

# TEMPLE TOPICS



CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5774

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

Friday, November 1 8:00 PM

Saturday, November 2 10:00 AM

Friday, November 8 7:00 PM Family Service

Please note the early start time. Birthdays in November will be celebrated.

Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Lowenfels family

Saturday, November 9 10:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Lowenfels

7:00 PM Kristallnacht Program

Friday, November 15 8:00 PM

Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Baker family

Saturday, November 16 10:00 AM B'nai Mitzvah of Max and Noah Baker

Friday, November 22 8:00 PM

Chocolate Oneg!

Aufruf for Rabbinic Intern Adena Kemper and Sean Blum

Oneg Shabbat hosts: the Klein, Seidman/Silverstein, Simon, and Wright families

Saturday, November 23 9:30 AM

Tot Shabbat

10:00 AM Adult B'nai Mitzvah:

Deborah Klein, Julie Seidman, Abbe Simon, and Doug Wright

Tuesday, November 26 6:00 PM

Community Menorah Lighting

Friday, November 29 6:15 PM

Early Service - Shabbat Chanukah - Bring Your Menorahs!

5:45 PM

Preneg BEFORE services

Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Garcia family

Saturday, November 30 10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Garcia

Friday, December 6 8:00 PM

"One Book, One Community" Event

Oneg Shabbat Hosts: the Burr and Cooper families

Saturday, December 7 10:00 AM

B'nai Mitzvah of Joshua Burr and Joshua Cooper

Friday, December 13 7:00 PM

Family Service

Please note the early start time. Birthdays in December will be celebrated.

Saturday, December 14 10:00 AM

Friday, December 20 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 21 10:00 AM

Friday, December 27 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 28 10:00 AM



UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

האיחוד היהדות רפורמית

SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA



## President's Message

The High Holidays have come to a close, and I am feeling inspired and grateful to be a part of this extraordinary community. It was wonderful to see our sanctuary

filled with so many people and such palpable energy, to hear moving sermons, meaningful speeches and beautiful song. I enjoyed getting to meet many new folks, and look forward to getting to know you better over the course of the year as we share many more holidays and events.

I appreciated my newly appointed vantage point of experiencing services from the *bimah*, as it provided a fresh perspective from which to fully take in all that goes on. While I could describe many outstanding points, one of my favorite moments is when Rabbi Mosbacher calls up the interfaith spouses to acknowledge and thank them for being an integral part of our BHSS community. I have come to anticipate this tradition, but it nonetheless brings tears to my eyes.

I have shared pieces of my Jewish journey before, so you may recall that growing up, it was always my intention to marry within the Jewish faith. Life apparently had other plans. It was also Matt's and my initial idea to raise our children without organized religion, as our history with such was lackluster. We wanted our children to be "spiritual" but frankly did not spend much time thinking about what that actually means, let alone how to go about achieving it. When our eldest son came to us one day and asked why we didn't attend church or synagogue, we thought we had a perfectly good answer, one that had seemed to work for other families we knew. We told Aidan that he was *both*, so he could do *either*. But a few days later he returned and informed us that in his estimation, being "both" felt a lot like being "neither." And thus the temple search began... hoping to discover a place where our kids, with their interfaith, spiritually-stunted parents schlepping behind them, might fit in. We weren't optimistic.

Nine years later, I am president. And I am fairly certain Matt spends more time in *shul* than do many of his Jewish fraternity brothers. Somewhere along the way our family evolved from Jew-"ish" to what I think would be considered "authentically" Jewish. And each year when Rabbi invites the interfaith families to the *bimah*, my tears reflect how I am still taken aback by how far our meager expectations were exceeded.

In a timely coincidence, while I was working on this piece, a study conducted by the PEW Research Center was released.

The results, along with myriad responses, were circulating on social network sites and among synagogue circles. The study focused on demographics of American Jewry and revealed that following trends: Today's American Jews are less likely to affiliate with a synagogue, more likely to intermarry, less likely to raise Jewish children, and less likely to identify themselves as "religious." There were many commentators who interpreted the findings as rather ominous, foretelling the eventual end of the Jewish people. Others, including our Rabbi Mosbacher, while acknowledging that the data raised issues worthy of reflection, were far more optimistic and saw the issues arising as challenges as opposed to harbingers of impending doom.

I, for one, was perhaps most agitated by a few responses I read which implied that the only way to address the problem was to cease with all outreach initiatives, and become more insular, presumably to prevent the further dilution of Judaism.

When I read comments like this, I am brought back to that moment on the *bimah* at BHSS with our non-Jewish partners and am reminded that they are exactly that -- our partners. Some of our spouses continue to maintain beliefs and practices from a different faith; others consider themselves non-religious; and others fit into the PEW classification of non-Jews with a "Jewish affinity." At least one, when asked his religion, responds, "raising Jewish children." Rather than adopting a peripheral role, many of these individuals are deeply connected in one way or another to our community. Similar to their Jewish counterparts, I'll bet not all consider themselves religious. Some come for prayer, some for song, and some for learning. Some come to celebrate the holidays. Some tend to gardens, others are involved in social action, still others community organizing. Some come to be with friends, and some maybe come mainly for the oneg. Sure, these interests might all be fulfilled elsewhere, but somewhere along the way these folks decided to engage in them through the BHSS lens, a decidedly Jewish lens. And our clergy, staff and community not only tolerates their presence, but wholeheartedly embraces them.

At least here at BHSS, it does not appear that having an interfaith marriage or failing to identify one's self as "religious" is incompatible with being authentically Jewish. And I can't help but assume that if welcoming communities such as BHSS did not exist, there might be a lot more cause for concern.

—Jennifer Cole, President

## From the Rabbi's Study

*"If not now, when?"*



Much has been made in recent weeks of the Pew Research Center's Study on Jewish Religion and Public Life. Vats of digital ink have already been spilled on the subject; dozens of congregants have asked me about the study and my thoughts, so I felt the need to weigh in. I'll start, though, with the my favorite statistic that I saw on Facebook in the aftermath of the study's release:

85% of the Jewish community reads too many surveys.

There's truth to that. We're always a bit, shall we say, paranoid -- always looking over our shoulders or around the next bend, always foreseeing the doom, the end of the Jewish people.

The statistics in the thorough study were, in fact, sobering; on the plus side for us, over half of American Jews self-identify as Reform or Conservative. On the other hand, 35% of Jews who were raised Reform say they have left Jewish observance. This statistic begs the question, "What do Jews mean when they say they've left Jewish observance?" since 70% of survey participants said they went to a *seder*, and 53% fasted on Yom Kippur.

One in five Jews overall describe themselves as having no religion, which is very much in keeping with Americans as a whole, 20% of whom also describe themselves that way. In this way, we are doing no worse (and no better!) than American faiths in general.

The intermarriage rate has reached 58%, with higher numbers in younger demographics.

Astonishingly, 34% said a person is still Jewish even if they decide to believe in Jesus as the Messiah.

So what are we to make of these statistics?

We could argue with them, making the case that a sample of 3,500 Jews is insufficient or skewed in some way; we could run screaming "the sky is falling, the sky is falling," as some bloggers and essayists have done in the past few weeks. We could say, "This doesn't apply to us, because our membership numbers are strong at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom."

I take a "both/and" approach in reflecting on this study. On one hand, we ARE doing well at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom; our membership numbers are strong, and involvement and participation are higher than many synagogues in the area and around the country. On the other hand, these Pew poll numbers might lead us to think that we're in an inexorable downward spiral. But on the 'other' other hand, we as Jews have faced what seemed insurmountable challenges throughout our history. The rise of the prophetic tradition and the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem, the expulsion from Spain, the Holocaust—each of these moments could have signified the end of our people. What emerged though, to the contrary, were periods of incredible creativity and dynamism that not only helped Judaism survive, but thrive.

But back to the first hand, the down-side of these numbers is hard to ignore, even in a community that is dynamic and progressive. On the other hand (I'm starting to feel like Tevye), I don't want us to be complacent or rest on our laurels; we need to continue to be on the learning edge of Jewish life and organizational development; we need to be willing to ask ourselves hard questions about best practices; we need to find new ways to connect our members to each other even more intentionally; we need to engage in deep, transformative social justice work with partners across lines of race and faith and class; we need to work with singles, couples, parents, and kids to create substantive, meaningful Jewish experiences for members of all ages that will keep us all learning and growing.

Some in the Jewish world see the Pew study with a "glass half-empty" point of view. I think the glass is totally full. It's half full with what Judaism has meant to us in the last 3,000 years—half full with the heritage that has been passed down to us, that has animated us and kept us together through thick and thin. And it's half full with the creative possibilities that the future holds. Judaism is ours to make and remake in every generation.

I hope you'll be an invested partner in that process, together with the members, leaders, and staff of our sacred congregation.

—Rabbi Joel Mosbacher

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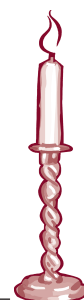
*Hunter Surgan*

*Annabel Theodore*

## Candlelighting times:

November 1 – 5:35 pm *Tol'dot*  
 November 8 – 4:27 pm *Vayetzei*  
 November 15 – 4:21 pm *Vayishlach*  
 November 22 – 4:16 pm *Vayeshev*  
 November 29 – 4:12 pm *Miketz*

December 6 – 4:11 pm *Vayigash*  
 December 13 – 4:11 pm *Vayechei*  
 December 20 – 4:13 pm *Sh'mot*  
 December 27 – 4:17 pm *Va'era*





Coming soon ..... to your temple near you ..... our next installment of ...

**Our most popular, and always sold-out....**

COFFEEHOUSE CANTORS  
CHANUKAH STYLE

A casual evening concert of guitars & singing the songs you love.

Comes complete with awesome refreshments and friends.

Sunday November 24, 2013, 7pm

Proceeds to benefit Gift of Life

Children free, Adults \$20

\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*    \*\*\*\*\*

**Did you know? .... aka .... This is NOT your parents synagogue!:)**

Did you know.....

In the last 12 months we have grown by approx 45 new families.

This is not the case in almost any other reform synagogue in the tri-state area, really!

\*\*\*

Our religious school enrollment this year increased by 80+ children:)

These days, that's unheard of.

\*\*\*

Services are upbeat, with lots of singing and learning and joy. Visitors have referred to your clergy as "The Dynamic Duo" and "The best reform clergy in the country".

\*\*\*

Rabbi and I work hard each week to create services of spirit, warmth and meaning.

\*\*\*

The culture of our temple is truly to cherish your belonging. We like seeing you. We want to get to know each and every family. We want relationships and connections.

We know you do too. Come, be a part of it, not apart from us.

*Try it, you'll like it, I promise you. Just get your family in the car.*



# December Birthdays

Max Baker

Noah Baker

Haley Benson

Jillian Bruckner

Zachary Chostaka

Joshua Cooper

Samuel Eisberg

Serena Eisberg

Max Goldberg Kaplan

Marlee Goldstein

Ellie Greenblatt

Benjamin Grossman

Jordan Gutierrez

Harrison Haber

Brandon Kestenbaum

Isabella Levine

Arielle Lipkin

Justin Manne

Benjamin Marder

Natalie Morgan

Ethan Moskovitz

Max Myers

Eva Myers

Danielle Ratowsky

Sydney Selman

Benjamin Shamus

William Silver

Drew Weiss



## CHANUKAH MENORAH LIGHTING HINTS:

The first day of Chanukah is on November 28, 2013; therefore the first candle is lit the evening before (November 27.) Candles are placed in the *chanukiah* (Chanukah menorah) from right to left (the first night, place one candle all the way to the right, then add on from there each succeeding night.) Light candles from left to right (light the newest candle first, after you have lit the *shamash*, or service candle.)

### First Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu bimitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

### Second Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, she'asa nissim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim ba-z'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors, in those days at this time of year.

### Third Blessing (recited first night only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiyemanu v'higyanu la-z'man hazeh.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season of joy.





# November Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					8pm - Tefilot	Tel'dot 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Tefilot
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Gr. 6 & Family School 11am - LLL theater trip 1pm - Mitzvah Day - JFNNJ	4pm - School K - 3 5pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45pm - Kadimah	4pm - School 4 & 5 6:30pm - Group Prayer Class	7:30pm - Ritual Committee 8pm - Adult Choir	7:30pm - AJC Temple Israel	8pm - Tefilot	Vayetshei 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Benjamin Lowenfels 7pm - Kristallnacht
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am - NO SCHOOL	4pm - NO SCHOOL 6:45pm - NO SCHOOL	4pm - NO SCHOOL 7:30pm - Exec. Comm. Mtg.		7pm - Eternal lights	8pm - Tefilot	Vayishlach 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Max & Noah Baker
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am - Gr. 6 & Family School 1pm - Mah Jongg	4pm - School K - 3 5pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45pm - Kadimah	4pm - School 4 & 5 6:30pm - Group Prayer Class 7:30pm - Board Meeting			8pm - Chocolate Oneg! 8pm - Tefilot	Vayeshev 8:15am - Torah study 9:30am - Tot Shabbat 10am - Adult Bnei Mitzvah
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am - Gr. 6 & Family School 7pm - Coffeehouse Cantors -	4pm - School K - 3 5pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45pm - Kadimah	4pm - School 4 & 5 6pm - Public Menorah Lighting 6:30pm - Group Prayer Class 7pm - Mah Jongg		Chanukah	Chanukah 5:45pm - Preneg 6:15pm - Shabbat Chanukah	Chanukah Miketz 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Samantha Garcia



# December Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Chanukah 9am - NO SCHOOL	Chanukah 4pm - School K - 3 5pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45pm - Kadimah	Chanukah 4pm - School 4 & 5 6:30pm - Group Prayer Class 7pm - Mah Jongg	Chanukah 7:30pm - Ritual Committee	Chanukah	8pm - 1 Book, 1 Community 8pm - Tefilot	<b>Vayigash</b> 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Josh Burr 10am - Joshua Cooper 7pm - Sh'hood Prog. Din.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9am - Gr. 6 & Family School 7pm - Dartmouth Aires	4pm - Monthly PreK 4pm - School K - 3 5pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45pm - Kadimah	4pm - School 4 & 5 6:30pm - Group Prayer Class 7:30pm - Exec. Comm. Mtg.	8pm - Adult Choir		7pm - Tefilot	<b>Vay'chi</b> 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Tefilot
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9am - Gr. 6 & Family School	4pm - School K - 3 5pm - Group Prayer Class 6:45pm - Kadimah	4pm - School 4 & 5 7:30pm - Board Meeting	8pm - Adult Choir		8pm - Tefilot	<b>Sh'mot</b> 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Tefilot
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9am - NO SCHOOL 11am - Brunch/Mah Jongg	4pm - NO SCHOOL 6:45pm - NO SCHOOL	4pm - NO SCHOOL 7:30pm - Music Comm. Mtg.			8pm - Tefilot	<b>Va'era</b> 8:15am - Torah study 10am - Tefilot
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9am - NO SCHOOL	4pm - NO SCHOOL 6:45pm - NO SCHOOL	4pm - NO SCHOOL				



## Youth Programming



Shalom!

Our year has gotten off to a wild start with a raucous Ice Cream Social for the 7th & 8th graders on opening night of Kadimah. I don't think I could describe the wild excitement of 75 teens who are getting ice cream!

BHSSTY's 9th-12th grade Sukkot BBQ was also a wild and fun time! Brotherhood pitched in to BBQ with me, while the teens did a Sukkot program and played some really silly games.

Next up for BHSSTY was a scary, spooky trip to Forest of Fear. We started off the evening with a Havdalah service and discussion about Halloween's meaning, and Jewish perspectives on it.

Thank you to one and all who joined us in our Spaghetti Dinner. We were able to raise a very nice donation for Children's Aid and Family Services: Pony Power Therapy Program. Thank you again to Inserra (ShopRite) for donating all of the food for this event. The teens followed a wonderful tzedakah dinner with a beautiful creative service exploring "Journeys." Our littlest members of BHSS were very excited to have teen readers in the Book Nook.

Not to forget our NFTY-GER (North American Federation of Temple Youth - Garden Empire Region; ([www.nfty.org/ger](http://www.nfty.org/ger)))

happenings, our entire BHSSTY board attended the Leadership Training Institute in New Brunswick, NJ. They got the opportunity to meet with Jewish teen leaders from all over our region. We also had a great presence at the Fall Kallah at URJ Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY. It was a weekend filled with energy, excitement, learning, and making lots of new friends.

Wow! With all that having happened in two months, can you even imagine what we have in store for November and December?!

For all of our 7th-12th graders we will be joining with Michelle Mitzvah and the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey in Mitzvah Day ([www.jfnnj.org/page.aspx?id=206699](http://www.jfnnj.org/page.aspx?id=206699)). Beth Haverim Shir Shalom is a drop-off location for new or gently used children's clothing for up to age 5. The collected items will then be donated to Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children, located in Paterson, NJ ([www.oasisnj.org](http://www.oasisnj.org)). We, as BHSS Youth, will be sorting the clothing donations, and also doing many other smaller in-temple social action projects.

Stacey Butler  
Director of Informal Youth Programming

## *Retreat!*

Now is the time -- register for the Second Annual Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Intergenerational Retreat! Plan now to spend the weekend of January 17-19, 2014, at Camp Harlam in Kunkletown, PA (less than 90 minutes from Mahwah), where you can share a wonderful time with other congregants of all ages and experience prayer, song and fellowship in the beautiful Pocono mountains. We have a full range of activities planned including crafts, yoga, gaga and social time where everyone will have the opportunity to make new friends, experience the tranquility of the mountains around us and enjoy a weekend free of cooking (unless of course you sign up for Rabbi's baking class!).

The retreat will begin at 5 pm with your arrival at Camp Harlam, and it ends on Sunday morning around 11 am. In between, we'll have delicious meals, song sessions, services and fun! The accommodations are simple but clean, and each room has a private bath. We anticipate the event will sell out, thanks to the generous support of the Endowment Fund. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share this weekend with others. If you have any questions, please email them to: [debalkow@hotmail.com](mailto:debalkow@hotmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you there!

# ...will be called to the Torah...



***Benjamin Jonah Lowenfels -***

***November 9, 2013***

Lives in Suffern, New York. Mother, Jackie ..... is a 7th grader at Suffern Middle School ..... His interests include baseball, snowboarding, and sailing. "I would like to become a federal agent and baseball coach. I am very proud and excited to become a Bar Mitzvah and share this wonderful celebration with my family and friends."



***Samantha Garcia -***

***November 30, 2013***

Lives in Suffern, New York. Mother, Jessica, Father, Joe, Brother, Andrew, 18 ..... is an 8th grader at Suffern Middle School ..... Her interests include swimming, shopping, and being with friends. "I want to become a teacher. I am very excited to become a Bat Mitzvah and share this day with my family and friends!"



***Max Baker - November 16, 2013***

Lives in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Mother, Doreen, Father, Mitch, Sister, Samantha, 14, Brother, Noah, 12 ..... is a 7th grader at Eisenhower Middle School ..... His interests include football, basketball, going to LBI, and hanging out with friends. "I would like to go to Florida University and become a sports coach. I am excited about sharing this special day with family and friends, and especially my twin brother Noah."



***Joshua Burr - December 7, 2013***

Lives in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. Mother, Nancy, Father, Jody, Sister, Carly, 9 ..... is a 7th grader at Cavallini Middle School ..... His interests include tennis, technology, and science. "I would like to continue the tradition of being a Bar Mitzvah. I am happy and excited to share this tradition and celebration with my family and friends."



***Noah Baker - November 16, 2013***

Lives in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Mother, Doreen, Father, Mitch, Sister, Samantha, 14, Brother, Max, 12 ..... is a 7th grader at Eisenhower Middle School ..... His interests include football, basketball, lacrosse, and spending summers at the beach. "I would like to work in the sports field when I get older. I am so happy to celebrate this special day with my family and friends, and my brother Max."



***Josh Cooper - December 7, 2013***

Lives in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Mother, Lauren, Father, Doug, Brother, Sam, 8 ..... is a 7th grader at Woodcliff Middle School ..... His interests include playing and watching sports, designing sneakers, fantasy football, and social studies. "I would like to be a business executive at Nike. I am proud to be following in the tradition of my parents and grandparents in becoming a Bar Mitzvah. I look forward to sharing this special day with my family and friends."

# Coffeehouse Cantors

## *Chanukah Style*

*Featuring:*

*Cantor David Perper, Cantor Faith Steinsnyder,*

*Rabbi Joel Mosbacher and Friends*



*Date: Sunday, November 24, 2013*

*Time: 7:00 P.M.*

*Cost: Adults \$20.00/ Kids **Free***

*Proceeds will benefit **Gift of Life***

*RSVP: Synagogue Office by November 15*

*(201) 512-1983*

*Yes, it's back, a night of lively music in a relaxed atmosphere with your friends at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom! Refreshments will be served.*

### **Join us!**

**Enjoy a yummy "Preneg" at 5:45 p.m.**

**(there will be latkes!)**

**and then**

**light your family's menorah**

**at the Chanukah service at 6:15 p.m.**

**on**

**Friday, November 29**



# Brotherhood 2.0

Happy New Year and greetings to all our BHSS community! This has been a very inspiring, fulfilling and really lots of fun High Holiday Season. I don't know if it's because Rosh Hashana started in the summer this year, or if it's because we have so many new member families with us, or if it's just because we love BHSS, and are so happy to be here!

Brotherhood 2.0 kicked off this holiday season by building our *sukkah* and hosting our annual Pizza in the Hut event. This year was a first. Walter was kind enough to assemble the metal sukkah inside the social hall... Why, you ask? Well...we can't really have Pizza in the Hut without a hut...ok...I get it...I just said we built our sukkah. This year, however our big outdoor sukkah became the new youth hangout – for BEARS! Long story short, multiple bear sightings were the impetus for holding Pizza in the Hut indoors. I suppose the risk of mixing bears and our kids in the outdoor *sukkah* may have been too great. Either way, it was a super event. We ordered too much pizza. The rabbi and cantor did a wonderful service – all of us had the opportunity to shake the *lulav* and *etrog*, and really enjoy! We always love the rabbi and cantor singing The Byrds' "Turn Turn Turn," based on passages from Ecclesiastes. I suggest next Passover we ask the cantor and rabbi to sing Bob Marley's "Exodus."

The insanity of September continued with countless sukkah parties, and the Youth Group Kickoff BBQ. Yes, Brotherhood 2.0 had our grills completely refurbished (someone in Brotherhood knows a guy...) and we were so happy to have cooked (once again, WAY too much food) for the BBQ! We should have fed the bears some of that food...maybe then, they'll let us use our own sukkah!

September came to a close with a fantastic Simchat Torah service! Welcome to Adena Kemper, our new "Strabbi." We are honored to have her with us. If you have the opportunity, try and meet her for coffee to have a one to one chat -- she's really great! We ended the holiday season by taking down the sukkah, and combining the September Executive Board meeting with our first Brotherhood Raps.

Brotherhood 2.0 is off to a great new start. October introduced our first social action event at the Hi-Tor Animal Shelter. Brotherhood 2.0 is aligning itself with our temple youth, and with social action – and having some fun too! Thank you to all who participated, and welcome to all existing, new, and future members of Brotherhood 2.0!

## Upcoming Dates:

**November 3 – Mitzvah Day** – Brotherhood will be volunteering to help sort all the gently used children's clothing for donation to Oasis House.

**November 4 – Monthly Brotherhood Executive Board Meeting** – Everyone is welcome!

**November 12 – Brotherhood night** at Greenhouse Golf, indoor golf simulator, followed by dinner at Noshers Rye

**November 24 – Brotherhood Raps** – meet at Panera Bread at 9:30 for coffee, conversation, and complaining

**December 9 – Monthly Brotherhood Executive Board Meeting** – Everyone is welcome!

**December 19 – Post-Chanukah dinner** and celebration of the end of the Gregorian calendar at Waterwheel Restaurant (grab bag and gift exchange game)

**December 25** – BHSS goes to the **Wanaque Convalescent home** to sing and give gifts to the children – Brotherhood 2.0 will join Michele Mitzvah, Sisterhood and all BHSS members for this annual event!

**January 6 – Monthly Brotherhood Executive Board Meeting** – Everyone is welcome!

## COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING!



*Join your congregational family  
as we officially light the beautiful  
chanukiyah (Chanukah menorah)  
that graces our front circle.*

*On Tuesday, November 26, from 6 to 6:30, we will  
gather with Rabbi Mosbacher, Cantor Perper, our  
choirs, and our fourth and fifth grade students to  
celebrate with song and some hot cocoa and jelly  
donuts.*



# Social Action

The various committees and individuals at BHSS concerned with Social Action deal with a variety of community organizations whose mission is to make lives better for those in desperate need of help. One that we have developed strong ties to is **Oasis**, a non-profit organization in Paterson that is dedicated to helping impoverished families achieve economic independence by providing educational programs to equip women and children with the skills they need to become self-sufficient. Their dynamic executive director, Sister Gloria Perez, recently visited BHSS to thank us for the assistance we have already extended to them and suggest ways that we could expand our relationship. One especially moved participant in the meeting was Rabbi Mosbacher. Following the meeting, Sister Perez asked if it was possible to actually see what a Torah looked like. The two then went into our sanctuary and before long they were huddled over one of our scrolls, and Sister Perez was raptly engaged in her first Torah lesson from the rabbi. It was a bond in the making.

So it was not surprising that when the **rabbi suggested we support the annual Mitzvah Day of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey**, on whose board he serves, our thoughts turned to Oasis. The program that evolved is as follows:

- Beth Haverim Shir Shalom would immediately start collecting ***new and gently used*** clothing for children up to the age of 5. Receptacles have been placed in our lobby school entrance to for this purpose.
- **Jewish Federation** has publicized our drive to all their member synagogues so they could similarly collect clothing and use BHSS as a drop-off point if necessary.
- On the Jewish Federation's **November 3 Mitzvah Day**, the Michelle Mitzvah Group will organize and prepare all the clothing up to that point for delivery to Oasis. We have spread the word of this drive to all our BHSS committees, and donations have been coming in since the beginning of October. However, since this issue of Temple Topics will have just been circulated on that date, we have extended the collection period through the end of November and will make a second delivery to Oasis at that time. So please dig deep and help us make a difference in the work of this amazing organization. Together, to borrow a phrase from Oasis, we can contribute to "Changing Lives, One Woman and Child at a Time."
- For those without access to children's clothing, please consider purchasing **department store gift cards** for delivery to Oasis along with the clothing. To do so, please contact Lisa Lamster at 201-760-1935 or [lisalams@optonline](mailto:lisalams@optonline).

# Outreach Committee

## Reaching Out...

Are you single? The BHSS Outreach Committee wants to talk to you! We'd like to start a group for singles who would get together for some good conversation, laughs, camaraderie, and, of course, food! Sound interesting to you? Please note that this will **not** be a counseling or matchmaking group. So, what exactly will it be? We don't know yet! We need to hear from you! Please share your thoughts and help us to plan an opening brainstorming event so we can collaborate on creating a vision of what we'd like our BHSS Singles Group to be. And then we'll get started. Please contact Jane Young at [jnapfy@aol.com](mailto:jnapfy@aol.com). We



# Library Committee

## From the SIFRIYAH

October 6 was a red letter Book and Bagel day. Congregants and library volunteers noshed on a delicious lunch and discussed The Invisible Wall: A Love Story That Broke Barriers. The author's memoir described a Jewish childhood in England in an earlier time, a time marked by difference and want. However, Bernstein's story of human relationships and love resonated with the discussion group who recognized the relevancy of these issues in 2013. From this point on, the exchanges were lively and insightful. One participant exclaimed, "There was good participation and discussion, and even those who did not read the book found positive ways to add to the conversation." As a Book and a Bagel drew to a close, the group left satisfied, smiling, and hoping to return again for a spring session.

Don't forget to purchase your book, By Fire, By Water, by Mitchell Kaplan. When you read this historical fiction, you

will be joining other Jews in Bergen County who are participating in One Book One Community, the sponsor of this program, which has as its goal the hope that all Jews will read one Jewish-oriented book during a 12-month period. This book, a page turner, takes you back to medieval Spain and explores the late 15th century, when the royal house sought not only to unite all of Queen Isabel's kingdoms but also to purge non-Christians from her unified Roman Catholic sovereignty.

A special program on December 6 during services will highlight this book. Mark your calendar and pick up your copy of the book in the temple office. The cost is \$9.00.

Please visit the library. It is a sure bet you can find a book of interest! And please suggest new book acquisitions and additional programs you would like to see. We will become stronger and more valuable to the congregation with your active support.

# Sisterhood News

Fall is well underway, and so is Sisterhood! Were you at our wonderful kick-off event in October? We all caught up from our busy summers. New friendships were made, old ones renewed; and most importantly, we learned to create a beautiful new *chuppah* for BHSS! Be sure to look for it the next time you're here for a wedding celebration. While we all had an excellent afternoon, we also helped to make BHSS a more special place for everyone—and that's what Sisterhood is about.

Next up on our list is our "famous" Dine-Around Progressive Dinner, on December 7. Dine Around is your chance to experience appetizers with everyone together at one location; a small, intimate dinner at the home of one of our members; and a group dessert. It's always a warm and wonderful evening, and if you haven't experienced it, you're missing

something special. Watch your emails and your weekly bulletins for reservation information, and RSVP quickly—this is a popular event!

Over the next few months, Sisterhood will bring you other exciting events. Save the dates for our Women of the Wall service, January 31; Israeli Dance Night, February 9; Sisterhood Shabbat, March 7; our extraordinary Miriam Seder, April 10. You'll also be hearing about *mezuzah* making in May, and our Annual Installation dinner in June.

Every Sisterhood member is welcome at our monthly business meeting, and your ideas and participation are welcome on every level. What would *you* like to see Sisterhood doing? Let us know!



# Michelle Mitzvah Group

## Off to a Great Start

Our first meeting of the new year in September was amazing. Thirty people were there, including many new and future members who are committed to social action. Rabbi Mosbacher was there as well to lend his support for our work.

During the meeting, one message came through loud and clear... "Who can I contact if I want to get involved and what specific tasks are needed?" As a result, an email was sent out with a list of events and initiatives along with specific contact information. In addition, with the amazing help of Ellen Mass, we now have a Facebook page. For those of you on Facebook, please go to BHSS Michelle Mitzvah Group. Please "like" this page so that we can alert you to upcoming events and information.

We hope you will join us as we perform *tikkun olam* throughout the year. The Michelle Mitzvah Group meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the temple. Here is what took place during September and October, as well as upcoming events in November and December:

The Michelle Mitzvah Group participated in a successful Social Action Summit II held at BHSS on Sunday, September 22. The meeting was facilitated by Ken Goldstein, and we had a fantastic turnout from all synagogue committees. Many ideas were kicked around about how the various committees can coordinate their individual efforts and help each other out. One such example involved the soup kitchen at Christ Episcopal Church in Suffern. MMG has participated in this program for years and the lunch on Sunday, September 29 was provided and organized by Lisa Glick and the co-presidents of Sisterhood, Mona Lefkowitz and Linda Vogel. Through such cooperative efforts we expect to significantly expand this initiative.

It was also our pleasure to attend and enjoy the BHSS Youth Groups' Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, October 18, and we thank them for donating the proceeds of the dinner to the Pony Power Therapy Program sponsored by Children's Aid and Family Services of Paramus. This organization is near and dear to our hearts and a strong mutual bond has been forged between our Youth Groups and the CAFS youth, some of whom can often be seen working in our BHSS Garden.

Soon after joining MMG, Ilyse Smith introduced us to Oasis, a Paterson organization dedicated to helping impoverished families achieve economic independence through specialized educational programs. As part of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey's annual Bergen County Mitzvah Day, BHSS has been collecting new and gently used clothing for children up to the age of 5, and this undertaking will continue through the end of November. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue of Temple Topics under the heading of "Social Action." Please join us in this important and meaningful effort.

During November and December we will be working together with Barry Romoff in the annual Suffern D.A.R.E Toy Drive that has been a part of our BHSS holiday life for quite some time. Please read Barry's article in this issue and put it high up on your Social Action "Things I Must Do" list.

Thanks to the number of new recruits we have at MMG, we have also been able to revitalize our association with the Tomorrow's Children Center at Hackensack University Medical Center. We welcome Lisa Lamster to Michelle Mitzvah Group, and she will spearhead this program. It should be noted that Lisa's daughter Jessica, as part of her bat mitzvah community service requirement, has organized a drive to collect new tactile toys such as PlayDoh, puzzles, games, and coloring books for the Center's pediatric cancer patients. Jessica is holding the drive in honor of Jodi Lyons, who is currently battling cancer and has actively worked for this worthwhile organization. Please drop suitable contributions into Jessica's basket, located inside the lobby entrance to our school.

Finally, Michelle Mitzvah will close out 2013 with its annual Christmas Day, December 25 visit to the Wanaque Children's Hospital, led by our wonderful cantor and BHSS choir members. Please join us as we show that these desperately ill children that they have not been forgotten. What better way to start your day on Christmas morning. Look for specific information on Facebook and in the weekly BHSS emails.

We wish our fellow congregants a Happy and Healthy Chanukah and safe holiday season.

Ken Goldstein: [kfgold@optonline.net](mailto:kfgold@optonline.net)

Lisa Glick: [eslspan@aol.com](mailto:eslspan@aol.com)



# Contributions



## Life Fund

to Marilyn & Stanley Moser, in memory of Harvey  
Gelfenbein  
- Dede & Rick Levine  
- Marci & Harvey Weinberg

to Renee Garbus, in memory of her father Bob Nisenbaum  
- Gail & Ranan Wichler

in memory of Bernice Gruber - Dede & Rick Levine

in memory of Sadie Lazar - Sandy & Newt Parks

to Ranan and Gail Wichler in honor of their 30th  
anniversary - Ilyse & Floyd Smith

in memory of Sol Pincus - Sandy & Newt Parks

in memory of Irv Goodman, Bertha Weissner, and Morris  
Goodman - Carole Goodman

in memory of Nancy Pivar - David Schwartz

in memory of Ceil Moser - Gail & Ranan Wichler

To Ranan and Gail Wichler in memory of Harvey  
Gelfenbein  
- Marci & Harvey Weinberg  
- Susan & Harris Reinstein

To Diana Goldstein, wishing you a quick and speedy  
recovery! - the Klaskows

in loving memory of Henry Kolb - Kathy Zukof

in memory of Norman Novak - Laurie & Marc Daniel

## Brick Fund

to Howard and Leslie Kirzner in memory of  
Seymour Kirzner - Barbara & Charles Burghardt  
- Nita & Eddie Klaskow

to Susan and Harris Reinstein, wishing good health and  
happiness to your new grandchild  
- Barbara & Joe Friedman

## Educator's Discretionary Fund

with thanks for all you do! - the Israel-Stark family

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in honor of the naming of Eliana Jade Silver  
- Abbe & Michael Simon

for your support and caring during Diana's recovery  
- Diana & Ken Goldstein

with thanks and appreciation and in honor of  
Sam's Bar Mitzvah - the Spira family

to Ron & Sue Ellen Johnson in memory of Ron's mother  
- Sheila & Larry Groskin

with Thanks for all you do! - the Israel-Stark family

with thanks for the lovely and inspiring  
High Holiday services - Laurie & Marc Daniel

## Cantor's Discretionary Fund

for inspiring the congregation with music and song during  
the high holidays and throughout the year  
- Diana & Ken Goldstein

with thanks and in honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah  
- the Spira family

with thanks for the lovely service you gave for my family  
the Eisberg family

with thanks for the extraordinary High Holiday services  
- Carole Goodman

with thanks for all you do! - the Israel-Stark family



## Contributions



### *Tree of Life*

in honor of Russell Zingler's Bar Mitzvah August 22, 2013  
in Jerusalem and October 12, 2013 - *the Zingler family*

in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jason Adam Lever -  
October 5, 2013 - *Paulyne & Louis Lever*

### *Prayerbook Dedications*

in memory of Sandee Wells - *the Cassell family*

in memory of Larry Weisberg and Arline Weisberg  
in memory of Aaron and Jakob Leit  
in memory of Maurice "Sonny" Israel  
in memory of Shirley and Benjamin Jacobs  
in memory of Lena and Benjamin Israel  
- *the Israel-Stark family*

### *Ramapo-Bergen Animal Refuge of Oakland*

donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

B'nai Mitzvah of Brody and Ryan Selman  
Bar Mitzvah of Sam Bethon  
Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Schechtman  
Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Burman

### *Center for Food Action*

donated by their families in honor of the following simchas

Bar Mitzvah of Sam Darrow  
Bar Mitzvah of Jason Lever  
Bar Mitzvah of Sam Spira



## Yizkor



### IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Steven Abel	- <i>Marc &amp; Elizabeth Abel</i>	Arlene Cohen Chaya Sara	- <i>Abby Cohen</i>
Ethel Saltzman, David Saltzman, and Samuel Bornstein	- <i>Bill &amp; Sandra Arlington</i>	Victor and Phyllis Cohen	- <i>Michael &amp; Dorothy Cohen</i>
Adele Axelrod and William Kaplan	- <i>Norman &amp; Alison Axelrod</i>	Bennet Cohen; Harold Levine	- <i>Stephen &amp; Barbara Cohen</i>
Irving and Loretta Becker; Mende and Phoebe Jaffe	- <i>Joel &amp; Irma Becker</i>	Martin Rufkess	- <i>Seth &amp; Dorie Cohen</i>
Pearl and Otto Blau; Kathy Blau	- <i>Robert Blau</i>	Norman Green	- <i>Lauren &amp; Doug Cooper</i>
Florence and Herman Ashkanazy; Beatrice Burghardt	- <i>Charles &amp; Barbara Burghardt</i>	Florence David	- <i>Gerald David</i>
Yola Gewelb	- <i>Terrance &amp; Lisa Byrne</i>	Alice Brickman; Elsie and Julius Diamant	- <i>David &amp; Carol Diamant</i>
Marty Chernick	- <i>Melilssa &amp; Andrew Chernick</i>	Annette and Jesse Sills; Hattie and William Gallard	- <i>Joanne &amp; Lee Ehlermann</i>
		Sheila Estrin Reich; Ellen Estrin	- <i>Lisa Estrin</i>
		Glen, Beatrice, and Roy Freidman	- <i>Bruce Freidman &amp; Ashley Ames</i>

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Leizer Alperstein; Douglas Freeman - *Eric & Nicky Freeman*

Jacob Gamburg - *Alina & David Gamburg*

Helen and Larry Gross - *Kim Hausner & Marilyn Gross*

Sarah Iskowitz - *Joel & Sheryl Ives*

Edith and Morris Roth; Gertrude and Paul Jeanette  
- *Robert & Sandi Jeanette*

Clarence Shapiro; Ethel and Melvin Spitalny; Nathan Kahn  
- *Daniel & Nancy Kahn*

Mother, Father, and Son - *Eddie & Nita Klaskow*

Betty Landis and Lee Landis - *Steven & Lisa Landis*

Louis and Rebecca Leibowitz; Sidney and Minnie Levine  
- *Howard & Judy Leibowitz*

Jill Leipzig - *Carole Leipzig*

Harry and Celia Meyers; Daniel and Rose Zahm  
- *Bob & Pearl Meyers*

Mac Gelfenbein, Berdie Gelfenbein, Irving,  
Ceil, and Fred Moser; Harry Gelfenbein  
- *Stanley & Marilyn Moser*

George and Esther Moss; Beatrice Lerner Moss; Irving Pesin;  
Victor Levy; Sarah Blacher; Esther Pesin  
- *Phil & Barbara Moss*

Irwin Orshalick - *Claire Orshalick*

Seymour Oventhal - *Joanne Oventhal*

Jack and Estelle Weinberg; Howard Weinberg;  
Gene and Leah Reinstein - *Harris & Susan Reinstein*

Simon Seidner, Blanche Seidner, Harry Gordon,  
Florence Gordon, and Diane Motz - *Barry & Ann Seidner*

Irwin Selman - *Vera Selman*

Stanley Spellman - *Carol & Rob Shulman*

Pauline and Hy Smith; Esther Citrin; Nathan Kusher  
- *Floyd & Ilyse Smith*

Frank Nathanson; Edward Spencer  
- *Gail Nathanson Spencer & Daryl Spencer*

Vernon Taylor; Dorothy and Leon Auerbach  
- *Marilyn Taylor*

Ann and Jacob Rabinovich; Jack, Celia,  
and Florence Turner - *Ruth & Stu Turner*

Judy Wagman - *Carl Wagman*

Jerome Weinberg; Sandra Arons - *Harvey & Marci Weinberg*

Harold Hirshman; Sylvia and Jack Weston  
- *Lynn & Gerald Weston*

Sybil Wolfe; Richard Leavitt - *Julie & George Wolfe*

Morton Fuchs; David York - *Beverly & Harlan York*

Jeremy Zall - *Michael & Lynn Zall*

## Dedicate a Mishkan T'filah prayer book!

Dedications can be made in honor or in memory  
of a loved one. Please send in with a \$36 donation  
(via check or credit card) to Beth Haverim Shir  
Shalom.

Dedication made by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Dedication to read: (Circle one)  
In Honor or In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

A label will be placed in a *siddur* acknowledging your  
generous donation



# High Holiday Appeal



Marc & Elizabeth Abel  
Howard & Maxine Abner  
David & Sarah Adelson  
Bill & Sandra Arlington  
Eric & Dina Aronson  
Sidney & Hermine Aronson  
Norman & Alison Axelrod  
Ceil Baldwin  
Herbert & Joyce Barrack  
Joel & Irma Becker  
Harold Berger  
Gary & Michelle Bettman  
Alan & Elena Blankman  
Bradley & Lauren Bofford  
Charles & Barbara Burghardt  
Terrance & Lisa Byrne  
Brian & Jessica Carlin  
Andrew & Melissa Chernick  
Jesse & Terri Coffel  
Michael & Dorothy Cohen  
Seth & Dorie Cohen  
Rick & Liz Cohen  
Wes & Gwen Cohen  
Melvin & Jacqueline Cohn  
Matthew & Jennifer Cole  
Herbert & Melissa Cooper  
Bill & Gail Darrow  
Joel & Judy Dorfman  
Peg Duglin  
Eric & Lauren Einhorn  
Andrew Fisher  
Eric & Nicky Freeman  
David & Alina Gamburg  
Gary & Renee Garbus  
Scott & Deena Goldstein  
Kenneth & Diana Goldstein  
Martin & Merri Gurian  
Kim Hausner & Marilyn Gross  
Mitchell Hubelbank

Roy & Marilyn Israel  
Joel & Sheryl Ives  
Robert & Sandi Jeanette  
Ronald & Sue-Ellen Johnson  
Daniel & Nancy Kahn  
Jerry & Kathleen Kirshman  
Stuart & Ethel Kirshner  
Eddie & Nita Klaskow  
Jeffrey & Deborah Klein  
Noel & Lisa Lamster  
Jeffrey & Mona Lefkowitz  
Carole Leipzig  
Rick & Dede Levine  
Peter & Kathy Liebmann  
Paul & Clare Lipson  
James & Evelyn McGilloway  
Rod & Rebecca McVeigh  
Bernice Medici  
Allan Melzer  
Bob & Pearl Meyers  
Mitchell & Laura Miller  
Helen Milstein  
Hal & Allison Mintz  
Joel & Elyssa Mosbacher  
Nyles & Jennifer Moser  
Stanley & Marilyn Moser  
Phil & Barbara Moss  
Gail & Sheila Nathanson  
Jeff & Barbara Nimerofsky  
Joanne Oventhal  
Newton & Sandra Parks  
Charles Pesin  
Steven & Lisa Potter  
William & Kim Pressman  
Harris & Susan Reinstein  
William & Michele Resnick  
Anthony & Leslie Sapienza  
Andrew & Janet Schlissel  
David & Linda Schwartz

Lawrence Schwartz  
Lois Schwartz  
Arnold & Mary Seidman  
Rick & Randy Shill  
Jess & Dawn Shirvan  
Rob & Carol Shulman  
Michael & Abbe Simon  
Mark & Robin Slakter  
Floyd & Ilyse Smith  
Betty Spellman  
Daryl & Gail Nathanson Spencer  
Su Spira  
Richard & Kristi Steinberg  
Kevin & Leslie Strauss  
Marilyn Taylor  
Jack & Nancy Teichman  
Cori Thau  
Joel & Carol Thea  
Eric & Lisa Trattner  
Stu & Ruth Turner  
Alan Vituli  
Roy & Elizabeth Wandelmaier  
Jules & Myrna Weinstein  
Stuart & Stacy Weinstein  
Marc & Barbara Weiss  
Ranan & Gail Wichler  
George & Julie Wolfe  
Douglas & Julie Wright  
Ritch & Lori Yanowitz  
Harlan & Beverly York  
Michael & Lynn Zall  
Howard & Kathryn Zukof  
  
in honor of Rabbi Joel, Elyssa, Ari,  
and Lev - Bonnie Mosbacher  
  
in honor of our grandchildren  
Jaime, Jake, and Jessica  
- Martin & Cecille Shulman



Beth Haverim Shir Shalom's  
Chanukah D.A.R.E. Toy Drive  
ADOPT A CHILD FOR CHANUKAH



Wow, it's November, are you thinking turkey and latkes? Yes, Chanukah starts on Thanksgiving, and it's a perfect time to say, "How will I help to repair the world?" Well, the Michelle Mitzvah Group at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom has a way for you. For several years now, BHSS has assisted the Suffern Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program with their annual toy drive. For over twenty years the Suffern D.A.R.E. program has helped local families. Suffern D.A.R.E., with local social workers, municipalities and organizations, identifies families in Rockland County and northern Bergen County who are in need or who are dealing with a tragic event. Suffern D.A.R.E. provides these families with the ability to give holiday gifts to their children. BHSS' Chanukah D.A.R.E. Toy Drive has been extremely successful in supporting Suffern D.A.R.E. as they provide help for these families in our community. Yes, these are our neighbors and we, as a community, are obligated to help them.

While helping these families, we also help teach our own children the meaning of *tzedakah*. It is a lesson we must teach, and knowledge our children must have. We encourage each temple family to "Adopt a Child for Chanukah." That means 400 families, each adopting one child, and 400 children helped. All we ask is that each family embraces the obligation to provide one child with a gift.

How it works is simple. As in the past, our "Adopt a Child" bulletin board is located in the lobby entrance to our religious school. On it you will find hundreds of cards identifying a child by family number, gender and age. You can adopt **one or more of these children** by taking one or more of these cards, attach the card(s) to the **unwrapped** gift(s) you purchase for the child(ren) and deposit the **unwrapped** toys in the baskets provided under the bulletin board. If you prefer not to select a specific child, but would like to donate a gift, we will match a child for you. And if you can't get the gift to the temple, no problem, just email [bromoff@gmail.com](mailto:bromoff@gmail.com) and we will be glad to arrange to have it picked up from you. Together, we can "help to repair the world."

If you are able to join our team or if you have any questions, please contact Barry Romoff at the email address above.

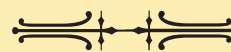
Please also note that the **last drop-off date at the temple will be Sunday, December 15.**

Don't miss this fun event!

The Dartmouth Aires  
return to BHSS

Thursday, December 8, 2013 at 7 p.m.





*Mazal Tov*

To **Brenda Belohoubek** on her debut with the Verismo Opera in  
"Suor Angelica" at bergenPAC  
to **Deborah Klein, Julie Seidman, Abbe Simon, and Doug Wright** on  
becoming B'nai Mitzvah

*Condolences*

to **Marilyn Moser**, on the loss of her brother, and  
to **Gail Wichler** on the loss of her uncle, Harvey Gelfenbein  
to **Daryl Spencer**, on the loss of his great aunt, Harriet Shrensel  
to **Renee Garbus**, on the loss of her father Bob Nisenbaum  
to **Michelle Cassell Siegel** on the loss of her brother-in law, Daniel Mark Fink  
to the **Leibowitz family** on the loss of their wife and mother,  
and our teacher and friend, **Dalia Leibowitz**  
to **Howard Kirzner**, on the loss of his father, Seymour Kirzner

*R'fuah Sh'leimah*  
(For a Full Recovery)

**Charles Romano**  
**Jodi Lyons**  
**Gary Buchalter**  
**Brian Stone**  
**Daryl Spencer**  
**Michael Wiesner**  
**Beth Wiesner**

## Instrument Collection!

As a part of preparing for her bat mitzvah in January, **Sophie Cohen** is collecting sheet music, instruction books and instruments to be donated to Music4More and Hungry for Music. Both organizations collect for struggling schools and community music programs. Please bring these to the synagogue beginning on Sunday, November 3, during school hours, and then for the following month during school hours and/or during office hours (9 - 5 Monday through Thursday; 9 - 4 Friday.) If you have questions, please write Liz Cohen at [liz.search@gmail.com](mailto:liz.search@gmail.com).



## Gift Cards

By the time you read this, there will be only 27 days before the first night of Chanukah! If there are any gift cards you would like me to order, I will need all orders by Friday, November 22, 2013 to guarantee that they arrive before the first night of Chanukah.

We also carry gift cards on hand at the temple. In addition to Amazon, AMC Theatres, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, iTunes, Staples, Starbucks, ShopRite, Panera and Target, we now have Applebee's and Houlihan's in stock as well.

If you can't get to the temple to pick up the cards, please contact me and we will work it out. Please either call me or e-mail me with any questions.

Lisa Lamster  
[lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:lisalams@optonline.net)  
201-760-1935

# Ritual Committee

As I write this article (late as usual), the High Holidays are a not quite distant memory, our home *sukkah* has finally been dismantled in full (I'm always sorry to see it go) and I am already starting my menu for the Thanksgiving/Chanukah celebration coming in November (latkes with cranberry applesauce sound delicious). But before we look forward to what Pinterest has labeled "Thanksgivukkah," I need to take a moment to look back on what we as a community achieved over a four-week period in September. If you have only ever attended BHSS for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, you may not realize how unique a community we have created here.

Let's start with our staff: Iris, Lisa, and Walter. You probably are already aware of how welcoming they are and how committed they are, but you may not be aware of the sheer number of hours they spend in the building during the High Holidays. As head of the Ritual committee, I arrived at BHSS a good hour before each service began, but however early I am here, they are already here, ensconced in their positions, waiting to welcome members and guest with equal warmth, dealing with whatever minor or major problems may arise, and I'm pretty sure not ever actually sitting down. And then there is Rebecca McVeigh and the teaching staff, who run all of the children's programming for the second through sixth graders, as well as overseeing the babysitting for the younger children. We take for granted that our children will have a meaningful High Holiday experience, but in many congregations, this type of parallel programming is simply not available.

We are also blessed with an involved and impassioned lay leadership. From Mitch Miller, who spoke of his own way to faith, to Eric Aronson, whose gave a beautiful High Holiday appeal, to our newly installed president, Jen Cole, who not only spoke eloquently about community, but also chanted Torah on the second day of Rosh Hashana (and did a beautiful job in the process). And speaking of chanters, I need to spend a moment kvelling about how in awe I am of what happens here, and again explain how different and how special our paradigm is. At most congregations, including the one where I grew up, there may be a lay Torah chanter or two, usually the same people each year, who chant the entire portion. At BHSS, we had FORTY-THREE separate Torah chanters, Haftarah chanters, Haftarah blessers and gabbais over the two holidays, including recent b'nai mitzvah, older teens (our Kadimah students made fantastic gabbais!), college

students, first-time chanters, empty nesters, moms, and dads, grandmas and grandpas. They practiced for weeks (or even months) in advance to learn High Holiday trope, and fearless (or perhaps fearful), took their place on the bimah. I feel blessed that I got to hear every one of them, and even more blessed to be part of a community where this is the norm.

And who took the time to train all those chanters and make sure they were prepared? Our very own Cantor Perper (with a big assist from Cantor Steinsnyder, who took over Torah/Haftarah prep over the summer during Cantor Perper's travels to California), who made CDs for every single chanter and also made himself available every Tuesday night for weeks to help prep us all. Thank you so much for your talent and dedication. But it is the team of Cantor Perper and Rabbi Mosbacher that truly sets us apart from the rest. One of my closest friends is a clergy person at a Reform congregation, and we often compare notes before and after different holidays. I love being able to tell her how innovative, creative, and moving the services our clergy lead are year after year, yet how they are always looking to make improvements ... how we piloted a new *machzor* for Erev Rosh Hashana, how Rabbi Mosbacher wrote a new, beautiful, moving service for Tashlich, how the kids come up for the shofar blowing service and got to make the calls, how we tried a whole new procedure for the Yom Kippur afternoon service, coming up to the ark to make our own private prayers, how we had speakers tell us their own unique immigration stories on Yom Kippur, and so many other little touches that start with our talented and creative clergy.

\*\*\*

I know this article is insanely long, but there are a few other people I need to mention, and thank for their service:

-- Student Rabbi Adena Kemper, who joined us for Erev Rosh Hashana and Simchat Torah ... we are so looking forward to having you be with our community this year

-- Harris Reinstein, Judi Teich, and the entire shofar blowing crew, who inspire awe and make us smile

-- The BHSS choir, who, under the leadership of Cantor Perper and the accompaniment of Itay Goren, sound better every year

(continued next page)

# Ritual Committee

(Continued)

-- Bob Meyers, Evelyn McGilloway, Rich and Bonnie Berens, who ran our informative, fun, and musical Yom Kippur leaning session

-- Brian Muni, who led the Healing service so beautifully and evocatively

-- All of the ushers, who gave up some time with their families to help ensure the services go smoothly

-- The silver polishing crew, who spent hours making sure the *rimonim* and Torah breastplates looked fantastic

-- The book stuffing crew, who prepped over six hundred *machzorim*

-- The Brotherhood, who built our *sukkah* (even if the BHSS bears decided we should stay inside for Sukkot this year)

-- The Sisterhood, who bought the beautiful (and comfy) new chairs for the social hall, just in time for Rosh Hashana

-- And finally, the Ritual Committee: Nancy Levene, Lisa Lamster, Linda Vogel, Jane Young, Harris Reinstein, Amy Baldwin, Sheryl Thailer, and Bob Meyers, who made phone calls, created usher lists, worked out the honors, and more importantly, are amazing friends and dedicated colleagues. I am so very grateful for you all.

I hope the High Holidays were as meaningful for you this year as they were for me. And I hope you will be inspired by the many people who helped make those services so special.

L'Shalom,

Stacey Coyne  
Ritual Chairperson

# Notes from Music

Hello everyone!

I hope you enjoyed the season of the holidays. Cantor and the choirs outdid themselves this year during Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Sukkot, my favorite, and Simchat Torah were particularly lively. The unrolling of the scroll throughout the sanctuary with all the children, new to the Hebrew School, was very moving. From generation to generation!

Please keep Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 7:00 pm open. We will be hosting our ever-popular Coffeehouse Cantors Chanukah Style! Tickets are \$20 for adults and kids are **FREE**. As always, refreshments will be served. This year our proceeds will be going to **Gift of Life**, the organization that collects and processes swabs for the National Registry of Bone Marrow Donation. Through this worthy organization, one of our congregants has been recently matched with a cancer patient. Our donation will facilitate the processing of the

backlog of swabs that have been collected. Each swab costs \$60 to process; let's see how many people we can help!

We have had great response to our Junior Choir. Children must be in third grade or older to participate. Lisa Lamster is our contact person for those interested in more information. Please get in touch with her at [lisalams@optonline.net](mailto:lisalams@optonline.net).

Our year is filled with interesting programming, lots of planning and lots of fun for the committee. There is always a free chair at the table for you, my reader, so come join us. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the synagogue. Contact me any time at [niberger@aol.com](mailto:niberger@aol.com) and let's chat!

Musically yours,  
Nora Berger

# Lifelong Learning

## Lifelong Learning 2013-2014: The “Art” of Being Jewish

BHSS came back to life & learning with the early start to the High Holidays this year! Participation in this year's early programming has been terrific and several committees embraced this year's theme, the 'Art' of Being Jewish.

In September, we had a Taste of Melton, prepared spiritually for the holidays, and learned about Jewish artists on stage and screen.

In October, we had a “Bisl” Yiddish; explored God on our iPods with Rabbi Mosbacher and Student Rabbi Adena Kemper; and learned the powerful story of Yoni Netanyahu and his leadership of the Operation Entebbe through the documentary film “Follow Me”.

### So what's next.....

See a Broadway Show...

Read a book as part of One Book One

Community...

Learn to play mah jongg and join the mania!!!

Relive the story of Torah as it was meant to be told .....

You can always checkout the Lifelong Learning page for more details, but “save the date” for some of our upcoming events!

## Lifelong Learning Calendar

- **Broadway Bound!** Join the Lifelong Learning committee for the Sunday matinee of the Roundabout Theatre comedy “Bad Jews” on **Sunday, November 3**. Orchestra seats are available for \$52 per ticket. Call the temple office to purchase your tickets and leave your contact information for group dinner and car pool information.

- **Mah Jongg** – Join the mah jongg mania (bi-monthly on Sundays and Tuesdays). See the Lifelong Learning page for dates. Special Potluck Brunch on **Sunday, Dec. 22, 11-2 pm**.

- **Storahtelling Scholar-in-Residence** – The Torah service is the world's oldest continuous ritual of sacred storytelling. Storahtelling is a revival of the lost craft of the Maven, the traditional storyteller who translated the Hebrew Torah into local language. Rooted in biblical text and ritual practice, Storahtelling uses dramatized interpretations, traditional chanting, original music and live interaction *to bring Bible off the page* and onto the global stage. Bring the entire family on **Sunday morning, January 12, at 10 am** (beginning with bagels) for this unique and ancient way to experience Torah.

## MONTHLY TOT SHABBAT

### Now at a New Time!

Tot Shabbat is back, and better than ever!  
Families with children from  
**birth to 2nd grade**  
are invited to join Miss Ilene and Rabbi Mosbacher  
for a story, singing, a craft and a snack, from  
**9:30-10:15 am**  
on the following Shabbat mornings:

**November 23**

**January 11**

**February 8**

**March 8**

**April 12**

**May 3**

**June 7**

Please RSVP to the synagogue office  
at 201-512-1983  
if you plan to come, so we will have  
enough supplies for everyone!



# **Sustaining Member Donations**

A special thanks to those families who continue to support Beth Haverim Shir Shalom by participating

*B'racha is a blessing*

*Simcha is a joy*

*Tzedek means righteousness*

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 Roy & Marilyn Israel  
 George & Joan Kessel  
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 Jeff & Mona Lefkowitz  
 Andrew Schechter & Shari Slavin  
 Lois Schwartz  
 Richard & Gail Sobel  
 Arthur & Barbara Sternberg  
 Leslie & Kevin Strauss  
 Stu & Ruth Turner  
 Gail & Ranan Wichler

## **Simcha**

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 Robert & Missy Kossar  
 Arlene & Richard Mandel  
 Robert & Carol Shulman  
 Jon & Julie Selman  
 Julie & Doug Wright  
 Beverly & Harlan York

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 Peter & Dana Hopper  
 Phil & Barbara Moss  
 Jay & Melissa Peller  
 Steven & Lisa Potter  
 Bill & Kim Pressman  
 Fran & Jeff Rowbottom  
 Adam & Laurin Steiger  
 Marci & Harvey Weinberg

## ***Does your family have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah coming up?***

In order to be included in the appropriate issue of Temple Topics, your child's brief "bio" and photo are due as follows:

**For a January or February date,  
by December 1**

**For a March or April date, by February 1**

**For a May or June date, by April 1**

If you need a form, or have any questions, please call or email to the synagogue.

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**Thursday, November 7, 2013**

7:30 PM

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AJC Executive Director



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# Beth Haverim Shir Shalom

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Intergenerational Retreat!

Friday, January 17 – Sunday, January 19, 2014  
(Beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, ending at 12 p.m. Sunday)  
At URJ Camp Harlam, Kunkletown, PA

Join other singles,  
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fun-filled weekend with  
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Cost (includes all meals and lodging for the weekend):

\$70.00/Adult

\$60.00/Youth (ages 7-17)

\$40.00/Child (ages 3-6, free for under 3)

**Thanks to the BHSS Endowment for significantly underwriting the cost of the retreat!**  
Spaces are limited, so sign up soon! Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

**\*\* For more information, contact Debbie Falkow at [debalkow@hotmail.com](mailto:debalkow@hotmail.com). \*\***

Scholarships are available – please contact Rabbi Mosbacher at  
[rabbimosbacher@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbimosbacher@yahoo.com) for help with retreat fees.

---

Please tear off and hand in to Iris in the BHSS office by 12/17/13.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # Youth \_\_\_\_\_ # Children \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of Youth / Children \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions (Food is kosher style) \_\_\_\_\_

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Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_



## November Yahrzeits

MARVIN BENDALIN  
SAMUEL BERGER  
LILLIAN BERMAN  
ELAINE CRAMER BERNSTEIN  
DONNA BLUMENTHAL  
YURY BORODA  
ED KOHN  
MARVIN COMISKY  
JOE COYNE  
GERTRUDE EYL  
DONALD FIELDS  
ALAN FLON  
MILTON FLON  
BURTON FREEMAN  
MARILYN FRIEDMAN  
EMANUEL GARBUS  
MORRIS GOODMAN  
FLORENCE GORDON  
HARRY GORDON  
EUGENE GREENBLATT  
BENJAMIN GROSS

HELEN GROSS  
ISIDORE GROSS  
ELAINE HALL  
ALLAN HEFFLER  
MAE HEILBRAUM  
BESSIE HIEGER  
DIANA HYMOWITZ  
GEORGE KATZ  
SAMUEL KESSEL  
ANN KIRSHNER  
ELSIE KLEIN  
SALLY KOBRIN  
BELLA KUSCHELEFSKY  
STANLEY LEIPZIG  
ALICE LEVY  
OSCAR MAIER  
MURRAY MARKS  
EDWARD MINTZ  
PAUL MOHNBLATT  
JOHN PARKS  
SANFORD PARKS  
VI PEARLMAN

AARON PREMSELAAR  
WILLIAM RESNICK  
FAYE RICHARDSON  
PEARL ROSENBERG  
SEYMOUR SAIFF  
MARTHA SCHEININ  
MORITZ SCHOTT  
PAUL SHERMAN  
HARVEY SHILL  
NATHAN SINGER  
SHEPARD STERN  
ERNA TUTEUR  
LORETTA WAGMAN  
REBA WEBER  
HOWARD WEINBERG  
JEROME WEINBERG  
ELEANOR WEINER  
MILTON WEINER  
SYBIL WOLFE  
SARAH ZALL  
MOLLIE ZUKOF

## December Yahrzeits

HERMAN ACKERMAN  
LEAH ADLMAN  
NORMAN ARKAWY  
HOWARD BALEN  
DONNA BARRACK  
ESTHER BERNSTEIN  
HOWARD BETTMAN  
EDWARD BONDY  
KHANA BORODA  
ROSE HOCHMAN BRAHMS  
ROSA BRANDERSTEIN  
CLAIRE BENDER  
RONALD BRENNER  
VINCENT BRUNHARD  
BELLA COHEN  
GERALD DEFOREST CROUCH  
RUTH DOBLIN  
FLORENCE EICHNER  
SOPHIE EISENSTEIN  
WILLIAM EISENSTEIN  
JULIA FIHRER  
WALTER FONDILLER  
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BEVERLY GILBERT

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ALYSSA GOLD  
ESTHER GOODMAN-ZASLOW  
ELY GORDON  
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SAM HARMON  
SHIRLEY JACOBS  
PHOEBE JAFFE  
MILTON KLEIN  
HARRY KRUPNICK  
SYLVIA LACHER  
HERBERT LEVY  
HARRY LITMAN  
VALI MANZON  
NATHAN MELLIN  
JODI MONASH  
MILTON NACHINSON  
CLAIRE NOVAK  
HILDA OPELL  
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Ramapo Faculty Music Concert  
Saturday, November 9, 2013  
8 p.m., Adler Theater



An Acoustic Evening with Pam Tillis  
Saturday, January 18, 2014  
8 p.m., Sharp Theater



Bobby Broom Trio / Jean Prosper  
Saturday, January 25, 2014  
8 p.m., Sharp Theater

American Repertory Ballet Performs  
Romeo and Juliet  
Saturday, February 22, 2014  
8:00 pm., Sharp Theater



New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players  
I've Got A Little Twist  
Saturday, March 1, 2014  
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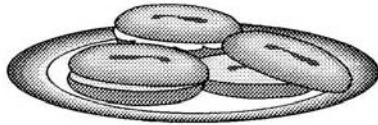
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**No Religious School**

Sunday, November 10

Monday, November 11

Tuesday, November 12

Sundays, December 1, December 22, and December 29

Mondays, December 23 and December 30

Tuesdays, December 24 and December 31

**Office Closed**

Thursday, November 28

Friday, November 29

*To do in November & December:*



**Torah Study** - Saturdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, and December 7, 14, 21, and 28 beginning at 8:15 a.m.

**Bring gently used/new children's clothing ages newborn to 5 to BHSS** as we participate in **Mitzvah Day**

- Sunday, November 3 from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Observe Kristallnacht at BHSS** on Saturday, November 9 beginning at 7 p.m.

**Play Mah Jongg! at BHSS** on Sunday, November 17 beginning at 1 p.m., Tuesday, November 26 beginning at 7 p.m.,

Tuesday, December 3 beginning at 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 22 beginning with a potluck brunch at 11 a.m. followed by games from noon to 2 p.m.

**Come for Shabbat Services and Stay for the Chocolate Oneg!** - Friday, November 22 beginning at 8 p.m.

**Bring your tots to Tot Shabbat** - Saturday, November 23 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**Worship with our Adult B'nai Mitzvah leading the service** - Saturday, November 23 beginning at 10 a.m.

**Sing along with the Coffeehouse Cantors - Chanukah Style** - Sunday, November 24 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Bring the whole family to the community menorah lighting** on Tuesday, November 26 beginning at 6 p.m.

**Enjoy the yummy "Preneg"** at 5:45 p.m. and then **light your family's menorah at the Chanukah service** on Friday, November 29 beginning at 6:15 p.m.

**Join the discussion of By Fire, By Water** at Shabbat services on Friday, December 6 beginning at 8 p.m.

**Harmonize with the Dartmouth Aires**, who return to BHSS for a concert on Sunday, December 8 beginning at 7 p.m.