

SHOFAR



Iyar 5781

May 2021

A Message from the President

Dear fellow congregants,

Today I am humming “Walkin’ on Sunshine” and it is appropriate for so many reasons! Not only is spring blooming and the weather finally seems to be warming up, but our congregation is also in bloom with a great deal of new sunny beginnings.

After over a year of being apart, we are slowly coming back to worshipping together in person! In the next few weeks, we are embarking on a process which includes being able to worship together in the sanctuary. This development requires much thought behind how to keep everyone safe, so please be patient with us as we navigate these waters with the ultimate goal of returning to normalcy.

Our Membership Committee has been reinvigorated! We have a number of enthusiastic volunteers who have been dedicating time not only in the endeavor to recruit new members to our congregational family, but to enhance the experience of our current members. If you are interested in joining in our efforts, please contact Valerie in the office.

Our religious school continues to stress the importance of inclusivity and on May 2nd is sponsoring a program for both students and congregants designed to make connections between LGBTQ equality and Jewish values. Please support this important program with your attendance.

Our Israel Advocacy Committee has been hard at work putting together some wonderful programming that sheds light not only on Israel’s history and current peace-keeping efforts, but on the amazing ways that Israel contributes to our everyday lives with their technology, agriculture and medical innovations. Coming up in June they will be holding a discussion with high school and college students about Jewish life on the college campus and the challenge with the BDS movement.

The Lamah project has completed its work gathering information and is now in a new phase of analyzing the data to make it meaningful for our congregation. The goal is to have a working values statement at our annual meeting.

Moving forward, there has been an expression of interest in the reinvigoration of both a Men’s Club/Brotherhood and Social Action Committee. Please let me know if you have interest in both or either.

Wishing each of you sunshine today and always,

Lisa

Thank you to all who have participated in the Albert Match donation challenge. Please consider making your donation today!

Deja & Larry Engelman
Jill Schoenfuss
Ival & Ron Kovner

*Your name should be here!
Make your contribution today!*

Joel Abramson
Ellen & Rabbi Eric Polokoff
The Augenbraun family
The Wasserstein family
Rose & Sid Frenkel
Debby & Alan Siegel
Judith Feinman
Paul Feinman & Robert Ostergaard
Judy & Gene Mirrer
Susan & Murray Haber
The Zimmerman family
Herb Garber
Len Ross
Carol & Bob Weil
Cary Strauss & Fred Rubenstein
The Gerstenfeld Family
Linda & Dan Goodman
Sandy & Dan Marcus
Lisa & Scott Segal
Ruby & Art O'Neill
Pat & Matt Magida
Margi & Michael Sermer
Aaron Simon
The Linnetz family
Alex Greenberg
Dawn Tandler
Rachel & Jonathan Albert
The Kipperman family
Fred Barr
Mary Beth & Michael Pratt

Albert Fundraising Challenge

..."Sylvia, Eric, Jan, Jonathan and Rachel will match any increase of members' donations for this fiscal year up to \$18,000 total (excluding any pledges or donations to the Endowment, our Project *Tamid* initiative). This challenge will greatly benefit B'nai Israel. These monies are especially valued now as we cope with the effects of Covid-19 on our membership, school enrollment and social events.

Opportunities to donate for Chanukah, end-of-year, and into 2021 include Memorials and Dedication plaques. For families considering memorializing dear-ones in our Sanctuary while supporting our synagogue, the double impact would again *increase in matters of holiness*.

On behalf of our Executive Committee, Board and staff, we thank you for your ongoing presence and meaningful support of B'nai Israel."...



Hello to all our current members!

We are excited to announce that the Membership Committee has been reinvigorated. As a result, we have decided to begin what we are calling an Ambassador Program.

This program is designed to welcome and guide new B'nai Israel members through their first year of membership. The goal is to link a new member or family unit with a congregant/family willing to partner them for a year.

The responsibilities of the ambassador would be:

Invite the new member/members to Shabbat services a couple of times a year

Invite them to participate in an activity outside of temple (ie, walking, dinner at your home, coffee, hiking, etc.)

Periodically check in with adoptees and remind them of any upcoming B'nai Israel activities. This would include but is not limited to reminding about High Holy Day services and what to expect, as well as linking them to Federation events and community resources.

It would also be important to inform the new member of ways they can get involved with B'nai Israel; the committees we have to offer, the religious school events, Adult Education, as well as introduce them to other members of our community.

We hope to link new members with someone in the community with similar interests. Again, the partnership would last a year. The goal is not only to grow our community, but to create new and continued friendships.

If interested in becoming an Ambassador and/or a part of our new Membership Committee team, please call or contact Sheri Kipperman – 203.565.1325 or Stigs12@gmail.com.

We look forward to the growth of this wonderful program!

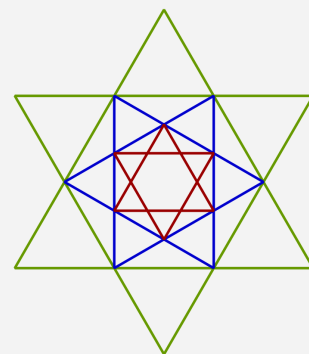
The Membership Committee –

Sheri Kipperman, Kim Rubel, Jodi Wasserstein, Ariel Price, David Augenbraun,
Lisa Segal, Michelle Rosen, Rochelle Gershenow and Charlene Blatter

Caring Committee has a new Chair

WE WELCOME DEBBY GARBER

We are so thrilled to announce that Debby Garber will be our new chairperson for the Caring Committee of B'nai Israel. Debby has been a member of our congregation since 2004. A retired midwife, she has been an active member on our Ritual and Memorial's and Dedications committees, a participant of our Adult Education class and Discussion Group as well as our talented bassoonist adding her beautiful music to our choir ensemble. Every Friday you will find Debby joining our Shabbat services with her dad, Herb Garber. For those interested in supporting Debby and joining the Caring Committee, please e-mail the B'nai Israel office at office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org.



Donations

Caring Fund

in memory of

Wendy Hozer

Rochelle & Earl Gershenow

Benjamin Ross

Marjorie Ross

Joyce Hozer & Wendy Hozer

Babs Rachells & Bobbi Gianat

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in memory of

Wendy Hozer & Joyce Hozer

Rachel & Jonathan Albert

Sandy Gold & Paul Medina

Ival & Ron Kovner

Anne Oblas

Carolyn Strauss

Ben Oratz

Ruth Holt

Ritual Fund

in memory of

Helen Friedman Perretz

Dawn Tandler

Elsa Siegel

Debby & Alan Siegel

Sylvia Goldman

Sharon Goldman

Music Fund

in memory of

Charlotte Smotroff

Larry Smotroff

Eli Gleiberman

Sheila Baum

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in honor of

Rabbi Polokoff for his extraordinary degree of attention, compassion & guidance during the family's time of mourning

Michelle Gross

General Fund

in honor of

the birth of Margi & Michael Sermer's new granddaughter, Scarlett

Lisa & Scott Segal

Kathryn Albee

Sandy Gold & Paul Medina

General Fund

in memory of

Heather Kornick

Rudy Zeidler

Theodore Linton

Sigmund Deutsch

Sofie Deutsch

Leopold Levy

Leah Linton

Aaron Frenkel

Judy Marangio

Rose & Sidney Frenkel

Morris Horn

Carol & Robert Weil

Abram Bress

Norma & Charles Fleischman

Emmanuel Lee

L. Lee & family

Wendy Hozer & Joyce Hozer

Sharon Goldman

Barb & Art Phillips

Sandy Slater & Joe Hochheiser

Alan Crystal

Eleanor Crystal

Paul Feinman

Barb & Art Phillips

Ethel Greenblatt

Helen Kotler

Frances Winland

Heather & Burt Cieply

Joyce Hozer

The Augenbraun family

Joyce Hozer

Paul Feinman

Lisa & Scott Segal

Marvin Rechtman

Lisa & Scott Segal

Social Action Fund

in memory of

Paul Feinman

Linda & Dan Goodman

Joyce Hozer & Wendy Hozer

Linda & Dan Goodman

General Fund

L. Lee & family



Join Us!

We encourage all adult members to join us for a special virtual workshop on *LGBTQ Equality and Belonging within the Jewish Community* on Sunday, May 2 at 12:45 pm. Rabbi Micah Buck Yael, the National Director of Education and Training at Keshet, will facilitate this workshop. Keshet “works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and our families in Jewish life.” Rabbi Micah will help members identify and understand the core terms and concepts related to LGBTQ identities, make connections between LGBTQ equality and Jewish values, and build a framework to identify concrete actions *they can take* to increase equality and belonging for LGBTQ people in their communities. This workshop is co-sponsored by our friends at Temple Beth David in Cheshire. Together, through this meaningful work, each of us helps to strengthen our community. Space is limited and advance registration is required by clicking [here](#).

thank
you!

Leadership

Rabbi

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

Director of Sacred Music

Linda Goodman
music@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

School Director

Abby Peklo
educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

Officers

Lisa Segal, President
emilysmomlisa@aol.com
Steven Reys, 1st Vice President
Patti Berkowitz, 2nd Vice President
David Augenbraun, Treasurer
Sheri Kipperman, Secretary

Trustees

Charlene Blatter (2023)
Phil Feinman (2022)
Rochelle Gershenow (2021)
Joyce Hozer (2021)
Eric Linnetz (2022)
Liz McConnon (2023)
Michelle Rosen (2022)
Kim Rubel (2021)
Jodi Wasserstein (2023)

Memorialize your loved one with a plaque on our Yahrzeit boards. Contact the B'nai Israel office or Memorials & Dedications Chair, Sharon Goldman at 860.631.6541 or sharon.goldman@hotmail.com

YAHRZEITS



May their memory be for blessing

5/7

Juanita Chichester
Jack Cooperman

Rachel Danen

Carol Eisenberg
Max Engel
Martin Falk

Dora B. Feinn

Fannie Fingerhut
Leopold Isaac
Marvin Kaplan

Josefa W. Lichtenstein

Gertrude Paul Miller

Esther Polen

Rose Sagal

Ethel Weisman

Marcus Howard Weisman

5/14

Paul Glatter

Hirsh Crystal

Doris Engel

Murray S. Fleischer

Sylvia Goldman

Harris B. Gordon

Rae S. Holczer

Maurice Jackson

Celia Karp

Jennie P. Kirschner

Minnie G. Levin

Rose Matzkin

Monroe M. Pollack

Benjamin Ross

Ruth Rubin

Mayta Saper

Murray Schulman

Mortimer Stammelman

Ed Suib

Isidore Wilkin

Norman Zelin

5/21

Max Bram

Ida Rose Cantor

Robert Carver

Oscar Dell

Nathan Feinn

Allan Chase Franken

Manya Goldstein

Adela Landau

Edward Landau

Charles Light

Anne Nathanson

Jean Quigley

Marvin Rechtman

Esther Simon

David Stein

Selma Mazur Swerdlick

Emil L. Weil

Alma Cantor Weisman

5/28

Burt Albert

Dr. Bernar Burnham

Rosamond Count

Louis 'Nate' Danen

Meyer B. Erlanger, Sr.

Ray Hochheiser

Jeanette Lax

Molly Liebeskind

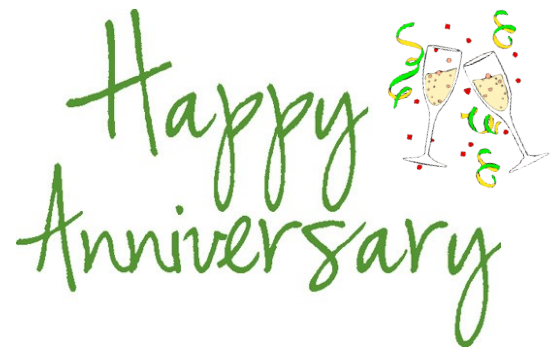
Jack Markowitz

Hyman 'Mickey' Miller

Norman R. Richards

Boris Woloshin

*names in bold have a yahrzeit plaque in the B'nai Israel sanctuary



- | | |
|--|---|
| 5/2 Anna Gelfand
Kenneth Levy | 5/18 Irv Borenzweig
Spencer Burwin
Daniel Marcus |
| 5/3 Linda Goodman
Adam Packer
Scott Segal | 5/19 Ronald Isaac
Jonathan Kapstein
Ryan McConnon |
| 5/6 Josh Isaac
Brad Mahler | 5/20 Richard Baron
Douglas Fuchs |
| 5/8 Hilary Bree
Elijah Rosen | 5/21 Susan Haber
Tikva Rose |
| 5/9 Alyssa Friedman
Liliana Yelin | 5/23 Eric Linnetz |
| 5/10 Michelle Gross
Sari Price
Bennett Samberg | 5/24 Matthew McConnon
5/25 Alexandra Pettengill
5/26 Michael Pratt |
| 5/11 Myra Suib | 5/27 Sharon Elias
Michael Rosen
Mitchell Solomon
Tammy Wisnefsky |
| 5/12 Michelle Goudsmith | 5/29 Sarah Hill
Stephen Rubenstein |
| 5/14 Emily Eisen
William May | 5/31 Charlene Blatter
Eli Pekovich |
| 5/16 Linda Schiff | |
| 5/17 Sylvia Albert
Marjorie Ross | |

- 5/4 Kate & Michael Friedman
- 5/22 Margi & Michael Sermer
- 5/23 Paula & Richard Baron
- 5/24 Charlene Falk & John McNally
- 5/25 Sarah & Kevin Manning
- 5/26 Marci Silverman & William Slepoy
- 5/28 Lori & Gary Diamond
- 5/29 Eve Stabinsky-Ackert David Ackert
Tracy & David Hill
- 5/31 Deborah & David Augenbraun
Rochelle & Earl Gershenow

Contact Us

During this unprecedented time we are not in the office and are working remotely.

Should you wish to be in touch please email :

office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org
rabbi@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

or visit our website for a full list of staff email addresses:

www.bnaiisraelsouthbury.org



www.bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

BIRS news

We are very pleased to share a special upcoming opportunity for our teens. Via Zoom on Sunday, May 2 at 11:30 a.m. Rabbi Micah Buck Yael, the National Director of Education and Training at Keshet, will facilitate a *teens-only* workshop on *LGBTQ Equality and Belonging within the Jewish Community*. Keshet is a not-for-profit organization that “works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and our families in Jewish life.” Keshet is dedicated to helping individuals “build LGBTQ-affirming communities, create spaces in which all queer Jewish youth feel seen and valued, and advance LGBTQ rights nationwide.” BIRS is co-sponsoring this important and timely workshop with our friends at Congregation Beth David in Cheshire.

During this year of virtual learning, BIRS continues to offer students engaging virtual field trips facilitated by Jewish museums across the country and in Israel. Students recently learned about the universality of the immigrant experience and the challenges of starting a new life in a new land, through the eyes of a young immigrant. This special virtual field trip, called *Meet Eva*, was presented by the National Museum of American Jewish History.

We are extremely excited to confirm that BIRS will meet in person in the fall! It will be wonderful when we are all together again in the building. Registration information is forthcoming.

Families recently gathered outside for a very windy Passover & Pickles Preview in the Parking Lot



Artist, Michelle Pulver
Calligraphy, Doris Landaeta

Tribute Cards

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

To: *Joyce Hozer* * In memory of her daughter Wendy
From: Rudy Zeidler and Nancy Brown

To: *Phil and Marcie Feinman* * In memory of Phil's brother, Paul Feinman
From: Rudy Zeidler and Nancy Brown

To: *Jacob Hozer* * In memory of his grandmother, Joyce Hozer
From: Rudy Zeidler and Nancy Brown

Donor Opportunities



“Tree of Life”

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

(203) 267-3394

EVERY THURSDAY AT 10 AM-12 PM
Drop in for a sip at any point

COFFEE KLATCH

VIA ZOOM



Email bnaisisters@gmail.com for a link to pre-register



B'nai Israel Sisterhood Membership Appreciation Event

Chocolate Themed Evening

Includes Tasting and Bingo
May 16, 2021 7:00 PM
via Zoom

email bnaisisters@gmail.com
for reservations

Pick up of Chocolate for tasting
at B'nai Israel by arrangement

Coordinated with Foscia's Chocolate of
Waterbury



Interested in
joining
Sisterhood?
Call Michelle
Rosen,
President, at
msr2511@yahoo.com
for more
information.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Book Discussion The Vanishing Half By Brit Bennett Moderated by Ellie Crystal



May 19th
and hopefully outside



Time: 2:00 PM
Hopefully in the pergola
or Via ZOOM—email for
link

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

As with her *New York Times*-bestselling debut *The Mothers*, Brit Bennett offers an engrossing page-turner about family and relationships that is immersive and provocative, compassionate and wise.

E-mail:
bnaisisters@gmail.com



**JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND
USA**

Your Voice in Israel

Co-sponsors include



b'nai israel



Southern New England Board Presents Living on the Edge: Challenges of Life Along the Gaza Border

Sunday, May 2, 2021

10:00 am-11:00 am ET

Zoom Link Provided Upon RSVP

[https://secure.jnf.org/site/Ticketing?
view=Tickets&id=42453](https://secure.jnf.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=42453)

More Information

Dar Nadler, Israel Emissary, New England
dnadler@jnf.org or 617-423-0999 x816



About Our Event

Learn about JNF's life-saving work for more than 1 million Israelis living alongside the Israel-Gaza border under the constant threat of rockets. Join us as we go on a virtual tour of bomb shelters-turned works of art and get a closer look at the resilience centers, fortified playgrounds and so much more that JNF-USA has built.



Our Speaker-Yedidya Harush

JNF's Halutza Liaison for Negev Community Development
Yedidya Harush, a decorated soldier, is helping protect and keep Israel's border communities secure and safe. He is a pioneer working with Jewish National Fund to develop Halutza into a thriving community and turn Ben-Gurion's dream of a blooming and prosperous Negev into reality.



Also Featuring singer-songwriter

Micha Biton

A pioneer in the ethnic-rock genre of Israeli music, Micha Biton performs sold-out concerts in Israel and the USA. He is featured in the documentary *Rock in the Red Zone* which is a portrayal of life "on the edge" in the area of Sderot on the Gaza border, where he lives with his family.

