18

Mollie Breslawsky  
Abram Bress  
Peter Hall  
**Ben Hofstadter**  
Frances Lieber  
**Rose Mahler**  
Judy Marangio  
**David L Martin**  
**Wallace Rifkin**  
Linda Schiff  
**Morris Spirt**  
**Benjamin Weiss**  
Lisa K Weiss  
**David Zeidler**

4/25

**Mitchell Backon**  
Edna Dyme  
**Edith Effren**  
**Harry P. Horn**  
Adeline Isaac  
**Nancy Kovner**  
**Herman Lester**  
Anne Oblas  
Anne Paley  
**Tobie Perlman**  
**David Rubin**  
**Stephen Scharf**  
Patricia Schwartz  
Philip Schwartz  
**Lillian C. Spier**  
Miriam Sukman  
**David R. Traurig**  
**George S. Wale**  
**Ethel Weiss**  
Frances Winland  
**Carlos Yelin**  
**Henrietta Zackin**  
Samuel R. Zetzer



## 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

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administrator  
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rabbi@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

Visit our website for a full list of staff email addresses



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 memory of...

**Alan Elias**  
*Sharon Elias*

**Toby Berkowitz**  
*Jeff Berkowitz & Merri Klar*

In honor of...

**Rabbi Eric**  
*Fran & Jerry Beilinson*

**The beautiful ceremony for Layla's baby naming**  
*Heather & Burt Cieply*

**Layla's Baby naming**  
*Alexander & Jordan Cieply*

**Rabbi's participation in her mother's services**  
*Melissa Fleischer*

## General Fund

In memory of...

**Doris Garber**  
*Herb Garber*

**Sol Goldberg**  
*Sandy Gold*

**Virginia Seddon**  
*Sandy Gold*

**Fanny Crystal**  
*Eleanor Crystal*

**Joseph Komitor**  
*Eleanor Crystal*

**Kate Cooperman**  
*Eleanor Crystal*

**Esther Rechman**  
*The Segal Family*

**Norma Fleischer**  
*Sheri Kipperman*

**Malke Metz**  
*Andrea Vartanian*

Thanks to...

*Joel Abramson*

**Linda Goodman**  
**Music Fund**

In honor of...

**Linda Goodman & Lisa Segal**  
*Fran & Jerry Beilinson*

**Linda Goodman for the beautiful music at Layla's baby naming**  
*Heather & Burt Cieply*

## Caring Fund

In memory of...

**Raymond Chisarik**  
*Lindsey & Penny Noble*

**Roza Gelfand**  
*Anna Gelfand*

## IAC Fund

In memory of...

**Naomi Leaf Halpern**  
*Ruth Holt*

**Rachel Korablnik-Niv**  
*Ruth Holt*

## BIRS

Thanks to...

*Ruth Holt*

## Tribute Cards

From: Debby Garber

To: Melissa Fleischer and family  
In memory of her beloved mother, Norma Fleischer.

CELEBRATE!



# APRIL

## Happy Anniversary

Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Bitterman	4/06
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Schwartz	4/21
H. Rudolf Zeidler & Nancy Brown	4/23
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Kovner	4/25
Larry Smotroff & Marina Zatman	4/25

*Happy Anniversary*

## Happy Birthday

Larry Smotroff	4/01	Rachel Rubel	4/21
Jay O'Brien	4/04	Deborah Siegel	4/22
Ellen Allen	4/05	Eli Price	4/22
Jeanette Brod	4/05	Nathaniel Basch-Gould	4/23
Doria Linnetz	4/06	Matthew Wisnefsky	4/23
Christian Phillip Pessin	4/06	Kathryn Albee	4/24
Sheila May	4/10	Sheera DesJardin-Trangredi	4/25
Kimiye Liebman	4/12	Joan Oshins	4/25
Harvey Sukman	4/14	Herbert Isaac	4/27
Amy Bernon	4/15	Janessa Jameson	4/27
Eric Silver	4/15	Susan Wise	4/27
Lindsey Noble	4/16	William Slepoy	4/28
June Gaston	4/18	Benjamin Paley	4/28
Eric Schenfield	4/18	Ethan Paley	4/28
Jonathan Hertz	4/19	Ava Schwartz	4/29
Jeff Berkowitz	4/20	Lauren Pessin	4/30
Alison Peck	4/21		

# Adult Education



b'nai israel SYNAGOGUE

## Adult Education

**Torah Study**  
Saturdays at 10:30 in the Library

**Discussion Group**  
Tuesdays at 11 in the Library

**Mussar**  
One Sunday each month at 9:15 in the Library

**Intro to Judaism**  
Sundays at 10:45 in the Library

All are welcome, please contact the office at  
[office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org) for more information

### Dates of upcoming Mussar Classes:

April 6  
May 18



# Puzzle Page

A new monthly feature where you can complete a themed wordsearch, crossword, or other word puzzle either online through the link below or print out this page and complete it on paper!

This month's theme is Pesach!

## Pesach Word Search

J H M R I W O Z T Z V E P A V A I P O T  
U P T Q Y Z G N B X I W M E U H D I F W  
E E B P Q P E Q Y L D F B V L I S Y O X  
X H G A G P P F E E P L A G U E S B E J  
O R M I O K Y J N P Z L Y D S I Q Q L T  
D Z O I P L I E G G E H X P N N S F I T  
U C S Z B T V T G O B F C B H X N M J E  
S O E Y T A N I N N S H O B U L Z T A E  
S O S P E Y U H O I Z O T Y B U Y F H W  
H P Y L N X A Q Y C Y B D P A R S L E Y  
I G N A L D C S Z H X O P X B T P W U M  
E U C Q A C G T V A C C T P I V A T C P  
I S F G K D E F Q R P H A D T F I R C E  
L Y G O T M Z O G O I N F A T S O M F S  
H A T N A Z L F J S S K N K P R K A S A  
H Y C H A J S S V E B N G X A U F T X C  
V W C S E D E R I T Z C H M K Y Q Z X H  
L G C A B S S Y A F I K O M A N T A B A  
D O O R P O S T L V A X E U D R S H N G  
U L D X E I E K Y U E Q N L L V X K R X

1. Pesach
2. Chametz
3. Exodus
4. Unleavened
5. Plagues
6. Egypt
7. Charoset
8. Moses
9. Afikoman
10. Elijah
11. Haggadah
12. Parsley
13. Matzah
14. Maror
15. Seder
16. Doorpost
17. Kitniyot

<https://wordsearchlabs.com/embed/827732>



# World Zionist Congress Elections

## VOTE REFORM *WZC Platform – 2025*

A vote for the Reform Movement in the World Zionist Congress elections is a vote for our values: equality, democracy, pluralism, justice, and peace in Israel, rooted in our love and support for the people and the state of Israel.

Our “Vote Reform” slate is deeply committed to a strong and secure Israel and strengthening the Israel-Diaspora relationship, working in close partnership with our Israeli Reform Movement.

### WHO WE ARE:

We represent the U.S. Reform Movement, including 2 million people across congregations, affiliates, and institutions, making us the largest Zionist Movement in the U.S. Our love for Israel reflects millennia of shared history and the intertwined destinies of Jews worldwide.

### WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- A strong, secure, democratic, and Jewish Israel, as envisioned in its Declaration of Independence.
- Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State and defend its people from terror. We oppose efforts to delegitimize this right.
- Religious equality where all Jewish traditions and forms of observance are respected, with full recognition of liberal Movements and an end to the ultra-Orthodox monopoly as the recognized religious authority.
- Regional security through peace and stability for Israel, Palestinians, and neighbors.
- Full equality under the law for all Israelis, including minorities, women, and LGBTQ+ people.
- A secure Israel alongside a peaceful Palestinian state is vital for stability.

As Reform Zionists, we seek a democratic, pluralistic, and vibrant Israeli society. We believe deeply in Jewish peoplehood and that all Jews are responsible for one another. We support the work and mission of our Israeli Reform Movement in creating vibrant, authentic, new expressions and models of Jewish life in the Jewish State and working to provide for those who are powerless and on the margins of Israeli society. We continue to work tirelessly for the release of the hostages and an end to the war. We are alarmed by and are committed to combating the rising threat of antisemitism and anti-Zionism in the U.S. and in Diaspora communities around the world.

### IN SUPPORT OF THESE BELIEFS, IN THE UPCOMING WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS, THE “VOTE REFORM” SLATE PLEDGES:

- To advocate that the government of Israel does everything in its power to maintain the ceasefire and return all hostages.
- To fight for government recognition and societal acceptance of the many diverse expressions of Jewish religious identity so that all such expressions are recognized as legitimate and equal under the law and to lend its support for Reform Judaism and other liberal streams.
- To assure that liberal streams of Judaism are provided equal financial support and resources in the Jewish State, ensuring that our Movements in Israel and all Jewish denominations in Israel remain strong, vibrant, and growing.
- To support government policy and societal initiatives that pursue a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians through a Two-State outcome.
- To influence the National Institutions (WZO, KKL, JAFI) to support a strong shared society and democratic civil society in Israel.
- To curb funding for and prevent de facto/de jure annexation of the West Bank or the resettlement of Gaza.

urj **ARZA** VOTE REFORM  
ארגון ארצי