

Shofar



Shevat 5785

February 2025



Words From Rabbi Eric



Our Tradition speaks of the world standing on three pillars (*al shelosha devarim ha-Olam omeid*): Torah, worship and acts of lovingkindness. (*Pirke Avot* 1:2) Assuredly, the central mission of the synagogue is to promote these three elements in our engagement within and beyond the Jewish community. Our ongoing programming, including two upcoming interfaith initiatives, highlight this commitment. Looking to the spring I invite you to join us as we host “What Is the Sin of the Golden Calf?” a joint study to be held here at 7 PM on Thursday, April 3rd. The event is cosponsored by the Southbury Clergy Association and Woodbury Clericus, and Rev. Abigail Johnson of St. James Lutheran Church and The Rev. Brian Bodt of Woodbury United Methodist Church will join me in co-leading the session. On May 18th we’re planning a musical program on the Psalms – more details to follow. May our congregation’s focus help to uphold us, and lead us from strength to strength in realm upon realm.

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I write amidst the beginning of the first phase of the hostage deal, as we pray for the return of hostages and their remains who were inhumanely kidnapped and cruelly captive in Gaza by Hamas and other terrorist groups for more than 15 months. Their return is a paramount concern. As the deal is implemented we know there will be good news, and also much sobering and somber news. May faith and commitment help to sustain us amidst the upcoming highs and lows.

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, 1st VP
Alexis Zimmerman, 2nd 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)

www.bnaisraelsouthbury.org

**Shabbat
Candle lighting times
for February**

2/7	4:56
2/14	5:05
2/21	5:13
2/28	5:22



Greeters Needed!

Dear BI Congregants -

As our building is now always locked for everyone's safety, we are seeking volunteers to serve as **Erev Shabbat Greeters** every Friday from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m., as congregants and guests enter for services. Our armed security guard, present for every service, is stationed at the door during this time.

Please consider signing up for one or more Friday evenings. Your assistance is greatly appreciated! Use below or QR code anytime you can help. This sign up form will be active for the next several months.

Thank you for your volunteer commitment!

<https://bit.ly/ErevShabbatGreeter>



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

Make our Jewish Family even Stronger-Join a B'nai Israel Adult Education Class Today-All are Welcome!


A Monthly Column by Congregant Melissa Fleischer Rabbi's Discussion Group

Another opportunity for making stronger connections with Jewish learning and involvement is the Rabbi's discussion group, a real treat! It is not often that we have the chance to spend a morning together with not just the Rabbi who is an inspiring intellectual but also with other true intellectuals who can parse through pages of eloquent commentary on Israel, Zionism, Judaism and come together to truly do such pieces of work justice in an in-depth weekly discussion group. But we are blessed to have such a unique opportunity to do just that with the Rabbi's discussion group. Each week the Rabbi sends to anyone who opts to participate in this discussion group as many as 5-10 or more articles that are eloquently written, educational and provide us with insight into some of the most gripping and relevant issues facing us today. The group then has the chance to opine on what they thought of each article, the meaning for all of us as Jews in the world today and the opportunity to discuss these inspiring issues in a communal group of scholars, together and renew our sense of Jewish community and learn a little something along the way. Of all the Rabbi's adult learning classes, this is truly one of the most wonderful opportunities provided to us to renew and recharge our Jewish education.

Do not make the mistake of believing that this class is not for you just because you have not been involved in it. This class is truly a gift for the entire congregation, anyone who has a desire and yearning to learn and discuss. Not only will the discussions reach into your inner Jewish soul and inspire you to see issues in a new light with new context, but it will also allow you the opportunity to unite with some of the smartest and most inspiring Jewish intellectuals in our community, all coming together to share their views, beliefs and knowledge in a truly touching way. A must for every member of our congregation and a unique gift from the Rabbi to you!

The Rabbi will make you feel completely at home in this discussion group as part of our Jewish family and before long, you too will have a little more knowledge but even more importantly, a stronger Jewish connection to B'nai Israel and your Jewish heritage! To join this discussion group or any adult learning class, contact Lindsey Noble, Office administrator, office@bnaisraelsouthbury.org. We look forward to welcoming you to this unique opportunity discussion group soon!

Adult Education B'nai Israel Southbury



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

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 10:15 in the Library

All are welcome, please contact the office at 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>

New part-time Music Director positions

B'nai Israel is seeking to fill two new part-time Music Director positions, effective July 1, 2025. Interested persons should send a cover letter and resume to Rabbi Eric Polokoff at B'nai Israel at rabbi@bnaisraelsouthbury.org.

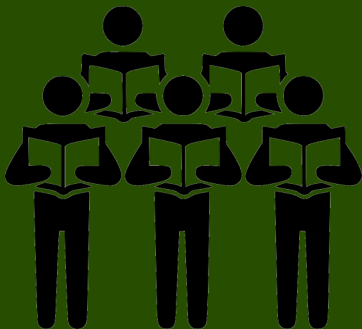
Music Director. This position requires approximately 16 hours/month. Salary Range is \$5,500 - \$6,500 annually, dependent on experience. Additionally, the new Music Director will be paid a small stipend between now and June 30, 2025 to support the transition with the previous Director of Sacred Music. The responsibilities for this position include:

- Communicate with Rabbi, Temple Administrator, Temple Coordinator, and singers for planning purposes.
- Work with Rabbi to prepare service lists for the 8 High Holiday services.
- Schedule and direct High Holiday rehearsals for soloists and accompanist.
- Rehearse and direct the choir at the 8 High Holiday services.
- Prepare music (copies, arrangements) for services when the choir sings (High Holidays, Shabbat, other).
- Rehearse and direct the choir to sing at 8-10 Friday night Shabbat services throughout the year.
- Prepare a cue sheet for each choir service.
- Other duties as requested by the Rabbi or Temple President.

Religious School Music Director. Salary Range will be dependent on experience. Additionally, the new Religious School Music Director will be paid a small stipend between now and June 30, 2025 to work with the previous Director of Sacred Music and the Director of Religious Education to support the transition. The responsibilities for this position include:

- Communicate with Rabbi, Director of Religious School, and Temple Administrator for planning purposes.
- Attend and lead music for 16 Sunday School meetings (2 hours per day).
- Consult with parents (approximately 15-30 minutes per consultation) about music selections for upcoming B'nai Mitzvah.
- Serve as Lead Musician at each B'nai Mitzvah (number changes yearly).
- If unavailable, schedule replacement singer for B'nai Mitzvah.
- Accompany religious school students at BIRS Shabbat services (2-3 services annually).

Other duties as requested by Rabbi, the Director of the Religious School, or Temple President.



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.



Shabbat



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



My younger brother Gideon and I celebrated Shabbat on December 6 with my mom and dad. My mom led the prayers with me and Gideon following along. We lit candles, had sparking grape juice, and passed around challah - each taking a piece from a large piece of challah my mom ripped off. We had one of our favorite meals; pan seared salmon, rice and sautéed spinach. We especially enjoyed celebrating Shabbat with the Shabbat bear.

-Eliza (6th grade BIRS student)

BIRS Families

Welcome Shabbat



Shabbat



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please call Education Director
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educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org



I had a fun time with my family, saying the prayers,
lighting the candles and saying the Kaddish over the
grape juice. - Leo Langer



This is wonderful. We all really enjoyed it. Thank you so
much for giving us the tools to celebrate a beautiful
Shabbat!

We all participated in the prayers. It was lovely! - Henry
Price

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

Mazal Tov to
Fred Rubenstein who just
welcomed his second
Great-Grandson!

**MAZEL
TOV**



B'nai Israel In the News

SYMMETRY OF *Light*



JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN



The Nativity scene on the Bethlehem Green as it appeared Wednesday. In a rarity, Hanukkah begins on Christmas Day this year. It will be just the fourth such occurrence in the last 100-plus years. It happened last in 2005 and in 1959 and 1921 before that. It will happen next in 2035 and then not again until 2054. See more Nativity photos at rep-am.com.

Hanukkah begins on the same day Christians celebrate the birth of Christ

BY TRACEY O'SHAUGHNESSY
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Two December holidays celebrate light and hope, and this year, they begin on the same day.

The first day of Hanukkah, a minor feast in the Jewish calendar, begins at sundown Christmas Day. Both holidays celebrate the triumph of light over darkness—in John's Gospel, Jesus refers to himself as the "light of the world," and Hanukkah celebrates the belief that a small amount of oil allowed candles to burn for eight days instead of one.

"I think it's one of the greatest blessings when holidays coincide," said Rabbi Joseph I. Eisenbach of Chabad Lubavitch of Northwest Connecticut. "I think we're all a channel to the same God, and anything that brings people together in celebration of light, love, peace in 2024 is the year that needs it more than ever."

Hanukkah itself means "dedication," and the feast celebrates the rededication



REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN ARCHIVES

Rabbi Eric Polokoff, left, leads the celebration of the lighting of the menorah at B'nai Israel of Southbury on the start of Hanukkah in December 2010.

of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after a Jewish victory against the Seleucid (or Greek-Syrian) Empire in the 2nd century BCE. The Seleucid Empire, a major center of Hellenistic (or Greek) culture, at one point stretched throughout the Levant as far as Turkey and Afghanistan.

"It's a great holiday," said Rabbi Eric Polokoff of B'nai Israel in Southbury. "The idea is liberty, freedom. This idea of a lighting this light and the hope of freedom is what Hanukkah is all about."

See **LIGHT**, Page 4B

B'nai Israel In the News

LIGHT: Hanukkah story hard to find in texts

Continued from 1B

In particular, Polokoff said, it celebrates religious liberty because its hero — Jewish priest Judas Maccabaeus — foiled an attempt by the Seleucid leader Antiochus IV Epiphanes to destroy Jewish practices. His effort at the Hellenization of Jews failed after Judas Maccabee and his brothers defeated Antiochus' forces.

Three years after the Maccabees rebelled against Antiochus IV, on Dec. 24, 164 BCE, Judas Maccabaeus rededicated the temple.

"There's something powerful about having a holiday at the darkest time of the year where you're focusing on the light of hope," Polokoff said. "If you look at the Maccabees, there's positivity, there's a sense of commitment and the people were able to be free. It's a story about freedom and hope...and of not just succumbing to conformity. These are things that we still have to think about and focus on and celebrate."

"The fact is that there was a kingdom that wasn't able to tolerate another race, another color and another face," Eisenbach said. "It was the few against the many, the weak against the strong. But (the Maccabees) were determined and they believed in God's goodness and kindness and not to...have any bigotry or any hate against someone who is not your faith."

Jews get the story from the Talmud, a collection of Jewish laws and lore, Polokoff said. It reports that when Judas Maccabaeus entered the temple, he found only enough oil to burn for one day, but it burned for eight. Menorahs typically have seven branches, equivalent to the seven days of Creation. Seven, Polokoff said, marks completion. Adding an eighth branch, as Jews do during the feast, is a reminder of the rededication of the temple.

Eisenbach said menorahs should be kept outdoors where they can be seen. "It's the most beautiful global message of taking the light and bringing it to the outdoors," he said. "Instead of just lighting a candle in your home with your family, the Hanukkah menorah teaches us that if you have the ability to light, don't keep that light for yourself. Get out there and illuminate the world."

Still, if you're looking to find the story of Hanukkah in the Bible, you might be confused and disappointed — or both.

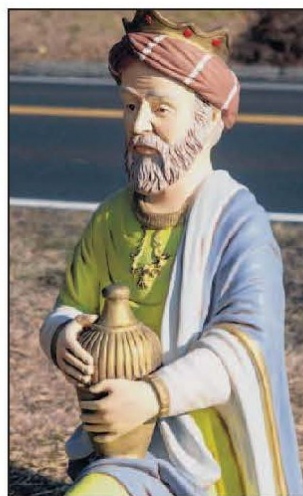
The story is told in the First and Second Books of Maccabees, but you are unlikely to find it in the Hebrew Bible — or in most Christian Bibles. That's because the Books of Maccabees are among what scholars call deuterocanonical books. They were not included in the Hebrew Scriptures and so most Protestants decided to exclude them from their Bibles.

Catholics and Eastern Orthodox agreed to include most of these later Hebrew writings.

The Second Temple, which Judas Maccabaeus rededicated, stood until the Romans destroyed it in 70 AD, about



ST. MARK'S CHURCH
shepherds at the manger in a Nativity scene at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.



JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN
One of the wise men at the Nativity scene on the Bethlehem Green on Wednesday.

the time the apostle Mark was writing his Gospel about the work of Jesus. Mark's Gospel begins with the preachings of John the Baptist.

IT'S UNCLEAR HOW SOON AFTER JESUS' crucifixion that Christians began celebrating Christmas as a feast day, largely because most of the early Christian focus was on Easter and the resurrection of Christ, said Dr. Andrew McGowan, dean and president of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale Divinity School.

Nevertheless, he said, over the centuries, up to the conversion of the Roman Emperor Constantine in 312, Christians and some Jews tried to calculate the date of Jesus' birth mathematically, he said.

Christmas is believed to have first been established in 336 AD, under the rule of the Constantine. Many scholars say that is because the Annunciation was believed to have occurred on

March 25, nine months earlier. Beginning in the 5th century, McGowan says, the growth of a devotion to Mary begins to take hold among the faithful.

"The celebration (of Christmas) seems to have emerged more on a kind of organic, grassroots level," he said, noting that the first literary evidence of the feast appears around the 4th century. By that time, early Christians were celebrating Christian martyrs like Sts. Steven and Bartholomew. "It may be that the actual celebration on the ground was going on before then, but it's sketchy," McGowan said. "Just as with saints, there are a lot of folk celebrations that perhaps left no extant records, when we know the people were celebrating it right in the middle of the 4th century."

Only two Gospels relate the Nativity story — those of Luke and Matthew. The latter focuses on the genealogy of Jesus and features the visit of the Magi, the Flight into Egypt and the Massacre of the Innocents under Herod. In Matthew, God speaks to Joseph in a dream. In Luke, God speaks to Mary through the angel Gabriel and features visits from the shepherds "living in the fields and keeping the night watch." When an angel appears to them, they hear: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

"People tend to mash them up," McGowan said, chuckling, noting that an easy way to distinguish the two is "it's angels and shepherds in Luke and it's the magi in Matthew."

"If you only had one (Nativity story), you would be losing out on a couple of key things. Matthew's version has the story of the so-called flight into Egypt, where Herod is looking for those little boys, and so Joseph takes the family and they become refugees, asylum seekers, for more than a year. The Matthew version depicts Jesus as someone who has to flee from the forces of evil and has to leave as a refugee, and there are going to be people who think about that this Christmas," he said.

"In Luke there's also an emphasis on a kind of vulnerability of Jesus, both because he's born in a situation where it doesn't look like there's much room, and he had to be put in a manger and the shepherds who come to pay attention to him in Luke are rather humble figures. They're not powerful, wealthy figures who would come bringing gifts. Each of them has these threads, which I think are theologically interesting as stories which offer people the opportunity to think about the meaning of the incarnation, not just as an abstract thing but actually about God's participation in human life in a way that emphasizes humility and solidarity with the poor. Each story has an element of that but they tell it in slightly different ways."

This year, Chabad Lubavitch of Northwest Connecticut launched a website designed to help people with the holiday. Find it at chabadNW.org/shine.

B'nai Israel In the News



**MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR. DAY**

January 8, 2025

VOICES



THE LIGHTING OF THE MENORAH — On December 30th Fr. Jaime Maldonado of Midd-South Catholic and The Rev. Brian Bodt of Woodbury United Methodist Church joined Rabbi Eric Polokoff and B'nai Israel for lighting the Menorah on the 6th night of Chanukah at the B'nai Israel campus at 444 Main St. North in Southbury.

B'nai Israel to Host Service Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King

SOUTHBURY — The public is invited to attend a Shabbat worship service at B'nai Israel at 7 p.m. Friday, January 17. The service will honor the legacy of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. The Reverend Kristopher Reese, pastor, Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury, will be the featured guest speaker.

Pastor Reese is a sought after and highly acclaimed national preacher known for capturing the attention of his listeners with unique sermon topics. Pastor Reese is also an accomplished writer.

Makhela, the B'nai Israel Choir, will perform music for Shabbat and celebrate the Civil Rights Movement under the direction of Linda Goodman.

Students in grades six and seven attending B'nai Israel Religious School will read inspirational quotes from Dr. King and others who made a remarkable difference in the world.

Sandra Gold, a member of the congregation, will be the Torah Reader. Rabbi Eric Polokoff will lead service. Following the service, the public is invited to join the congregation, Rabbi Eric, and Rev. Reese, for fellowship and refreshments.

B'nai Israel of Southbury, located at 444 Main St. North, is a warm, welcoming, and diverse congregation that is among the most prominent, yet intimate Jewish houses of worship in the region.

Services at B'nai Israel are open to all. Those wishing to attend the service on January 17 should contact the synagogue office at 203-267-3394 or email office@bnaiisrael-southbury.org.

Celebrating

Martin Luther King Day



I have a Dream
MLK

Rabbi Eric Polokoff and congregants from Congregation B'nai Israel Southbury welcomed Reverend Kristopher Reese and congregants from Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury, as we celebrated the birthday of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. together on Friday, January 17, 2025.

The 6th and 7th Grade students from B'nai Israel helped lead the service and we all enjoyed a moving sermon given by Reverend Reese.

We value the friendship and partnership between our two congregations and look forward to more celebrations together.



Pictured from right to left -

Rabbi Eric Polokoff, Linda Goodman, Reverend Kristopher Reese, Taylor Capitanio, Aaron McConnon, Ori Rose, Lucas Gaynes,

Emily Tangredi, Livia Mustachi

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

administrator
@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

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...

Harriet Ludlow
Joyce & Elliot Nowak

Aida Abramson
Joel Abramson

Martin Rubenstein
Fred Rubenstein

Jules Silfen
Dianne Selby-Nybakken

In honor of...

Rabbi Eric for performing Fred's service
Valerie & Elissa Barr

Thanks to...

Rabbi Eric for attending the dedication of The Murray Haber Theatre at Hudson Guild
Susan Haber

General Fund

In memory of...

Lilian Garber
Deborah Garber

Lilian Garber
Herb Garber

Francine Deborah Cohen
Norma & Charles Fleischman

R. A. Augenbraun
David Augenbraun

Thanks to...

Arthur & Ruby Corby O'Neill

Rabbi and Dr. Ellen Polokoff

Lauren A Kellnhauser

Linda Goodman
Music Fund

In memory of...

Maurice Passy
Sandy Gold

Ida Median
Sandy Gold

Caring Fund

In memory of...

Herriet Marcus
Daniel Marcus

Ilya Gelfand
Anna Gelfand

Donald Liebeskind
Marjorie Ross

Aranka Zelinger
Susan & Tom Wise & Family

Flower Fund

In memory of...

Fanny Sperling
Daniel Marcus

IAC Fund

In memory of...

Bert Boyson
Ruth Holt

BIRS

Thanks to...

Anna Gelfand



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"!

Your name here

Please consider purchasing a leaf for our new tree.

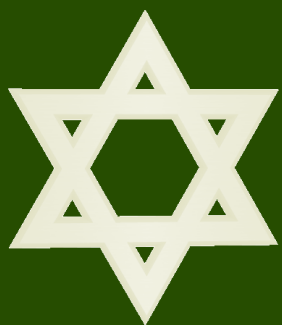
Contact Sharon Goldman at sharon.goldman@hotmail.com for more information.

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
sbitterman5@yahoo.com
evanco1128@hotmail.com
president@bnaiisraelouthbury.org



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



Yahrzeits

May their memories be for blessing

2/7

Louis Cohen
Stanley Cohen
Rodolfo Ellenbogen
Elias Freedman
Helen Schrier Getnick
Charles Green
Otto Gutman
Selma D. Halperin
Mildred Herrmann
Mary Jarmak
Dr. Arnold Polokoff
Samuel Rosenberg
Fagi Sapphire
Carol Semack
Claire Tafler

2/14

Gail Fingerhut
Samuel F. Freedman
Helen Gleiberman
Ginny Greenberg
Samuel Kadish
Phyllis Klausner
Madeline Korkin
Tillie H. Lax
Pauline S. Leopold
Ella Light
Stuart Ludlow
Israel Menaker
Harold Metz
Harry Molaver
Rose Molaver
Albert Nathanson
Harold Holland Noble
Herman Saperstein
Morris J. Sherman
Frederick Stein

2/21

Lillian Bisnov
Molly Leah Blank
Leila Farer
William Goldman
Gloria Golfin
Eric J. Hall
Martha P. Leonard
Kenneth Mahler
Lewis W. Millen
Irving Pollock
Cathryn A. Raphael
Carol Siegmeister
Alvin Tandler
Hannah Wise
Howard Wohlgemuth
Eleanor Zimmerman



2/28

Sidney J Albert
Betty Buccino
Mae Carver
Joseph J. Davis
Henry Engelman
Jonathan B. Fleisher
Dr. Gordon A. Genoe
Miriam Gorman
Marty Green
Morris Halberstam
Morris Halberstam
Nellie B. Klein
Morris Kosersky
Sylvia Millen
Hasha Mintz
Herman Pace
Benjamin Rose
Eugene Schiff
George L. Smith
Elizabeth Ival Stratford
Henry A. Weisman
Nancy Wright

FEBRUARY

Happy Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Herrmann

02/13

Happy
Anniversary

Happy Birthday

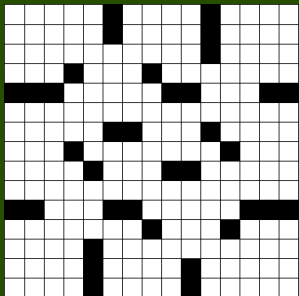
Suzanne Meyers	02/01	Nelson Zackin	02/13
Samuel Qualls	02/02	Pauline Zimmerman	02/13
Pam Steiglitz	02/03	Sidney Frenkel	02/14
Sherry Seward	02/04	Mikael Haeggstroem	02/16
Hannah		Adam Jacob Blauvelt	02/16
Basch-Gould	02/04	Arthur Oshins	02/17
Janet Blauvelt	02/06	Judy Mirrer	02/18
Scott Davidow	02/06	Leo Langer	02/19
Ronald Scheinberg	02/06	Jason Voegeli	02/20
Kyle Berkowitz	02/06	Carol Weil	02/21
Eury Hernandez		Jacob Max Engelman	02/21
Pessin	02/06	Caren Menard	02/26
Alan Siegel	02/10	Drew Berkowitz	02/27
Hillary Miller	02/12	Patricia Magida	02/28
Natalie Bram	02/13		
Sandra Slater	02/13		

“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 1st, 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 to maintain, add, or remove a name.

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 the January parshas!



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

1. tubshevat 2. trees 3. planting 4. israel 5. zechariah 6. rain 7. water
8. Deuteronomy 9. wheat 10. barley 11. pomegranate 12. dates 13. grape 14. fig
15. olive 16. moses

<https://wordsearchlabs.com/view/749400>

Interested in studying to become an Adult B' Mitzvah?

We are thinking of starting an adult B' Mitzvah Class!

Contact Rabbi Polokoff for more information



b'nai israel

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@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org for more information

Dates of upcoming Mussar Classes:

February 9
March 9
April 6
May 18

Order Your Hamentashen



- Don't wait until it's too late-pre-order your **homemade** hamentashen today!
- Orders must be in full dozens, but you can mix flavors of each dozen.
- Cost is \$18.00 per dozen. Please make checks payable to B'nai Israel or Venmo to @Jacqui-Schulefand.
- Order forms with payment are due by **Monday March 3**, in the BIRS office or mail to: B'nai Israel Religious School, PO Box 350, Southbury, CT 06488.
- **Pick up your boxed order at the Purim Carnival between 10am and Noon Sunday March 16.**

Heather's Hamentashen order form

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____ - _____

EMAIL: _____

TOTAL # OF DOZENS _____ X \$18.00= \$ _____

CIRCLE ONE: CASH CHECK VENMO

Please check your order, make payment (or include check), respond before March 3rd.
Thank you for supporting BIRS!

Proceeds to Benefit BIRS



For more information:
Heather-203.264.8805

FLAVORS	QUANTITY
ALMOND	_____
APPLE	_____
APRICOT	_____
BLUEBERRY	_____
CHERRY	_____
CHOCOLATE	_____
POPPY SEED	_____
PRUNE	_____
RASPBERRY	_____
STRAWBERRY	_____



Celebrate the New Year of Trees by purchasing a leaf for the B'nai Israel Tree of Life!

You can purchase a leaf during
the month of Shevat (February)
for the discounted rate of
\$136. (Leaves normally sell
for \$180.)

This is a thoughtful way to
celebrate a simcha or remember
someone special.

Contact Sharon Goldman or the
BI Office for more information.

Friday February 14th at 6pm

Tu B'Shevat

Pot Luck Supper and Seder

Featuring the seven species, symbolic for Tu B'Shevat:
wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates

We encourage you to bring a main dish, side dish, veggie,
salad, or dessert featuring one of the seven species in your
ingredients.

Be creative – The ideas are endless!

Figs, dates, raisins, carob, and almonds are especially popular for
the holiday.

Here are some suggestions: Pasta (wheat), Noodle Kugel (wheat,
dried fruit), Mushroom Barley Pilaf (barley), Olive Tapenade with
crackers, tossed salad with pomegranate seeds & pomegranate
dressing, stuffed dates, Fig & Goat Cheese Flatbread Pizza,
Pomegranate Juice, Carob Chip Cookies, Persian Jeweled Rice
(with orange peel, raisins, apricots), date nut bread, banana
bread, fruit salad.



Scan QR Code to Sign Up
or Contact the Office



b'nai israel



SYNAGOGUE



DO YOU SHOP AT LABONNE'S?

BIRS runs an ongoing fundraiser where LaBonne's donates a percentage of all sales to us.

Please help us raise money by turning in your receipts to the office.

Thank you for your support!



Ice Cream for Breakfast with Rabbi Eric



We had so much fun last year, we decided to do it again!! Any student who has attended 5 or more Shabbat services, at B'nai or elsewhere, is qualified to join us. We just need an adult to verify attendance. Holidays and class Shabbatot count!!

Looking forward to sharing ice cream for breakfast with all who will attend

March 30 during BIRS hours

If you have any questions please contact Jacqui at educator@bnaisraelsofthbury.org



Keeping Our Kids Safer!

Learning what we
don't know and are
scared to hear.

Join us for an open and honest conversations as we look at the harsh realities and truth of how sexual assault and sex trafficking does happen even in communities we deem as safe.

Louisa Printz, Community Prevention Education Coordinator at Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury presents a program to help us understand the signs, what to look for, dispel the myth and stereotypes and share resources.

Sunday, February 2, 2025 @ 10:00 AM
B'nai Israel - 444 Main Street North, Southbury

Appropriate for parents, young adults, and those in 6th grade and above.
This is NOT a drop off program



Sponsored in partnership by B'nai Israel Sisterhood, Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury and RMS PTO
bnaisisters@gmail.com | rmspto@region15.org



Celebrate Women's History Month

Live from Israel:
Former Israeli Knesset Member and Author
Aliza Lavie
discussing 'Iconic Jewish Women' and their impact



A limited number of books will be available for purchase at the event

BIRS students in attendance grades 5, 6, 7 and confirmation will receive a signed book as a gift from sisterhood

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 1:00 PM
B'nai Israel 444 Main Street North, Southbury

A pizza luncheon will be offered to the BIRS students (and parents),
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM attending at a cost of \$10.00 per person.
RSVP - educator@bnaiisraelssouthbury.org



For more information email bnaisisters@gmail.com



Plant a tree in Israel

Grow Hope Save Nature



PLANTING TREES IN ISRAEL THROUGH JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (JNF) AND SISTERHOOD IS AN APPROPRIATE AND TIME HONORED TRADITION TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR CELEBRATE A SIMCHA. PLEASE CONTACT BNAISISTERS@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION



Jewish Federation
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT



Jewish Federation
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT
Save the Dates!

love & knishes
luncheons



Solid Gold Times Two
Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 12PM

Bob and Josie are a husband and wife duo from Sandy Hook. Bob, a published singer-songwriter plays guitar, while Josie sings and plays the flute. They have an electronic drum & bass synthesizer that make the duo sound like a four piece band. They play popular songs from the 1940's to the 1980's. Please RSVP by Thursday, November 15, 2024. Cover: \$10



Pierce Campbell
Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 12PM

Pierce Campbell served as the Connecticut State Troubadour for several years and has dedicated over 35 years to a full-time music career. His extensive repertoire features a mix of Rock & Roll, Celtic Jazz, and original folk songs. Please RSVP by Thursday, December 6, 2024. Cover: \$10



The 'Schwartzes'
Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 12PM

Carolyn Schwartz Black is a local singer-songwriter focused on bringing joy through music. With over 30 years of experience, she excels in blues, jazz, folk, classic rock, funk, R&B, and soul. Known as "SoulMama," a nickname given by Clyde Stubblefield. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 2, 2025. Cover: \$10



Bob & Claudia Hughes
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 12PM

Bob and Claudia Hughes are vocalists and have been singing together in the area since 2009. Their repertoire features duets and solos from the Great American Songbook, Broadway, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme hits, and numerous other well known songs imaginatively arranged. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 30, 2024. Cover: \$10

Events will be held at the Jewish Federation of Western CT Walzer Family
Jewish Community Campus 444 Main St N, Southbury, CT 06488