

Beth Tikvah  
B'nai Jeshurun

בית תקווה בני ישורון

BTBJ...Where You Belong!

# The Ruach!

NOVEMBER 2023

HESHVAN 5784 - KISLEV 5784

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## BTBJ Stands With Israel



## FALL CALENDER

## NOVEMBER —DECEMBER EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>OCTOBER</b>	30	31	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	2	3	4
29			1 6:30pm CL Torah Lab Open Hour	7:30am Minyan Zoom Only 6:30pm Sisterhood Challah Baking	6:30pm Services	9:30am Bat Mitzvah of Ramona Treitel
5 9:30am Minyan In Person and On Zoom 10:15am ECC Parenting Series with Florence Sturm	6	7 No ECC	8 6:30 pm Genizah Sorting	9 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	10 6:00pm Kehillah Shabbat 7pm Kehillah Shabbat Dinner	11 9:30am Bar Mitzvah of Jason Stutman
12 9:30am Minyan In Person & Zoom  3pm CL— Chef in Residence Program with Aliza Green	13	14 6:30 pm IYUN	15	16 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only 7:15pm Board of Directors Meeting	17 5:30pm ECC Tot Shabbat Services 6pm ECC Dinner	18 9:30am Services 10am Shabbat Club 6:30pm Men's Club and Sisterhood Joint Bowling Event
19 9:30am Minyan In Person & Zoom 10:15 CL Kashrut Brunch	20 7pm Religious School - PSG Shopping Fundraiser	21 No Religious School 7:30pm Musical Adven- tures in the Siddur	22 No Religious School	23 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	24 No Services	25 9:30am Services Zoom Only
26 No Minyan	27	28 6:30 pm IYUN	29	30 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	<b>DECEMBER</b>	2
3 9:30am Minyan In Person & Zoom 10 AM ECC Chanukah Celebration	4 5:30pm Men's Club Appreciation Dinner	5 7:30 pm CL Book Club "Kosher Soul"	6 6:30 pm Torah Lab Open Hour	7 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	1 6:30pm Services	9:30am Services with Torah Study
10 9:30am Minyan In Person & Zoom  10 am Chanukah Community-wide event	11	12 6:30 pm IYUN	13 7:30pm Sisterhood Dinner Offsite	14 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only 7:15pm Board of Directors Meeting	15 6:30pm Services	16 9:30am Services with Torah Study
17 9:30am Minyan In Person & Zoom 12pm Cooking Class with Shelby Zitelman	18	19 11am Genizah Sorting  7:30pm Music Series - Musical Adventures in the Siddur	20	21 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only 10:00am ECC Winter Show	22 6:30pm Netesh Shabbat Services	23 9:30am Services with Torah Study Zoom Only
24 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	25	26	27	28 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	29 No Services	30 9:30am Services Zoom Only
31 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	<b>JANUARY</b>	2 No Religious School	3 6:30 pm Torah Lab Open Hour	4 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	5 6:30pm Services	6 9:30am Services 5:30 Kitah Gan & Kitah Nitzanim Class Service



Roni  
Handler,  
Rabbi

It has been three weeks since we woke up to the devastating news of the attacks on Israel and Israeli civilians. Since then, it has been impossible to turn away from the news. We watch with hope that more hostages will continue to be set free. We watch with trepidation as each attack and military mobilization unfolds, praying that our soldiers will be safe, and that no more innocent lives will be lost. And we watch with sorrow, still in shock that all of this is even happening.

When an individual Jewish person has lost a loved one, we learn that they are in a state of anninut. This stage of mourning is the most challenging, as it comes with immense pain, and at the same time our loss can cause a numbing effect for some time. Many rabbis have noted that this recent massacre has plunged the entire Jewish people into a state of anninut. We are shocked. We are angry. We are frightened. We are anxious. And...we are numb.

While we know that there have sadly been many other moments of collective mourning for our people, this doesn't make it any easier to live through it now. When one is in anninut, we need others even more to be checking in on us and helping us to move through. While we may be grateful for every phone call, text, and email we have received from our friends and neighbors, the silence from others has also been deafening. Personally, I have been so grateful for the ways that I have seen our BTBJ community, and the larger Jewish community, come together during this time. We have mobilized to raise funds and gather goods to be sent to Israel. We have shown up to check in with each other about our loved ones in Israel, about trips to Israel being postponed, and the general state of our hearts and minds. And we continue to show up to simply be together—to embrace one another, and to remind ourselves and each other that we are not alone.

As we continue our collective journey of grief, I encourage you to continue to show up. Our BTBJ calendar is packed with opportunities to come together with one another to laugh, to bake, to eat, to learn, to pray and to play. It is ok to experience joy in this moment and this is often a much-needed balm to help us carry on. May we continue to pray for an end to this violence and that our hostages be returned home. And may we find comfort in one another as pray for more peaceful days ahead.

Oseh shalom bimroav hu ya'aseh  
shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisrael.

Amen.

May the one who makes peace above,  
make peace for us, and for all Israel.

Amen.







**Alana F.  
Dunoff,  
BTBJ  
President**

Shalom to My BTBJ Community,

This has been a hard few weeks for all of us, one minute we are celebrating Simchat Torah and the next we are hearing about unspeakable crimes against humanity in Israel. By the time this newsletter is published I can only hope that peace has come swiftly to the region.

Once again, our "WE" came out in force, as our kehillah came together to pray, to give, to sing, and to mourn. While this is not how WE want to come together, there is so much comfort when WE do come together in these devastating moments. True solidarity. I am grateful to be a part of such a caring and jump into action community.

On a lighter note, I wanted to take a moment to talk about community involvement. WE are a community that when asked - rolls up their sleeves, shows up, and gets involved. WE have dedicated volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and on our committees helping to bring our programs, services, and experiences to life at BTBJ. WE are grateful for every hand.

Volunteer work is at the heart of BTBJ. All the programs and events you participate in are coordinated by our volunteers AND our amazing office administrative and support staff. But without volunteers inside our walls would be pretty quiet.

I have been volunteering since the 10th grade when I became the treasurer of BBG Ner Tamid in Allentown. Volunteering is a great way to bond and make friends and it's a great way to feel like you are connected to a community. For me, volunteering is an opportunity to give back to my community, to be a part of something bigger than just myself and to do some good in the world. I feel very fulfilled when I volunteer – which is probably why I have been doing it my entire life.

If you have ever volunteered before, then you know that most people don't volunteer in one place forever; life marches forward and you transition to new opportunities and passions. This can leave gaps in the successful functioning of a committee or said another way this means that there are ALWAYS opportunities for new people, with new ideas, and fresh energy to get involved.

I am sure you can see where I am going with this. WE need YOU, to become a volunteer. Every facet of our community can benefit from extra volunteer hands, we need home room parents in the religious school, help with program development and execution in congregational learning, we need folks to spend 30 minutes making a minyan, we need tech and social media savvy resources, and much more. We are open to all kinds of skills and talents, but most importantly, we need your willingness to give some of your time to the greater good of the community.

You might be reading this and thinking that if you say YES to being a volunteer, that you are going to get sucked into the vortex of volunteering. To be honest, I can't guarantee that you won't... but we will do our best to respect your time, make you feel valued for your contributions and to have some fun.

It is said that the best way to find volunteers is to look someone in the eyes and ask for their help – it is hard to say no to a person standing in front of you. If this wasn't my volunteer job and I had all the hours in the day – perhaps I could ask each member of our community face to face to volunteer in some way – but that is not a luxury I have. So, I am asking you in my article to consider if you have a couple hours a month to help to strengthen our community. If do you, please reach out to me at [alanadunoff@gmail.com](mailto:alanadunoff@gmail.com) and we can figure out where your talents can really shine.

Thank you begin a part of our WE!

Alana





**Rabbi  
Kami Knapp  
Schechter,  
Educational  
Director**

The religious school at BTBJ continues to be a busy place. We began the month of October by celebrating Sukkot and Simchat Torah. On Sukkot, classes rotated through the Sukkah, learning about ushpizin (guests), the mitzvot of Sukkot, and how to wave the Lulav. The students received a special treat in order to fully enjoy the mitzvah of sitting in the BTBJ sukkah.

For Simchat Torah Evan Wolf taught each grade (7 grades) a different Hebrew song such as Am Yisrael Chai, and Torah, Torah. The classes did an amazing job learning the songs quickly and we concluded the day celebrating outside, dancing with the Torah as we sang our seven songs representing the seven hakafot.

Regular class is now in full swing. Our 103 students are busy learning Hebrew, prayers, life cycle, Tanakh and much more. In the middle of the month our moomchim rotations began. In moomchim students learn about Israel, life cycle, Jewish art/ history, and mitzvot rotating every four weeks to another subject. This is in addition to their homerooms.

We welcomed our families at our Fall Open House on October 22nd. The Open House allowed them to get together as a group and allowed them to experience the rich learning environment that BTBJ provides our students. Families learned about all the exciting new programming coming up and were able to sit in their students' classes for 20 minutes getting to know the faculty and the topics which their students are learning.

We are introducing a new program in place of the traditional Junior Congregation program. This program is called Kehillah Kids! Traditional services such as Friday night and Saturday morning are worth 1 point whereas special events, identified throughout the BTBJ calendar, students can earn more than 1 point. The points will be tallied at the end of the year and special awards will be given for the different levels of points received. We hope that

this inspires our families to be active in the larger BTBJ community while students also feel a sense of accomplishment for their attendance.

In addition, during this challenging time, students made cards and signs of support for Israel. Information about the war in Israel was given at an age appropriate level and the important emphasis was on how we can share our support and solidarity with Israel as Jews living in the diaspora.

The months ahead will be just as busy as we move towards Hanukkah and the second semester of school. If you know of students and families who are interested in religious school please send them my contact information and I'm happy to speak with how we can get them involved in our bustling school! It's been an absolute pleasure getting to know all the special students we have here at BTBJ, they truly bring light into a world that can feel very dark sometimes. Thank you for allowing us to care for and teach your children!

A poster for the Kehillah Kids program. It features a blue and white color scheme with a large blue 'K' logo. The text reads: "THIS YEAR, WE ARE ROLLING OUT A NEW PILOT PROGRAM CALLED: KEHILLAH KIDS!", "Kehillah Kids", "THE NEW JUNIOR CONGREGATION!", and a list of four rules for earning points. At the bottom, it says "Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun" and provides contact information for Rabbi Kami Knapp Schechter.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE ROLLING OUT A NEW PILOT PROGRAM CALLED: KEHILLAH KIDS!

**Kehillah Kids**

**THE NEW JUNIOR CONGREGATION!**

1. ALL SHABBAT SERVICES WORTH 1 POINT.  
2. SPOT THE KEHILLAH KID ICON ON FLYERS AND PROMOTIONS FOR EVENTS WORTH MORE THEN 1 POINT.

3. ATTEND EVENTS TO COLLECT POINTS  
4. MAKE SURE YOU FIND THE SHABBAT ATTENDANCE BOX WITH INDEX CARDS, PULL YOUR CARD WITH YOUR NAME AND PUT MAGEN DAVID STICKERS ON YOUR CARD (1 STICKER PER POINT)

4. AT THE END OF THE YEAR, POINTS WILL BE TOTALED AND REWARDS GIVEN FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS ACHIEVED.

Beth Tikvah  
B'nai Jeshurun

More info: Contact Rabbi Kami  
kknappschechter@btbj.org



### Fundraising Ways and Means Annette Schwartz

The BTBJ Cookbook is almost ready to make its way into your kitchen. Get ready for over 75 delicious recipes shared by our congregation, their friends and family. We will be taking pre-orders for our cookbook starting on November 1, 2023. Please contact the office with your orders or look for the link in Constant Contact. Cookbooks will be on sale for \$36 each. They make great holiday gifts. I can't wait to try out some of the delicious recipes for my family.

The BOD is hard at work gathering fantastic items for our BUY IT NOW auction. This auction is a major fundraiser for our congregation. If you have or know of someone that has a business and would like to donate a gift certificate, we can contact them or perhaps you can get it to the office. We have so many talented people in our community who have businesses in their homes and would like to get more people acquainted with their business. They can do this by donating an item or gift certificate. If you have any "GAME" tickets that you would like to donate to our BUY IT NOW, please let us know. Usually sporting events bring in great BIDS. The BUY IT NOW is scheduled to debut in December before Chanukkah. Hopefully, you will participate in this fun event.

Don't forget we always have memorial plaques, leaves for our Tree of Life and bricks for our garden for sale. My grandchildren love walking along the path to the front door of the synagogue and seeing their names on "their" brick. Remember you can honor or memorialize someone with these items.

Remember--let's get cooking by ordering your BTBJ cookbook!

### **BTBJ Bricks**

#### ***Give A Forever Gift!***

**Honor or memorialize a loved one with the gift of a customized brick permanently placed in our beautiful garden.**

**Join us in a meaningful way and add your family's name, your graduate, new baby, B'nai Mitzvah, Anniversary or just a simcha you would like to honor.**

IN HONOR OF  
HERB & JEANIE GALLOP  
BTBJ SINCE 1966

**Single Brick:  
\$154**

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH  
OF OUR GRANDDAUGHTER  
JAYDA ROSE  
SWARTZ-KOREN  
ANNETTE AND PERRY  
SWARTZ

**Double Brick:  
\$216**

**Please contact Anne to  
send you an order form:**

**[adecock@btbj.org](mailto:adecock@btbj.org)**





Warren  
Chiara,  
Men's Club  
President

It is hard to believe that we are in November – a month where we start thinking about where we will spend Thanksgiving or beginning to plan that vacation over the holiday break. At BTBJ, though, we are planning for another special occasion – our Channukah fundraiser! And the Men's Club has been asked to help. Annette Swartz and her team are busily preparing a "buy it now" prior to the synagogue's Channukah celebration on December 10 and a silent auction during the party.

I am calling on Men's Club members to offer items for the buy it now. It could be sports or concert tickets, a stay at your shore house, or something simple as restaurant gift cards or gift baskets. Time is running out though, as the deadline to get these items in is November 17. So, reach out to your local businesses and contacts to secure some awesome gifts that will raise money for our synagogue.

As for what we have been up to over the past month, Men's Club has been very busy. Starting with our annual Sukkot event in early October that featured Rabbi Roni's insightful teaching on what a Rabbi's point of view is as to what are acceptable objects to use as our sukkah walls. They covered all the bases including whether it is okay to use camels or elephants as our sukkah walls. Now, of course, we wouldn't use either of these creatures to build our walls today, but thousands of years ago when there wasn't much else around but beasts of burden, that was a real option. Of course, this subject brought serious debate. Some rabbis agreed it would be fine to use your animals as a sukkah wall, while others disagreed, saying that if the animal moved then you wouldn't have a wall at all. It certainly was a good topic of discussion among our group gathered under our Sukkah.

Later in the month we had our first poker tournament of the year. This event is always enthusiastic and intimate no matter if there are 30 players or 10. The prize winners were Eric Stern who won first place, Rob Magill coming in second, and Rich Schindler earning the third-place prize. We plan to hold another Texas Hold 'Em tournament in the New Year, so if you were not able to join us last month, there will be another opportunity for you to play.

The following Sunday Michael and Elisa Seeherman, and Jordan Yuter joined me and about 55 other volunteers at Har Jehuda to participate in a Friends of Jewish Cemeteries clean up. We removed overgrown

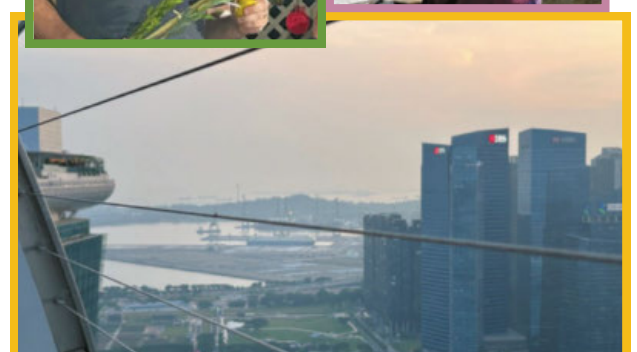
trees and weeds that were completely encasing some of the headstones and grave sites. We also met and chatted with Rich Blumberg, one of the organizers of the event who had his Bar Mitzvah at BTBJ. It was my second time participating in the clean-up, which are held about four times a year at Har Jehuda and Har Nebo. If you would like to participate in clean ups, watch the weekly BTBJ newsletter and your email for information as it becomes available.

Lastly, the following Sunday, the Men's Club came together to watch the Eagles take on their division rivals the Washington Commanders. We had a good crowd on hand to enjoy barbeque, drinks and snacks while cheering on the team.

If you have not joined Men's Club yet, make the commitment before November 18 to take advantage of the discount rate for our joint Sisterhood/Men's Club bowling event at South Bowl on Oregon Avenue. This is going to be a great event so dust off your bowling shoes and join us in a few weeks in South Philly. Lastly, our Men's Club Appreciation dinner is scheduled for Monday December 4. Take note of the new date! As of this writing we are still finalizing our guest speaker so watch your email and the BTBJ weekly for information and details.

Until then, I wish you a happy Thanksgiving and all the best for the rest of the year.

Shalom!





Rachel Fox,  
Sisterhood  
President

Hi Ladies,

I feel like a broken record here, but in a great way. We had another great Sippin' in the Sukkah event to celebrate the Holiday of Sukkot. Over 30 sisterhood members gathered to learn with Rabbi Roni and to enjoy the Mitzvah of Shaking the Lulav and Etrog. And in keeping with the Sisterhood spirit, and with the theme of food for the year, we also enjoyed sipping wine and noshing on snacks together.

In November, our Challah Baking event is back! We look forward to getting together again and learn how to make Challah with a new recipe. We will have Hannah Rosenberg, the Assistant Director at Drexel Hillel, lead us through this fun evening. Besides spending time with our community, I believe the best part of the evening is taking your freshly braided challah home to bake for your family to enjoy!

We also have another great joint event planned with Men's Club coming up. Mark your calendars for November 18th at 7pm for a fun night out at South Bowl in Philadelphia. Information is included in this newsletter so please RSVP for a great time.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the atrocity with what's going on in Israel. Personally, one of the best things about BTBJ is the comradery and love that I feel when I'm with members of this synagogue. While we do not have any control over the terror occurring in Israel, I love the support that I feel by everyone within our Kehillah. To Rabbi Roni, Cantor Benjamin, Rabbi Kami, Val and all of the staff of BTBJ, thank you for all you have done to help us grieve and find comfort from our amazing BTBJ Family. Am Yisrael Chai!

## Sippin' in The Sukkah!





**Sisterhood and Men's Club Night Out at:**

**Saturday, November 18th, 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM**  
**19 East Oregon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA**

**Sisterhood & Men's Club Members: \$45 per person**  
**Non-Members\*\*\*: \$65 per person**

**Includes: Bowling, shoe rental, arcade tokens, apps, dinner, soft drinks. Cash bar for alcohol. Free parking available.**

**R.S.V.P. by 11/5 and pay via Venmo: @Jay-Halbert**  
 (please indicate that payment is for South Bowl event)

**Questions? Please reach out to:****Sisterhood –**

Randi Halbert, 610-331-3498, [rhalbert@comcast.net](mailto:rhalbert@comcast.net)

Rachel Baum, 201-960-9473, [rachelmichelebaum@gmail.com](mailto:rachelmichelebaum@gmail.com)

**Men's Club – David Barrist, 610-420-5999, [dbarrist@yahoo.com](mailto:dbarrist@yahoo.com)**



\*\*\*We will honor the \$45 "Member" price if you join Men's Club/Sisterhood prior to this event. Must pay membership dues at time of RSVP.

**BTBJ**

Thursday, November 2, 2023 @ 6:30 PM  
 Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun

**SISTERHOOD**

**Make your own challahs to bake at home.**

Please bring a non-perishable food donation.

\$25 sisterhood members      \$36 non-members

Donations graciously accepted.

Register by 10.23.2023

[Registration Link](#)

Paypal: [BTBJSisterhood1@gmail.com](mailto:BTBJSisterhood1@gmail.com)

\*add \$3 for service charges

Check: payable to BTBJ Sisterhood



**Light Fare Provided**

Questions?

Ariane Gittleman at [gittleman@icloud.com](mailto:gittleman@icloud.com)

Terri Rosen at [terrosen@comcast.net](mailto:terrosen@comcast.net)

## CHESTNUT HILL LOCAL Features BTBJ'S Own Mosaic Artist Jessica Liddell

### *Celebrated Mt. Airy Mosaic Artist Goes International*



*Jessica Liddell, who has owned Bella Mosaic Art at 6780 Germantown Ave. for 15 years, will be leaving soon for the much-coveted month-long "Nocefresca Artist Residency" in Sardinia.*

by Len Lear

It is no secret in the local arts community that Mt. Airy resident Jessica Gorlin Liddell is a spectacularly talented mosaic artist who has completed over 45 public art projects, commissions, collaborative installations and artist residencies over the last 20 years throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Florida.

But now the recognition is international.

Liddell, who has owned Bella Mosaic Art on Germantown Ave. for 15 years, was recently one of just a few artists selected out of countless applicants for the prestigious month long "Nocefresca Artist Residency" in Sardinia, the second largest island in the Mediterranean known for its ancient and mysterious Bronze Age stone ruins shaped like beehives. She departed for Europe on Sept. 18, with her art residency scheduled to begin in October.

Originally from California, where she trained at the prestigious California College of Art & Design, Liddell moved to the Philadelphia area 23 years ago when her husband, Andy Liddell, relocated back to the Mt. Airy neighborhood where he grew up. Andy, a house painter by trade, has done extensive interior and exterior painting work on homes throughout Chestnut Hill and Mt. Airy over the years.

In addition to her large-scale mosaic installations in schools, houses of worship and public and private buildings, Liddell and her team at Bella Mosaic Art have also created hundreds of mosaic and fused glass pieces of all sizes for parks, hospitals, restaurants, shops, office buildings, community gardens and more throughout the Greater Philadelphia region.

Some of her most recent mosaic creations include stunning glass walls at the Peter Camiel and Valley Forge rest stops along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, as well as an expansive work unveiled this year at Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun synagogue in Erdenheim.

"We were so fortunate to find Jessica to guide us through this process," said BTBJ President Alana Dunoff. "She helped us craft the vision for the project, including encouraging our religious school children to create drawings capturing what 'community' means to them, and our entire community participated in hands-on tile-making and glazing workshops."



Ultimately, they used more than 70 of the children's drawings to produce the mosaic's final design.





Ramona Jane Treitel  
Daughter of  
Stephanie  
Feldman and  
Jonathan Treitel,  
Sister of Danica  
Becomes a  
Bat Mitzvah on  
November 4, 2023

Ramona is a 7th grade icon at Sandy Run Middle School. Born in Manhattan, Ramona agreed to return to her parents' hometown of Philadelphia as a toddler. An early love for Ritz crackers, princess dresses, and "Star Wars" has since developed into a taste for spicy ramen, oversized sweatshirts, and "The Vampire Diaries." As a student activist at Fort Washington Elementary School, Ramona memorized the United States Presidents; now she can recite all of Lana Del Rey's lyrics. Ramona enjoys spending her summers focusing on art, fashion design, video editing, and undermining her parents' attempts to put downtime restrictions on her phone.

For her Bat Mitzvah project, Ramona volunteered with HIAS. Her activities included shopping for and delivering groceries; distributing ESL and school supplies; and assisting with a home set up for recent immigrants and refugees. Her service reflects the Jewish value of Hakhnasat Orhim, or welcoming guests, which is also one of the subjects of her Torah portion, Vayera. Ramona was proud to work with an organization that helped her great- and great-great grandparents when they were new Americans.

Ramona began her Jewish education in the BTBJ ECC, and is proud to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at BTBJ. She and her family thank Morah Suzanne Castor, Cantor Benjamin Greenfield, Rabbi Roni Handler, Val Hurwitz, and all of the religious school teachers and staff. We also extend thanks to our BTBJ family for their support, including meals following Hurricane Ida. We're grateful to be part of this community.



Jason Eli Stutman  
Son of Debbie Blume  
and Steve Stutman,  
Brother of Maggie,  
Will and Robbie  
Becomes a  
Bar Mitzvah on  
November 11, 2023

Jason attended preschool at BTBJ and is now in seventh grade at Colonial Middle School. We would like to thank Rabbi Roni, Cantor Benjamin, Valarie, Marcie and all of the amazing preschool and religious school teachers for providing Jason with a wonderful beginning to his Jewish education. Another important piece of Jewish learning happened when our family took an impactful trip to Israel in 2022 with Jason's Bubbe. We are all praying for the people of Israel.

Jason is an avid rock climber and can often be found at Reach Climbing. He has been a camper at Camp Green Lane since the summer after first grade and always enjoys his time at his summer home. He also enjoys writing music and gaming.

For his mitzvah project, Jason completed Friendship Circle's MVP program. Along with his brother, he also attends Sunday Circle to hang out with a friend for the day. Through this amazing organization, Jason is learning about others with special needs and the importance of being a good friend. We are so proud of Jason and his accomplishments thus far. We look forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah with all of our friends and family.

*Mazel  
Tov*

## Montgomery

Rosa Parks and Bus Boycott 1955



## Selma

March For Voting Rights 1960



For more information,  
or to sign up,  
please visit our  
website: [btbj.org](http://btbj.org)



## **BTBJ CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP**

**MARCH 17 -19, 2024**

Presented by the Congregational Learning Committee in conjunction with Etgar 36

## Atlanta

MLK Arrested - Sit In 1960



## Birmingham

Children's Crusade 1963



We will also explore how Jews were involved in the civil rights struggle.



## CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

### IYUN

*Join the Fall cohort of this not-to-be-missed program!*

IYUN is a cohort-based Jewish learning experience for adults which was introduced to BTBJ by Rabbi Roni last year. The program is aimed at building Jewish community and a love of Torah study through the exploration of existential questions through the lens of Torah.

The practice of studying Torah is both informative and social. Participants last year built a unique, deeply Jewish kind of relationship with one another unlike anything else while they enjoyed a special space of considering our Jewish values in our challenging world.

We will start our year exploring “The Gift of Responsibility” as we learn with one another, to strengthen our relationships, and gain new perspectives.

#### **Classes start November 14th And continue on:**

November 28	December 12
January 9	January 23
February 13	February 27

Sessions will meet at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays at BTBJ or at a participant's home. Light dinner is served.

### Learning Opportunities With Cantor Benjamin

#### Music Series

*The Music of Prayer:  
Exploring the Siddur*

During this series, we will explore the text of a prayer, focusing on the poetry, theology, and other points of interest of that session's prayer. Following the text study, we will enjoy listening to different settings of that prayer, starting with the melody most often used at BTBJ as a jumping off point, and then experience different melodies from Jewish communities around the world in contemporary settings, and do our best to embody the many modes in which Jews pray the same text.

All sessions will be held from  
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

#### **Classes:**

November 21	December 19
January 30	February 20
March 26	April 16
May 28	

### *Torah Lab With Cantor Benjamin*

Join a growing number of our congregational family who are chanting Torah, Haftarah and Megillah. Drop into BTBJ's no pressure lab - a reader's support group for all ages. Let's gather to practice, develop strategies for learning and have fun with readers of all ages.

All sessions will be held from 6:30PM-7:45 PM

#### **Classes:**

November 1	December 6
January 3	February 28: Megillah
March 13: Megillah	April 10



## CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

### Our Continuing Parent Series Presents



#### **The Daily Struggles of Parenting:**

Mealtimes, Bedtime, Tantrums & Other  
Challenging Behaviors

**with Florence Sturm, C.P.E.**

**Sunday, November 5, 2023, 10:15 AM**

Join us for program & brunch after minyan.

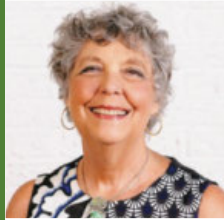
Florence Sturm, a parent educator, will be returning to share ideas and facilitate a conversation on how to help our youngest BTBJ members with challenging eating habits and behaviors.

- This program is appropriate for parents of children up to the 3rd grade.
- The program is free, a donation is suggested.

*Presented in Partnership with the ECC & ECC PSG*

### Chefs in Residence

#### **Chef Aliza Green**



Aliza Green is an award-winning chef with extensive experience in the food industry, a culinary consultant, and author of 15 food guides and cookbooks. Her books include Field Guide to Herbs & Spices and The Magic of Spice Blends.

She leads small group culinary/cultural tours to destinations like Italy, India, Morocco, and Israel, all including Jewish history.

#### **The Fragrant History of Jews and Spices**

**Sunday, November 12, 2023 – 3:00 PM**

Learn about the fascinating and fragrant history of Jews and Spices from noted chef, cookbook author, and culinary tour leader, Aliza Green at BTBJ on Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 PM. Green will speak about the Jewish history of spices, create a display of exotic spices, and provide a tasting of spice-focused Jewish dishes from a variety of cuisines and cultures. Attendees will receive a set of recipes to create these dishes in their own kitchens. This program is free to members, and donations are appreciated.

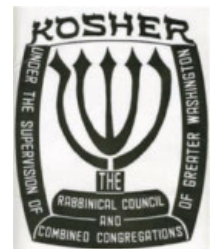
### Kashrut Series



#### **A Journey Through the Laws, Traditions and Evolution of Kashrut**

**Sunday, November 19, 2023**

***Join us for Brunch After Minyan***



Our world is inundated with all sorts of diets and foods. People even say You Are What You Eat. Is there a Jewish diet? What does it mean to “keep kosher”? Join us as we explore the basic tenets and values of kashrut. While individuals will decide for themselves to what extent and how they will go about observing kashrut, collectively as a community, we will learn about and discuss the history and evolution of Kashrut, leading to considerations of how we can balance respect for the tradition of kashrut, the values of our conservative synagogue, and ethical and mindful ways to approach our eating practices.



## CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

### Learning and Social Action Program

#### Genizah: The Burial of Sacred Objects

Learning about the Genizah with Rabbi Roni

October 22, 2023, 10:15 AM After Minyan

Genizah is the burial of sacred prints and objects. According to Halacha, it is forbidden to destroy or erase any written document or ritual object that contains God's name. But which names of God does this refer to? And what sacred objects does this apply to? Does this only apply to other papers or books? Learn about this tradition, what should be buried and why, and help BTBJ sort through boxes to identify what will be buried and what can be donated.

#### Genizah Mitzvah Days

Wednesday, November 8, 2023: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Tuesday, December 19, 2023: 11:00 AM

Sunday, January 7, 2024 10:15 AM after minyan

Every modern Jewish community, including BTBJ, has a closet or place where they store old religious books and materials until they can bury them. Join us for our Genizah mitzvah days when, after learning about what is required to be buried, we will sort through our boxes and set aside items that do not need to be buried but are still usable and can be donated and those items which we will bury at King David Memorial Park on May 5, 2024.

*Join us for this unique opportunity as we bury our sacred objects at King David Memorial Park. The entire community is invited to participate. There will be an early dismissal for any religious school families who plan to attend.*

Genizah Burial

King David Memorial Park, Bensalem, PA 19020

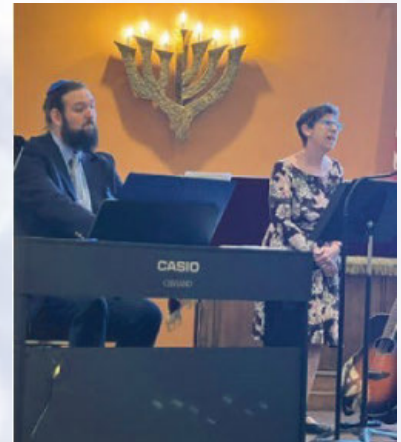
May 5, 2024, 1:00 PM

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B'nai Jeshurun  
Sunday  
October 22, 2023



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### Halle Schwartzman, Daughter of Beth and David Schwartzman, Sophomore at James Madison University, Speaks To Honor The Lives Lost in Israel.



Halle Schwartzman is the President of the newly formed (revived) Hillel at JMU. This week, she and the Jewish students in Hillel, Chabad and AEPI came together to honor the lives lost in Israel. Halle spoke in front of the more than 200 people who gathered. Halle is a member of BTBJ and a graduate of our Religious School. She is the daughter of David and Beth Schwartzman.

“Hi Everyone.

For those of you who I haven't met, I'm Halle Schwartzman, the President of JMU Hillel - the student-led Jewish organization on campus.

My whole life I have worn my star of David, my hamsa and my curly hair proudly. It defines who I am, a very proud Jewish woman. But over the last few days, I have become terrified of how the world feels like it's crumbling at my feet. I, like many others, have been watching my people drop by hundreds; rates that we haven't seen since the Holocaust. Yes, the Holocaust. The genocide where Hitler and the Nazis killed off 11 million people - 6 million of them Jews - as Europe and most of the world stood by, watching and powerless. We go to Yad Vashem and the Holocaust Museums around the world and learn about how our ancestors were tortured, starved, beaten, raped, gassed and more, and wonder how everybody seemingly stood by and did nothing. Well, I think we can all say that we understand now.

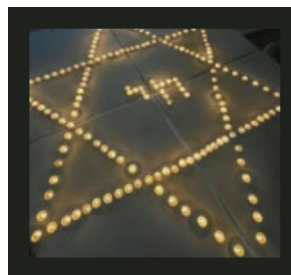
I had been in Tel Aviv eating the best hamburger of my life just over a year ago when there was a terrorist attack 3 blocks away in a busy bar. My Israeli friend, Ofek, whom I was catching up with from the summer prior, grabbed me by the hand and rushed us out of the restaurant. This terrorist killed 3 innocent people. Innocent people just

having a drink on a Thursday night on Dizengoff Street. I live in America and experience the horrors of mass shootings and the hate for all frequently. But this week, I have been more uneasy than I ever have been before. I am scared to leave my home. I am scared to go to class. I'm scared to go on Instagram. I'm scared to show my Jewish pride or my love for Israel while not hidden behind a screen. Nevertheless, I will never be *ashamed* to be Jewish.

This week, I caught myself hiding my star of David necklace in my shirt for the first time ever. I was walking from the SSC down to Chesapeake parking deck at the end of the day on Tuesday and I saw this man approaching me with what looked like a knife. I quickly grabbed my necklace, and tucked it right into my sweatshirt. He was gripping it tightly, with the wooden part sticking up and he made direct eye contact with me as he passed me on the sidewalk in front of the bus stop. He continued to walk by and I looked back to see that he was holding one of those things that mashes potatoes. I laughed. I laughed because how could I think something so ridiculous. But then I realized, it makes sense. I am *horrified* to be Jewish in this world right now. I am horrified to the point that I believe that someone is going to walk by me, see my tiny Jewish star on my chest and kill me.

This war is not a political issue. It's not an issue of Israel vs. Palestine or Israelis vs. Palestinians. It's an issue of heinous attacks on innocent civilians, completely unprovoked by a terrorist group that is known to behave like this. We must stand by what we believe in. We must stand proud, with our heads held high until this passes. Because this too, shall pass.

To quote an instagram post I saw recently (out of the literal thousands) “You don't have to be Jewish. You don't have to be Israeli, You just have to be human to care, to love and to take a stance.” Thank you all so much for coming, and being with us here today. It means the absolute world to everyone here, and we appreciate and love you all.



If you see hate, call it out. You can report anti-Semitic incidents to the Anti Defamation League's website, which is posted on our website and instagram.

Hate will not win and Never again is now. Thank you.”

- Halle Schwartzman, 2023

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Condolences

Our condolences to  
Steve and Robin Katz  
on the loss of beloved son  
Joshua Katz.

Joshua was the nephew of  
Rabbi Saul Grife and  
Linda Grife (of Beloved Memory.)



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Left to right: Reza Hakim Shoushtari, DMD; Jill Zurek, DDS; Jill Moniz, DDS; Lawrence Schiff, DMD. Not pictured: Richard Titlebaum, DMD





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## Schedule Of Services

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Light candles.....5:38 pm  
Services.....6:30 pm

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Services.....9:30 am  
Ramona Treitel, daughter of  
Stephanie Feldman & Jonathan Treitel  
will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Light candles.....4:31 pm  
Kehillah Services.....6:00 pm

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Services.....9:30 am  
Jason Stutman, Son of Debbie Blume &  
Steve Stutman will be  
called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Light candles.....4:25 pm  
ECC Tot Shabbat Services.....5:30 pm

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Services.....9:30 am

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Light candles.....4:21 pm  
No Services

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Services ZOOM Only.....9:30 am

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Light candles.....4:18 pm  
Services.....6:30 pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Services With Torah Study.....9:30 am

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Light candles.....4:18 pm  
Kehillah Shabbat Services.....6:00 pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Services .....9:30 am  
Sasha Heckman, Daughter of  
Lindsay & Daniel Heckman will be  
called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Light candles.....4:18 pm  
Services.....6:30 pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Services With Torah Study.....9:30 am

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Light candles.....4:21 pm  
Netesh Shabbat Services .....6:30 pm

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Services with Torah Study Zoom Only..9:30 am

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Light candles.....4:26 pm  
No Services

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Services with Torah Study Zoom Only..9:30 am



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