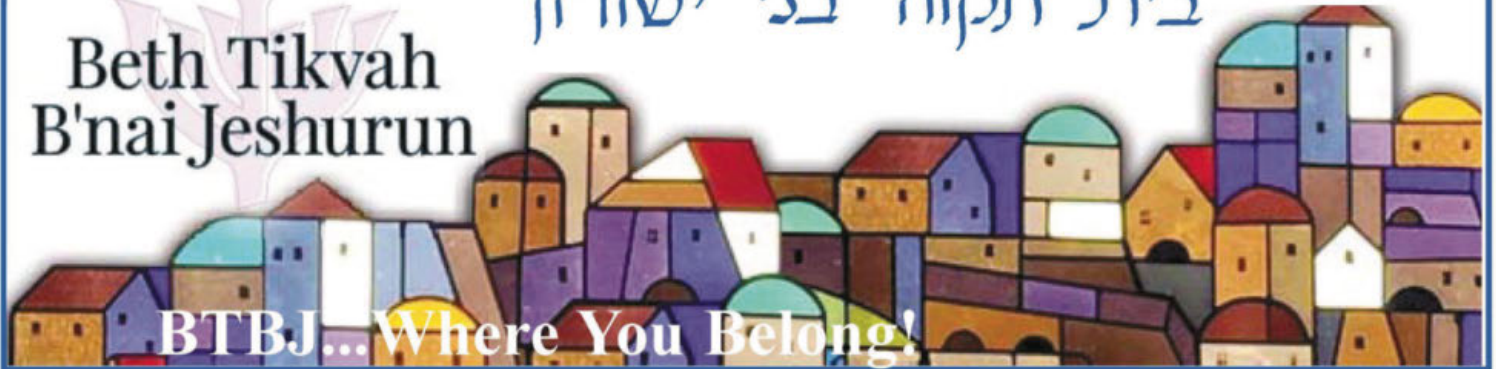


Beth Tikvah
B'nai Jeshurun

בית תקווה בני ישורון



BTBJ... Where You Belong!

The Ruach!

MAY 2024
NISAN - IYAR 5784

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MAY - JUNE 2024 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Chol Hamoed Pesach 9:30am Minyan both in person and on Zoom	29 Pesach 9:30 AM Services	30 Pesach 9:30am Services with Yizkor No Religious School	MAY 1 No Religious School	2 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	3 6:00pm Services	4 9:30am Services Bat Mitzvah of Callie Krauss
5 9:30am Minyan Keshet Teens trip to NYC	6 BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	7	8 Cuker Yom HaShoah Program 7:00 pm	9 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	10 6:00pm Kehillah Shabbat Services	11 9:30am Services Bat Mitzvah of Alexis Feinman
12 Happy Mother's Day 9:30am Minyan	13	14	15 BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm Keshet Teens Closing Celebration 6:30 pm	16 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	17 6:30pm Services	18 9:30am Services Bat Mitzvah of Ella Levitt
19 9:30am Minyan Last Sunday Religious School 1:00pm Sisterhood Theater Event	20 ECC Lag B'Omer Picnic 5:00 pm BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	21 7:15pm Board of Directors & Annual Meeting	22 Kitah Hay Move Up Celebration 6:30 pm	23 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	24 6:30pm Services	25 9:30am Services Bat Mitzvah of Hailey Gold
26 9:30am Minyan	27 Memorial Day	28 7:30pm Music Series	29	30 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	31 6:00pm Services	JUNE 1 9:30am Services Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Davidoff
2 9:30am Minyan Men's Club Steak Dinner 5:30 pm	3	4 Sisterhood Board Dinner 7:00 pm offsite	5 6:30pm Torah Prep Open Hour	6 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Softball Game 6:15 pm	7 ECC Graduation 10:00 am 6:00pm Kehillah Shabbat Services 7:00pm Kehillah Dinner	8 9:30am Services Bat Mitzvah of Cassidy Kanze
9 9:30am Minyan	10 BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	11 Erev Shavuot	12 Shavuot 9:30am Services	13 Shavuot 9:30am Services with Yizkor	14 6:30pm Services	15 9:30am Services Bat Mitzvah of Emily Walder
16 Happy Father's Day 9:30am Minyan	17	18	19	20 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm 7:15pm Board Mtg.	21 6:30pm Services	22 9:30am Services Bar Mitzvah of Ari Shawn Goretzky
23 9:30am Minyan	24	25	26	27 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	28 6:30pm Services	29 9:30am Services
30 9:30am Minyan	JULY 1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5 No Services	6 9:30am Services



Roni Handler, Rabbi

Passover felt different this year. We ate the matzah, we told the story, and maybe we even sang the songs, but it was different. During the seder we always recite the words, “*avadaim hayinu, atah b’nai chorin* – once we were slaves, now we are free.” We place ourselves into the shoes of the Israelites and as we say these words, we recall how the Israelites were redeemed from Egypt. We remember how we were saved, and because of this Jews all over the world celebrate this freedom each and every year. But this year, while we were able to celebrate the freedom of the ancient Israelites, and victories of generations of Jews that came before us, it might have felt a bit premature, disingenuous, or downright hypocritical to celebrate freedom during our seders. This year has been different.

The Hebrew word for Egypt, the place where the Israelites were enslaved, is *Mitzrayim*. This word literally translates to “narrow spaces.” The word *Mitzrayim* not only reminds us of the limited role Israelites held in society, but we can also feel within this word the constriction and powerlessness that pervaded the lives, the bodies, and the psyche of the ancient Israelites.

As we told our story this year, and celebrated the victory of our Passover story, this joy was dampened by not only the ten plagues, but by the reality of the Israel/Hamas war. Our joy was tempered knowing that over a hundred hostages are still being held in Gaza and that they have been there for over two hundred days. While we retell the miracle of the parting of the Sea of Reeds, this year our miracle was seeing the video of Hirsh Goldberg Polin. Learning that he survived his October 7th injury, feels like the miracle we needed this year. And I pray this miracle can give us the strength we need to persevere and to hold onto hope that these hostages might return home.

Counting each day as we have been doing since October 7th can leave us feeling deflated and defeated. But as we have now entered the period of Counting the Omer, I pray that the traditional counting of the days from Passover to Shavuot, might provide us with some grounding and intention as we continue to navigate the realities of this war. Perhaps this year you might allow yourself to notice and appreciate the blessings in your life, even as you track the number of days of captivity for the hostages. With each day, consider the power and agency that you have to bring about more freedom for you, your family, the Jewish community, and other marginalized groups.

This year may be different, but may we continue to both discover and appreciate the joy and blessing that surround us. And may we merit the ability to bring more joy, more peace, and more freedom to our world.





Alana F.
Dunoff,
BTBJ
President

Shalom to my BTBJ Community

Passover 2024 is in the “books”, the gefilte fish, matzah, and charoset have been eaten, the dishes are packed away, the family and friends that gathered have gone back to their regular schedules and responsibilities.

For me, and I suspect for many, it was both a joyous celebration and solemn moment.

This year my family had the great fortune of having 2 seder tables filled with parents, siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. The food was bountiful and delicious, songs were sung with ruach, and laughter and love filled our homes.

I also attended our community seder (yes that was 3 seders for me) and it too was overflowing with community members. The social hall looked beautiful, we ate great food, Rabbi Roni led a spirited seder and kids ran around the sanctuary searching for the afikomen with their name on it. I had a chance to meet 2 new member families, reconnect with friends and to be together in this special WE community moment.

The story of Passover and the all too familiar story of our freedom from slavery in Egypt feels particularly challenging this year. Many of you perhaps had an empty chair at your seder table, a stark reminder that there are still hostages who are not free and families who are deeply missing loved ones from their table this year. College campuses are overwhelmed with anti-Israel protests, anti-semitism continues to rise in our own community, some feel the need to limit their display of their Judaism, and the world feels on fire. It is hard to celebrate freedom when so much chaos surrounds us.

I am grateful for all I have and at the same time I worry about what lies ahead and pray for immediate peaceful resolutions.

As the leader of our Kehillah Kedosha, I have had a few questions rolling around in my mind regarding what is our responsibility as a community at this time of unrest?

So, with the inspiration of Passover on my mind, I ask you these 4 questions.

1. What should we be doing as **individuals** to support Israel and our community at large?
2. What should we be doing as a **community** to support Israel and our community at large?
3. What should we be doing to ensure our voices are heard by those who have the power to help make change?
4. What do we need to learn, teach, share, say, and do to make our world, our community, our schools, our BTBJ, our homes all places of peace and acceptance?

I would welcome your voices, thoughts, and engagement, contact me directly at

alanadunoff@gmail.com.

Shalom,

Alana





**Rabbi
Kami Knapp
Schechter,
Educational
Director**

We are approaching the final stretch of the 2023-2024 school year! I have enjoyed every moment of my first year at BTBJ. Our families are lovely, our students are intelligent and thoughtful, and our faculty is loyal and knowledgeable. All of this is what makes our Religious School and Keshet Teens so wonderful. Our last day of school will be Sunday, May 19th where we will celebrate: the students for finishing another year and the parents for the accomplishment of getting them there! We will celebrate with a hilarious show by the Bible Players, ice cream and Kehillah Kids awards. If you have kids in the religious school please make a point to be there the morning of 5/19...you won't want to miss it! (Kitah Hey and Keshet Teens will have their own end of the year celebrations.)

On Wednesday, May 22nd, our Hey class will be commemorating the completion of their pre-b'nai mitzvah education. We will mark this important moment of transition with blessings, a fun family activity and discussion of what's next. If you have a student in hey make sure you respond to the invitation so we know how many to expect for dessert.

I want to wrap up my May newsletter article with a couple of the highlights thus far from my first year. I hope that this inspires you to be involved with the Religious School and Keshet Teens and to invite other families looking for a Jewish home. We always welcome more and value each one of our wonderful families!

Highlights:

- Meeting and getting to know all our wonderful faculty.
- Working with our amazing clergy and staff.
- Doing wonderful work with our RSPSG co-chairs: Emily Rosenfeld and Mindy Davidoff. And continuing that work with the RSC chaired by Rachel Handis and Robyn Walcott.
- Creating the fun and rewarding (literally) program of Kehillah Kids! (our student with the most points had almost 40 points!!)
- Speaking and planning with our students' wonderful parents so that we can provide as much support for our students as possible.
- Hearing the beautiful music by Evan Wolf and Naomi Bright Lerman (and seeing the kids' smiling faces)
- Discussing the challenging issues of the war in Israel and growing anti-semitism with the 7th graders and Keshet Teens
- Executing fun Holiday programming with the MANY volunteers who commit their precious time to creating a fun experience for our students
- Hearing "I love Religious School!" and "But I don't want to go home yet!"
- Experiencing a moving and spiritual Shabbaton

All of this and more inspires me every day to continue to dream "outside the box"; dreaming up the next iteration of Jewish education which will provide an enriching learning environment for our children while also acknowledging the busy and complicated lives of our families. I hope this article inspires you as well: to spend the summer thinking about how you want to be involved in the Religious School and Keshet Teens next year and helping us spread the enthusiasm and joy in being part of our unique and wonderful community by inviting everyone you know (and even those you don't know yet but want to get to know!) I hope you have a wonderful summer filled with laughter and relaxation. I'll see you in September!



Rachel Fox, Sisterhood

Hi Ladies,

Can you believe it's May? I hope everyone had a meaningful Passover and enjoyed spending time with family and friends for Seders.

Earlier this spring, many Sisterhood members met together for high tea at the Village Teahouse, where we sipped on tea and noshed on delicious tea sandwiches, scones, and other desserts. This was a lovely afternoon, and an enjoyable time was had by all. Thank you to Randi Halbert and Rachel Baum for another awesome lady's day out. I know I will be going back to the Village Teahouse again. For our next event, on Sunday evening, May 19th, we are heading into Center City to see the show "Message in a Bottle" set to music by Sting. Sisterhood has its own reserved block of tickets, and we look forward to fun evening together.

The BTBJ Sisterhood welcomes two new board members for next year. Rebecca Harris has agreed to be a Director on our board, and Ellen Miller will be our new VP of Finance. Betsy Berger will be stepping down from this role that she has held for many years. Betsy, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our Sisterhood.

The Sisterhood Board has also begun talking about ideas for next year. If anyone has any programming ideas, please reach out to me or our programming co-chairs, Randi Halbert and Rachel Baum, and let us know. Some of Sisterhood's favorite events such as our annual challah bake, sipping in the Sukkah with Rabbi Roni, and a craft night will remain on the calendar. However, we are looking for other ideas as well as some members to help with chairing the events. All ideas are welcome!

On a personal note, my daughter, Alyssa was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 6th, and it was an amazing weekend. Thank you to everyone who reached out to wish my family Mazel Tov – it means

a lot to hear from so many members. Alyssa did an incredible job, and we are so blessed to be able to have celebrated this special occasion with our friends and family.

Thank you again for helping to keep our Sisterhood going strong, and I can't wait to see how we continue to grow!

High Tea



Alyssa's Bat Mitzvah





Warren Chiara, Men's Club

My time as Men's Club president is nearly up. Our annual steak dinner in June will be my last as president. With so much on the calendar, scheduling that event was tricky this year as we were unable to find a suitable date in May. I hope this new date fits in with your schedules and that you are able to make it to this event where we will announce our Sol H. Schwartz Men's Club Man of the Year Award.

As I reflect on my two years as president, I would say it was a pretty good run. There are things I could have done better, but our events were varied and strong, among them our appreciation dinners with Glen Macnow and Eric Basilian as our speakers. Both of these events had great engaged and enthused turnouts. Our New York trip was a blast as we visited the Lower East Side and had a tour of Jewish New York capped off by a dinner at a Kosher steak house.

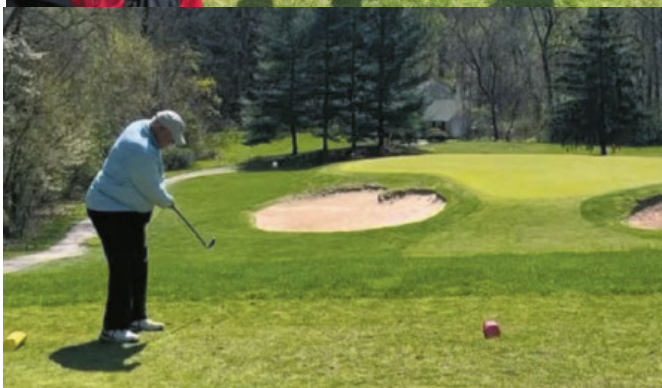
We re-introduced our golf outings that couldn't be more different. Our first outing in November 2022 turned out to be one of the coldest days of the month. However, we had a turnout of 14 people, which, considering the conditions, was fantastic. Last month our second outing took place at Westover Golf Club on a beautiful day with highs in the 70s. It was a great day to be out on the course with the guys.

We have a full slate of events scheduled for the next term, and if there is anything you would like to see us do, please drop me a note.

I hope to see you at steak dinner.

Shalom,

Warren Chiara



Pictures
from
Men's Club
Golf
Outing

Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun Men's Club Steak Dinner



Save the Date!
It is our final,
most anticipated event of the year!
Sunday, June 2, 2024



BTBJ Social Hall

Honoring our **Sol H. Schwartz**
Men's Club Man of the Year

Cocktail hour from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Dinner promptly at 6:30 p.m.

50/50 Drawing

Pricing and Registration Details to Follow





Fundraising
Ways &
Means
Annette
Swartz

We still have lots of
wonderful cookbooks!

Pick up in the office

Only \$36

Mazel Tov to:

Marcie and Farryl Leshner on the
birth of their grandson and nephew,
Emmett Solomon Leshner.



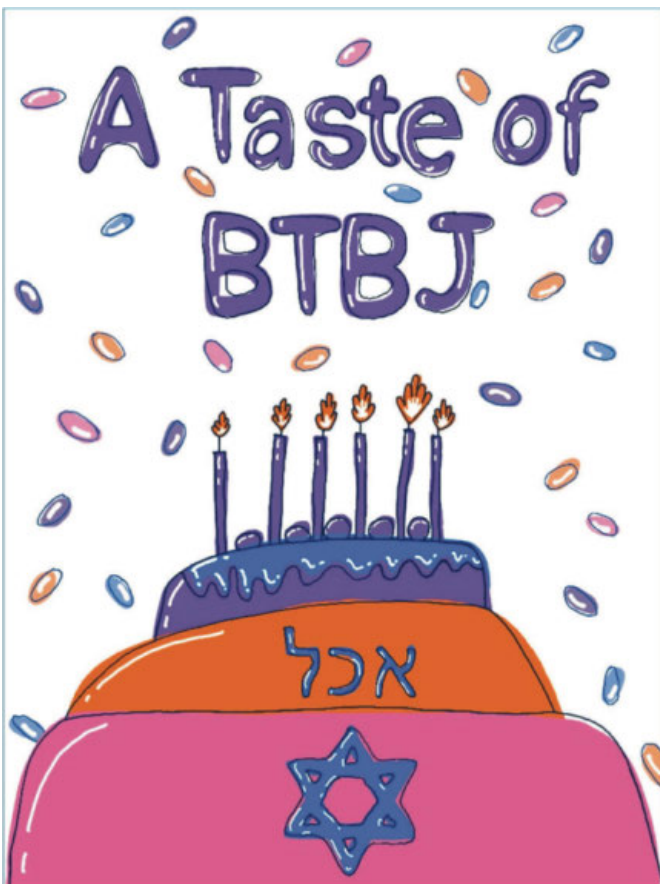
Our Deepest Condolences

To The Families Of:

Jonathan Gayl,
beloved father of Joshua (Marsha) Gayl
and devoted grandfather
of Ava and James.

Kenneth Blumberg,
beloved husband of Nora, beloved
father of Stefanie (David) Barrist and
devoted grandfather to
Carly and Hope.

Rita Schwartz,
beloved mother of Aaron (Cindy)
Soowal, devoted grandmother of
Ben Soowal.



Julian Cuker and Family

Annual Yom HaShoah Program

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

7:00 p.m.

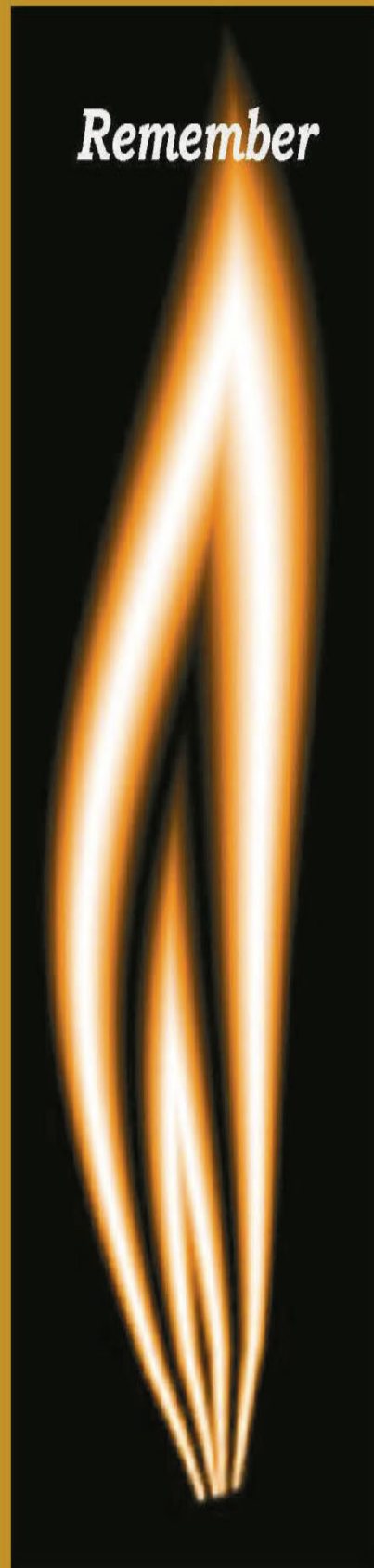
Guest Speaker Bronia Brandman

**Ms. Brandman will tell her story via
our large screen TV in the sanctuary**

Bronia Brandman was born into a family of six children in Jaworzno, Poland. She was eight years old when World War II broke out. In March 1942, her oldest brother was taken to Blechhammer labor camp. The following August, her parents and another brother were deported to Auschwitz, never to be heard from again. She and her three sisters fled to the nearby town of Sosnowiec, where they stayed for a few months before the Nazis relocated them to a ghetto. In August 1943, the four sisters were deported to Auschwitz. Ms. Brandman narrowly escaped the gas chambers by running away from her assigned line upon arrival and joining one of her sisters in another line.

Ms. Brandman remained at Auschwitz until January 1945, when she began a forced death march to Germany. Though sick and delirious with fever, Ms. Brandman survived the trip and was liberated from the Neustadt-Gleve camp by the American and Russian armies in May 1945. Today, she is a retired public school teacher, volunteering her time as a member of the Speakers Bureau of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

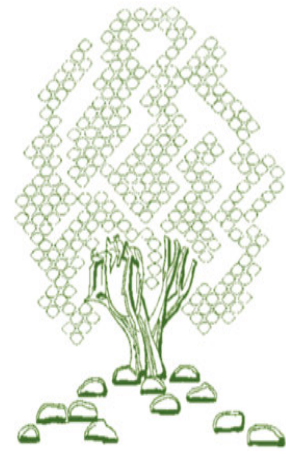
Remember



We have had a busy spring at the Religious School! We had a super successful Purim Palooza filled with laughter, games, crafts, and delicious treats. We are so thankful for all of our parent volunteers who came out to help out at the event. The children played games, baked hamantaschen, made Shalach Manot bags for neighbors and did some Purim crafts together. It was a really special morning. We even were able to raise about \$600 for the Parent Support Group from our raffle! Congrats to our winners and thank you for your continued support. We can't believe the school year is almost over. We are planning a fun last day of religious school on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Stay tuned for more details.

Please note, we are looking to add to our fun and engaging Religious School Parent Support Group board next year. We would love to start the year off with a solid group of parents who are committed to helping our kids build community with our events and activities. Feel free to reach out to Mindy, Emily, or Rabbi Kami!

Mindy Davidoff and Emily Rosenfeld



TREE OF LIFE

We need to fill up our Tree of Life in the Nuddle Lobby. Think about adding your simcha on our Tree. Great for B'nai Mitzvah, Confirmations, Birthdays, Anniversaries and Celebrations.

Leaves cost \$136.
Please pay to the BTBJ office then call or email Farryl Cohen with your wording: 610-329-3311
Email: farrylc@aol.com

Our Newest Leaf:
In honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of
Halie Rosenfeld
4/13/2024
Susan and Jerry Rosenfeld

BTBJ PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-25

This year's nominating committee is proud to announce its nominated slate for the upcoming 2024-25 year. Elections and installation will be held at the

Annual Meeting scheduled for May 21, 2024.

Nominating Chair: Michael Drossner

2024-2025 Nominated Slate of Officers/Directors

President:	Beth Schwartzman
Executive VP:	Joshua Gayl
Vice President:	Amy Wine (Religious and Spiritual Engagement) (RiSE)
Vice President:	Annette Swartz (Membership)
Treasurer:	Matt Schwenderman

Directors who have 1 year remaining in term ending in 2025

- 1) Robyn Walcoff
- 2) Rachel Handis
- 3) Ellen Miller
- 4) Jeff Walters
- 5) Brett Schwartz
- 6) Randi Halbert
- 7) Jill Braverman

Directors Proposed for a 2 year term ending in 2026

- 1) Sherri Belkoff
- 2) Terri Rosen
- 3) Beth Beitler
- 4) Emily Rosenfeld
- 5) David Kline
- 6) Richard Gersh
- 7) Lori Rubin

Past Presidents eligible to continue as Directors

- Burton Abrams
- Marla Sones
- Nancy Center
- Michael Drossner
- Alana Dunoff

Honorary Directors

- Michael Dvorak
- Bruce Engleman
- Cindy Harris
- Rosalind Ingber

Additional Board Members

- Rachel Fox - Sisterhood President
- Peter Ghosh - Men's Club President
- Nikki Cohen - ECC PSG President
- Mindy Davidoff - RS PSG President

Annual Meeting

All BTBJ members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on May 21, 2024 at 7:15pm.

This is the special, year-end meeting where we hold the board election and our membership has the opportunity to vote on any changes to our by-laws. In addition, we will have the opportunity to listen to our president, Alana Dunoff, who will present our 2023-24 year in review.

We will install the new officers and directors for our Men's Club, Sisterhood, RSPSG, PSPSG and our BTBJ Board of Directors. Thanks to all for supporting Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun.

Help us recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of our current and future leaders.



Callie Krauss
Daughter of
Jayme and Lee
Sister of Addie
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
May 4, 2024

Callie began her first day at BTBJ Preschool at 8 months old in the infant room. She continued her Jewish education in the BTBJ religious school. In both places Callie has been blessed with having so many wonderful teachers and meeting so many new and special life-long friends, as have Lee, Jayme, and Addie.

Callie attends Colonial Middle School as a 7th grade student. She is a dedicated student and has been lucky thus far that learning comes naturally to her. She has made distinguished honors since she began in 6th grade, and is humble about her grades and progress. She's a hard worker, wants to be successful, and is a member of the student council. Callie spends five nights a week at Institute of Dance Artistry taking a variety of classes, with lyrical being her favorite. In the winter, she has found a new love for skiing over the past few years and in the summer there's no place she'd rather be than at Camp Louise with so many of her friends. Callie is silly, motivated, fun to be around, and a great big sister to Addie.

For Callie's mitzvah project, she combined her love of baking along with a cause close to our family's heart. Callie and some friends and family baked hundreds of cookies in the kitchen at BTBJ, and sold them every afternoon for a week outside of her dance studio. She raised over \$2000 for the Waner Kids Foundation. The foundation supports kids and adults with vascular anomalies, just like her sister Addie was born with. As a family, we discussed how important it is to support this foundation since Dr. Waner, the founder, helped Addie through difficult times when she was young. We look forward to bringing him the donation in person this summer when we bring Addie back for her annual checkup.

Callie and her family would like to thank Valarie Hurwitz, Marcie Leshner and all of the amazing preschool teachers and staff who started her Jewish studies at BTBJ. We'd also like to thank Rabbi Kami and all of the religious school teachers who have taught her Hebrew and have prepared her for today. In addition, we'd like to thank Cantor Benjamin and Rabbi Roni who have also prepared Callie for her special day and gotten her to this point. We are thankful to be a part of such an amazing community.



Alexis Mia Feinman
Daughter of
Sarinia and Kenneth
Sister of Izzy
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
May 11, 2024

Alexis has been preparing to become a Bat Mitzvah since her very first day in the BTBJ religious school, and has been so lucky to have developed special life-long friends, which has contributed to her love of Judaism and desire to attend BTBJ each week.

Alexis is a hard worker, diligent student, and takes extreme pride in all that she does, albeit attending 7th grade at Germantown Academy or in her many dance classes. Alexis loves learning new things, and traveling to new places. In addition to being a dedicated student, Alexis is a wonderful daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin, and friend to many people in her life. She attends Camp Canadensis in the Poconos each summer, and is looking forward to her upcoming first summer on the Senior side! She also loves spending time in Margate with family and friends once she returns from camp each summer.

Alexis has been dancing and performing in all aspects since she was three years old. She loves being on stage dancing, singing, and acting. Alexis has found her "home away from home" at the Institute of Dance Artistry (IDA) in Plymouth Meeting, where she dances each week in various styles – ballet, jazz, hip-hop, modern, lyrical, and street jazz. Besides participating in these classes each week, Alexis is in both the Sophomore Repertory Company and Sophomore Hip-Hop Company, and performs at various shows throughout the year. Her grace, precision, and attention to detail have made her soar on stage. She is truly in her element when performing and her stage presence is unmatched. Since she has been in Middle School, she has been in both the school musical in 6th and 7th grades, where she danced, sang, and acted in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Wonka*, even being asked to serve as a choreographer for the *Wonka* production, being honored and recognized by her peers for doing so. While Alexis has been focused in the arts, she has also found time to play tennis at Germantown Academy over the last two years.

(Feinman continued)

After spending a day of service on Martin Luther King Day making sensory boxes for the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund (KADMF), Alexis selected this local charity as the beneficiary for her Mitzvah Project. The KADMF helps families and children living with serious and chronic illnesses, conditions, or injuries by providing both financial assistance and direct support for needs that are not covered by insurance. For her Mitzvah Project, Alexis endeavored to make 100 “Kolbe Hopeful Nights Travel Kits”, which included overnight toiletries, games, stuffed animals, and various other items. Alexis raised the money to purchase the items, made all 100 bags, and then attended the KADMF’s Family Fun Day on April 21st to hand them out to each child as they arrived at the event and got ready to board the Spirit of Philadelphia. During this process, Alexis has truly learned how to give back to her community, and it is clear that she hopes to continue to do so even beyond her Mitzvah year.

Alexis and her family would like to thank Rabbi Kami and all of the religious school teachers she has had throughout her time at BTBJ, who have all helped to prepare her for her Bat Mitzvah. We would like to extend an extra special thank you to Cantor Benjamin and Rabbi Roni who have helped to encourage and support Alexis as well as challenge her throughout her preparation for her Bat Mitzvah. We are so excited to celebrate this special simcha in just a few short weeks!



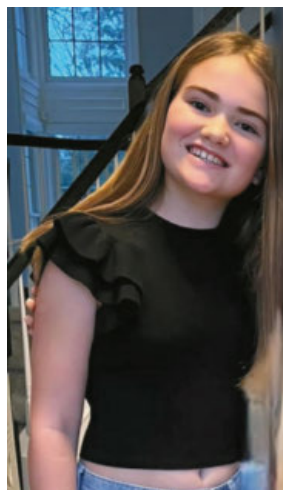
Ella Levitt
Daughter of
Rachel and Scott
Sister of Brynn
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
May 18, 2024

Ella has been incredibly dedicated to her Bat Mitzvah studies and has put in so much effort leading up to this day. She goes above and beyond when given any task, and her sincere effort extends into all areas of her life. Ella is an exceptional student at Springfield Middle School, taking her schoolwork seriously and getting on the Principal’s honor roll every semester. She has spent years practicing and improving her skills as a tennis player and dancer, playing for her school team, and performing with the IDA Hip Hop Company. And she has recently spent much of her time dedicated to creating bracelets for her mitzvah project in support of the Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

While as parents, we could not be more proud of Ella’s accomplishments, we are even more proud of her character and the person that she is. She is so kind, thoughtful, responsible and empathetic, often putting others’ needs before her own. She is a deeply loyal and dependable friend, and she cares so much for her family. She is a wonderful daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece and cousin; always making time for others. Ella loves her dog, Bryce, the beach, and swimming. She’s become a big Phillies and Sixers fan, always excited to attend games at Citizens Bank Park and Wells Fargo Center, and has joined the long family tradition of being a suffering yet passionate Philadelphia sports fan.

We would like to thank everyone at BTBJ who has supported Ella from age 1.5 on up until this day. She has had so many dedicated teachers in preschool and religious school who have helped shape her proud Jewish identity, which is so important in the current world we live in. An extra special thank you to Cantor Benjamin and Rabbi Roni who have guided Ella in every step of the way in preparing her to become a Bat Mitzvah. Our family is extremely grateful!

*Mazel
Tov*



Hailey Gold
 Daughter of
 Adrienne and Brian
 Sister of Ethan
 Becomes a
 Bat Mitzvah on
 May 25, 2024

Hailey is a 7th grader at Colonial Middle School. She enjoys math, art, and hanging out with her friends. When she is not in school, she loves playing soccer with the Colonial Travel team, skiing with her family, playing with our dog Nate, attending Pinemere Camp, and going down the shore. She also really likes chocolate, which I'm sure was inherited from my Grandma Sherry. :)

Several years ago, her Grandma Sherry was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. For her Bat Mitzvah service project, she has decided to plan a 2 mile walk on Forbidden Drive (dogs are invited), at 4pm on May 19th, and raise money for the Alzheimer's Association.

Donations may be made at
<http://act.alz.org/goto/Hailey>

Your donation means so much to her and all those affected by the disease. On behalf of more than 6 million Americans living with Alzheimer's and over 11 million caregivers — thank you.

**MAZEL
 TOV**



Zachary Davidoff
 Son of
 Mindy and Scott
 Brother of Tyler
 Becomes a
 Bar Mitzvah on
 June 1, 2024

Zach is currently a 7th grade student at Colonial Middle School. He has been part of the BTBJ community since his early days at the Early Childhood Center, and is currently continuing his Jewish education in the religious school.

Outside of his studies, Zach loves sports and outdoor activities. He currently plays golf, tennis and basketball. He enjoys skiing, skim boarding/surfing and spending time on a boat. He also loves watching the Eagles, Sixers and Phillies on TV, in addition to occasionally going to the games.

Zach does a great job in balancing school and extracurricular activities. He works hard in his studies, and made Honor Roll this year in middle school. He has a great group of friends through school, BTBJ, and camp. Zach has spent the last 6 summers (math is skewed with the Covid year) at Camp Green Lane. He is fortunate enough to spend this time with both friends and family, while learning to be independent. He considers this his happy place.

Additionally, he looks forward to visiting his grandparents in Florida every winter, as well as the end of the summer at the shore in Margate.

For Zach's Bar Mitzvah project, he has chosen to become involved with the Israeli Tennis and Education Center. This is a program with over 20 locations in Israel which caters to underserved children of all ethnicities throughout Israel. While creating a safe space to learn the game of tennis, the program also provides education, counseling, and delivers meals to families in need. He is in the process of raising money for the organization and is planning on assisting with the annual local event in Philadelphia this June.

Zach and our family would like to thank all his teachers and staff from the ECC, religious school, Val Hurwitz, Marcie Leshner, as well as Cantor Benjamin and Rabi Roni for the time and effort they have put into his Jewish education. Thank you also to Lester, George and Rob, who always greet our family with a smile each and every day. We are very proud of the young man Zach has become and look forward to him becoming a Jewish adult at his upcoming Bar Mitzvah!

Graduations 2024

Please send us information regarding:

Your high school graduate, college graduate, post-college graduate and tell us about all honors, awards, scholarships and future plans.



We will be placing a graduation section in our June newsletter and would be honored to share your information with our Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun families.

Send notices to: vhurwitz@btbj.org

Torah Lab

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

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 6:30 -7:45 PM



CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING



IYUN With Rabbi Roni Handler

Torah in a Time of War

We emerged from Simchat Torah to learn of a horrific massacre in southern Israel, and we now find ourselves many weeks into a resulting war with Hamas in Gaza. As community builders, educators, and spiritual leaders, we may feel bereft of ways to act.

This series is designed to help process the big, human questions animated since the Israel/Hamas war began on October 7th.

In this series, we will explore:

- How do we experience connection to the Jewish community in Israel and around the world, particularly in moments of challenge and crisis.
- How do we care for ourselves and our community in difficult times?
- How might Jewish tradition provide wisdom in the face of tragedy?
- What is Zionism? How did it emerge? And in what ways has it been counter-cultural Jewishly?

The class meets 6:30-8:30 PM and folks should RSVP to Rabbi Roni if they are interested in joining: rhandler@btbj.org

Date: 5/7

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.

Continuing:
May 28

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



Thank You for Your Contributions

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Thanking Michael Dvorak for his hard work
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grandson, Emmett Solomon Leshner

In memory of Kenneth Blumberg

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kudosh

In honor of the birth of Marcie Leshner's
grandson, Emmett Solomon Leshner

Mrs. Marcie Leshner and Ms. Farryl Leshner

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In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of

Halie Rosenfeld

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Mrs. Amy Veloric

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In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Fox

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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 May—June 2024

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Light Candles.....7:41 pm
Services.....6:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Services.....9:30 am
Callie Krauss, daughter of Jayme and Lee
Krauss will be called to the
Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Light Candles.....7:47 pm
Kehillah Shabbat.....6:00 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Services.....9:30 am
Alexis Feinman, daughter of Sarinia and
Kenneth Feinman will be called to the
Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Light Candles.....7:54 pm
Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Services.....9:30 am
Ella Levitt, daughter of Rachel and Scott
Levitt will be called to the
Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Light Candles.....8:00 pm
Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Services.....9:30 am
Hailey Gold, daughter of Adrienne and
Brian Gold will be called to the
Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

FRIDAY, MAY 31

Light Candles.....8:06 pm
Services.....6:00 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Services.....9:30 am
Zachary Davidoff, son of Mindy and
Scott Davidoff will be called to the
Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Light Candles.....8:10 pm
Kehillah Shabbat.....6:00 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Services.....9:30 am
Cassidy Kanze, daughter of Kylie and David
Kanze will be called to the
Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

SHAVUOT
Services.....9:30 am

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

SHAVUOT
Services with Yizkor.....9:30 am

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Light Candles.....8:14 pm
Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Services.....9:30 am
Emily Walder, daughter of Liz
O'Flanigan-Walder and Jonathan Walder will
be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Light Candles.....8:16 pm
Services.....6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Services.....9:30 am
Ari Shawn Goretzky, son of Debra and Andrew
Goretzky will be called to the
Torah as a Bar Mitzvah