

# Shofar

b'nai israel



Tammuz/Av 5785

July 2025



# Happy Summer



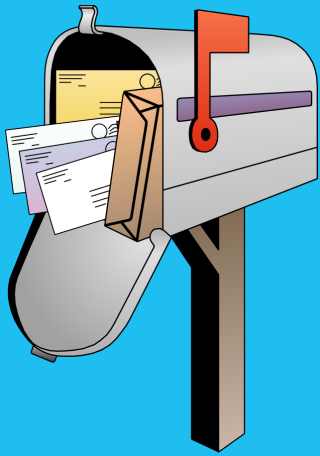
# Fourth of July Shabbat

7pm

**Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Erev Shabbat with your  
friends at B'nai Israel!**

**Join us outside in the  
pergola for a relaxed 7pm  
worship service**

**Lisa Segal and Abby Peklo are sponsoring a  
Sparklers and Ice Cream Oneg!  
All are welcome. Please join us.**

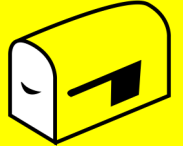


# **Please Note!**

## **We have changed our mailing address!**

Please use the building address

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



We no longer have our PO Box

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## **Scam Alert**

The past month included phishing attempts directed at our membership and extended community.

Remember no official communication from the Rabbi or staff will ever come from anything other than our official domain, ending @bnaiisraelsouthbury.org.

Moreover, Rabbi Eric and our staff will NEVER make contact to solicit funds via gift cards.

# New System:

# Membership Management



Dear Members -

We are pleased to share that this summer, we will introduce a new cloud-based synagogue management software system called ShulCloud. Many synagogues across the country use ShulCloud for membership management, online payments, and event scheduling. Members will be able to access ShulCloud through a web browser or mobile app to pay dues, check dues balances, reserve space for an event, make donations, change personal information (such as addresses), and add yahrzeits.

Dues statements will be sent electronically during the first week in July. (US Mail for those who request this.) By mid-July, we will share instructions to set up your ShulCloud membership account to pay dues. However, we are happy to continue accepting payments through the office or US Mail for those who prefer this more familiar method.

We will roll out ShulCloud slowly and ask for your patience as we adjust. We are confident that once you start using it, you will enjoy this migration to 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology!

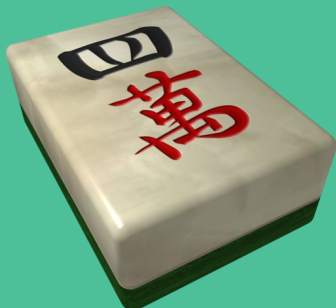
*Abby*

Abby Peklo  
Temple Administrator

*Lindsey*

Lindsey Noble  
Temple Coordinator





# Installation Shabbat

Friday July 11th

7pm

During Erev Shabbat Worship Service

Join us as we welcome  
our incoming  
B'nai Israel Board Members



## MAH JONG MADNESS PLAYERS

**SPONSORED BY SISTERHOOD**

JOIN US FOR MAH JONG  
EVERY WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

BYOL - BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

B'NAI ISRAEL SOCIAL HALL

RSVP: [Bnaisisters@gmail.com](mailto:Bnaisisters@gmail.com)

Lessons will be given by  
Peggy Klein for those who  
want to learn



#### Leadership

##### Rabbi

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

##### School Director

Jacqui Schulefand  
educator@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

##### Religious School Music Director

Janessa Jameson  
birsmu-  
sic@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

##### Temple Administrator

Abby Peklo  
administra-  
tor@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

##### Temple Coordinator

Lindsey Noble  
office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

##### Director of Sacred Music Emerita

Linda Goodman  
music@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

##### Choir Director

Leona Schwartz  
choirdirec-  
tor@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org

##### Officers

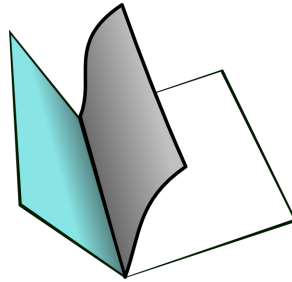
Sheri Kipperman, President  
David Augenbraun, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Lurie Schwartz, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Lisa Segal, Secretary  
Greg Estra, Treasurer  
Patti Berkowitz, Past President

##### Trustees

Kathryn Albee (2026)  
Dana Packer (2026)  
Steven Reps (2026)  
Sylvia Pena (2027)  
Brittany Weiss (2027)  
Margie Hertz (2027)  
Haskell Schiff (2028)  
Ben Kugielsky (2028)  
Melissa Fleischer (2028)

## 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>



# Stream our Shabbat Services Online



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

Zoom, **Vimeo** and **You**T**ube**.

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 **You**T**ube** are one-way streaming services. **You**T**ube** is open to the public, while **Vimeo** is a higher quality broadcast than **You**T**ube**.

## **Vimeo Streaming**

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

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

## **You**T**ube streaming**

<https://www.youtube.com/@bnaiisraelSouthbury9620/streams>



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

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A Monthly Column by Congregant Melissa Fleischer

My goal is simple, helping us and the entire congregation have stronger connections to B'nai Israel, our spiritual selves and our Jewish community. We are blessed and so lucky to have B'nai Israel as our guiding light, our family, our home!!! Since the start of my Shofar column almost a year ago, I have focused on having stronger connections to our Temple in a multitude of ways, through adult education and the many Adult Education classes B'nai Israel offers such as, Torah Study, Rabbi's Discussion Group, Intro to Judaism and Mussar, to name just a few. I have also discussed the many other opportunities for increasing your Jewish connections at B'nai Israel. They include attending a monthly B'nai Israel Knitting Circle led by Linda Goodman and Sandy Gold, volunteering in the B'nai Israel Mitzvah Garden and having the opportunity to work together with fellow Zionists to learn more about and educate others about Israel by joining the Israel Advocacy Committee (IAC). Something exciting and fun for me personally has been having the opportunity to attend Sisterhood's weekly Mahjong group, (Wednesdays at 11am at the Temple if you want to join us, taught by Peggy Klein) where I have met wonderful new friends and learned an amazing and challenging game with deep Jewish roots that I am sure I will enjoy playing for years to come.

But today my focus is on another way to deepen our connections to Judaism and B'nai Israel, and that is through giving to the Temple. A topic usually left to be discussed only on one sacred night of the year, the Kol Nidre appeal, but I am daring to discuss it today, months before we are blessed with B'nai Israel's President's Kol Nidre appeal. Why is this topic important to me and why am I sharing it with you? Because our Jewish family and beautiful Temple only exists and continues to be a resource to all of us, due to the giving that we provide to it.

Yet, I am not one to give blindly and I feel that prior to the Yom Kippur Kol Nidre appeal, we should all be educated and enlightened on all the many options that we have to "give" to B'nai Israel. Below I have set forth some of the many B'nai Israel funds that you can direct your giving to. It may be important for you to focus on giving to and ensuring the continuation of having the beautiful music that we are blessed with each and every Shabbat and during the high holiday services.



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

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Alternatively, you may want to focus your giving on ensuring that our Mitzvah Garden continues to flourish with new vegetables to be donated to charities to feed the hungry or you may be passionate about Israel and want to ensure that our Israel Advocacy Committee is better able to donate funds to specific Israel-based critical needs or hire speakers who are experts in Israeli affairs. Perhaps you want to give to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to assist him in being able to donate to a local scholarship fund or pay for individual expenditures, amongst other uses, or perhaps you hold near and dear to your heart the technology fund that allows us to participate in services, including high holiday services, virtually. Clearly, you do not just have to donate to the general fund but as you can see from the list below, you have a host of opportunities to give and donate to B'nai Israel while ensuring that your "giving" helps to fund and ensure the survival of those causes and areas that you cherish the most.

## **Some of the many B'nai Israel Funds you may Choose to Dontate to:**

- Linda Goodman Music Fund - funds help cover the costs associated with Shabbat and holiday worship services
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund - funds allow Rabbi the ability to pay for individual expenditures not accounted for in the Annual Operating Budget. For example, Rabbi may assist in supporting synagogue programs or initiatives, donate to a local church gala or to a local scholarship fund or for a number of other needs.
- Mitzvah Garden Fund - funds allow the Mitzvah Garden crew to purchase seeds, plants, and gardening supplies needed to grow produce and maintain the garden. Proceeds go to local foodbanks.
- Social Action Fund - funds allow for Social Action activities and events, such as Mitzvah Day.
- Adult Ed Speakers Fund - funds enable B'nai Israel to hire guest speakers for purposes of educating the congregation for special occasions
- Israel Advocacy Fund - funds allow the IAC Committee to donate to specific Israel-based critical needs or hire speakers who are experts in Israeli affairs
- Technology Fund- funds are used to help purchase equipment and licenses needed to provide virtual services, programs, and simchas (such as B'nai Mitzvahs) to congregants and guests

Remember, that our home, our family, our beloved Temple, exists only as a result of what we can "give" to it and remember that giving is a mitzvah commanded by the Torah. I pray that we all give what we can for the high holidays and throughout the year and I hope that this information has helped enlighten you on all the many opportunities you have to give to the B'nai Israel fund that you are most passionate about!!!



# BIRS: End of Year Wrap Up

The students and teachers of BIRS had a busy and fun year filled with learning and growth. Our enrollment grew by 75% this year which was very exciting and a bit challenging. However, everyone rose to the occasion, welcoming our new students and making sure each one was given individual attention to assure a successful year, both academically and socially.

Some of the highlights this year were-

Open House

Class Shabbatot

Decorating the Sukkah

Simchat Torah and Consecration

Chanukkah Celebration

MLK Commemoration

Holocaust Remembrance Day with Renee Pessin (grandmother to students Amanda, Giselle and Eury)

Tu B'shvat Seder

Purim Celebration and hamantashen fundraiser

Ice Cream for Breakfast with Rabbi Eric

Passover Matzoh Ball Mania

Yom Hashoah Program with Tami Reps Freeman

Mitzvah Day

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Step Up Shabbat

Campfire and Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

Maple Syrup Fundraiser

All of this while learning Torah, holidays, Hebrew reading, prayers, Jewish history, and Judaism through art with our wonderful faculty, Morah Sheila May, Morah Dana Packer, and Morah Shari Lynn Kochman.

Each student from 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade was given the opportunity to learn Hebrew reading 1:1 on Tuesday Zoom Class. We can already see what a difference this has made in reading competency and fluency.

We are already getting ready and looking forward to our next Open House/First Day of School on Sunday, September 7, 2025. We wish everyone a wonderful and peaceful summer. See you next year!

Respectfully,  
Jacqui Schulefand



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



# 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

Thank you, B'Nai Israel Sisterhood,  
The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury deeply appreciates the time + energy given to run the 'Love Your Body & Teach Your Mind to Respect It' event. Our 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade members learned how to better manage their hygiene + health, about the issues of period poverty, & the importance of giving to those in need. Our members + their families value the education + the items they all received. Please accept this message as a symbol of our gratitude.  
~ The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury

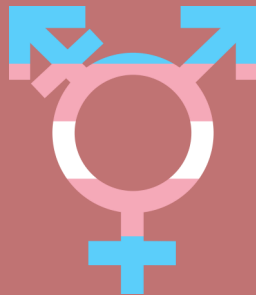
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF GREATER WATERBURY**



# B'nai Celebrates Pride



B'nai Israel was delighted to host our friend Kevin Jennings, President of Lambda Legal, for Pride Shabbat 5785

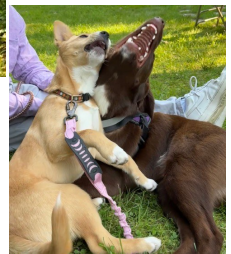
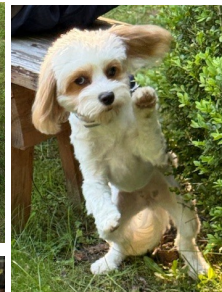
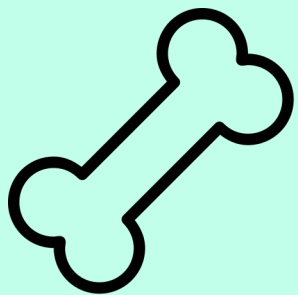
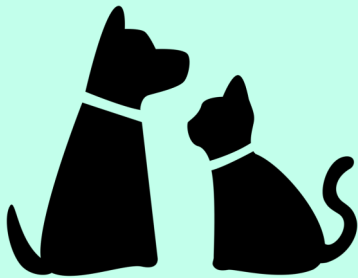






# Pet Shabbat

Congregants and their furry friends had a great evening at Pet Shabbat



## 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

*Charles & Norma Fleischman*

In memory of...

**Joseph Garber**  
*Herb Garber*

**Eli Mintz**  
*Leona & Allen Schwartz*

**Jacob Kovner**  
*Ron & Ival Kovner*

**Audrey Namowitz**  
*Joel Abramson*

In honor of...

**The birth of Elliot Neal Zimmerman**  
*Jan & Eric Albert*

## General Fund

In memory of...

**Lillian Cieply**  
*Heather & Burt Cieply*

**Mayta Saper**  
*Eleanor Saperstein*

**Aaron Frenkel**  
*Sidney Frenkel*

**Joan Hertz**  
*Jonathan Hertz*

**Harold Olin**  
*Sandra Gold*

In honor of...

**Rabbi's Participation in Rafael's Brit Milah**  
*Danielle Levine*

## Linda Goodman Music Fund

In memory of...

**Zuzana Sermer**  
*Michael & Margi Sermer*

In honor of...

**Linda Goodman's Retirement**  
*Barbara Phillips*

## Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of...

**Milton Negrin**  
*Andrea Negrin-Vartanian*

## Tribute Cards

**To: Susan and Lewis Linkin -**  
**In memory of Lew's brother,**  
**Stephen Linkin**

*Celia and Lionel Schwartz*

**To: Pauline Zimmerman —**  
**Mazel Tov on becoming a**  
**grandmother**

*Rudy Zeidler and Nancy Brown*

**To: Alexis Zimmerman — Mazel**  
**Tov on becoming an aunt**

*Rudy Zeidler and Nancy Brown*

**To: Max and Jessica**  
**Zimmerman — Mazel Tov on**  
**the birth of their son, Elliot**  
**Neal Zimmerman**

*Rudy Zeidler and Nancy Brown*

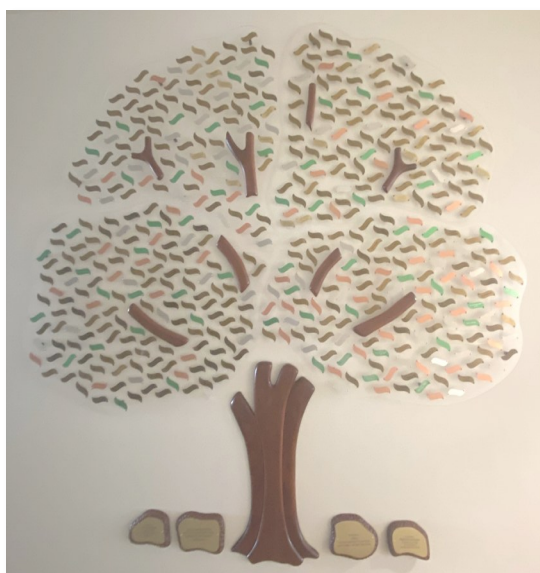




## To our B'nai Israel Family -

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	<a href="mailto:president@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org">president@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org</a>
Sherrie Bitterman	<a href="mailto:sbitterman5@yahoo.com">sbitterman5@yahoo.com</a>
Evan Cooper	<a href="mailto:evanco1128@hotmail.com">evanco1128@hotmail.com</a>
Patti Berkowitz	<a href="mailto:pattiberk94@yahoo.com">pattiberk94@yahoo.com</a>



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.



### Shabbat Candle lighting times for July

7/4	8:10
7/11	8:07
7/18	8:03
7/25	7:57



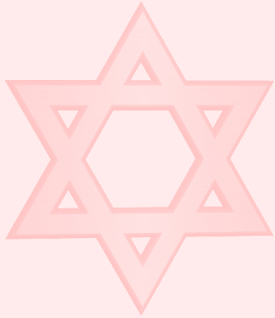
ORDERING  
KIPPOT & TALLIT  
FOR YOUR  
CHILD'S SERVICE

### B'NAI ISRAEL JUDAICA SHOP

Stop in and check out the beautiful Judaica on offer!

## Yahrzeits

May their memories be for blessing



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



7/4

**Beatrice "Bea" Backon**

Gertrude Barr

Doris Drantch

George Getnick

**William B. Greenburg**

**Jeanette Matzkin**

Sallie Nadel

**Bertha Pollak**

**Fannie Schiff**

Morris Sukman

**William P. Wertheimer**

**Irving Wohlgemuth**

7/11

**Mortimer Atlas**

**Sophie Bamberger**

Bradley Eliot Boyson

**Morton H. Engelman**

**Gary Gelb**

**Sidney Hillman**

**Henry Johnson**

Regina Kipperman

**Bernice Medin**

**Harriet Sanditz Meyers**

**Seena Monagan**

Esther Shapiro

**William Shore**

**Lora Erlanger Silver**

**Ida Smith**

**James Wolf**



7/18

Mickey Behrend

**Samuel Berman**

Clinton Chichester

Morton Cieply

**Barbara Farber**

**Morris A. Green**

**Bella Liebeskind**

**Louis Liebeskind**

**Benson Meth**

**Sadie Oberman**

**Clarence Perretz Jr.**

Clarence Perretz Sr.

**Frank Summit**

**Robert Tendler**

7/25

Nat Balmuth

Graham Breslawsky

Shirley Buzin

Eva Frankel

Esther Gershenow

**Celia Gordon**

**Sol A. Infeld**

**Lore Jarmul**

Jacob Niv

**Samuel Rabinowitz**

Rabbi Sholom Silver

Helen Slutsky

**Milton Steinhardt**

**Morris Wise**



# JULY

## Happy Anniversary

Matthew & Elizabeth McConnon	7/01	Robert & Suzanne Boydstun	7/21
Timothy & Amy Qualls	7/02	Jonathan & Amy Bernon	7/23
Matthew & Meris Rader	7/06	Mark & Patti Berkowitz	7/31
Doug & Tikva Rose	7/12		

Happy  
Anniversary

## Happy Birthday 🎂

Norma Fleischman	7/01	Allison Berman Schwartz	7/18
Carter Miller	7/02	Becky Samberg	7/18
Thomas Wise	7/04	Orien Rose	7/19
Daniel Goodman	7/06	Jeffrey Bitterman	7/20
Alex Cieply	7/07	Roslyn Ross	7/22
Gayle Feinstein	7/09	Serenity Blauvett	7/22
Haskel Schiff	7/12	Beverly Lavick	7/23
Joel Becker	7/13	Selah Schmidt	7/24
Adam Price	7/13	Ben Kugielsky	7/28
Joshua Smotroff	7/13	Savannah Davidow	7/28
Rachel Barclay	7/14	Kenny Batista	7/29
Michael Sermer	7/14	Annaleigh Davidow	7/29
Timothy Qualls	7/16	Sheri Kipperman	7/30
Paul Samberg	7/16	Sidney Baron	7/31
Herb Garber	7/17	David Shawn Blauvett	7/31
Bror Jameson	7/17		

“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@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org) to maintain, add, or remove a name.

# Puzzle Page

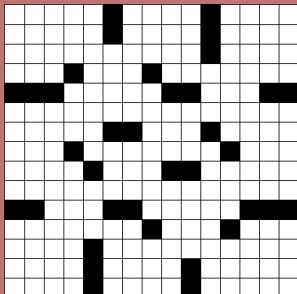


Complete a themed wordsearch or crossword online through the link below or print out this page and complete it on paper!  
This month's theme is summer!



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

1. Summer
2. Beach
3. Swimming
4. Umbrella
5. Hot
6. Sand
7. Vacation
8. Outdoors
9. Family
10. Getaway
11. Fun
12. Bonfire



# 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  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@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org](mailto:office@bnaiisraelsouthbury.org) for more information

**\*Classes are on hiatus for the summer\***

## 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!



## 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

