

Beth Tikvah
B'nai Jeshurun

בֵּית תִּקְוָה בְּנֵי יְשׁוּרֹן

BTBJ...Where You Belong!

The Ruach!

JUNE 2024
IYAR-TAMMUZ 5784

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Check out our graduation
section on pages 9-12 and
our B'nai Mitzvah on
pages 13 & 14!!

Have a
Wonderful
Summer!

JUNE - JULY 2024 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	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	1 JUNE 9:30am Services Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Davidoff
2 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only Men's Club Steak Dinner 5:30 pm	3	4	5 6:30pm Torah Prep Open Hour	6 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Men's 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 Zoom & in Person 10:15 am Schmooze with Julie	10 BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm Plymouth Meeting Community Center	11 Erev Shavuot Program and Service 6:00 pm	12 Shavuot 9:30 am Services	13 Shavuot 9:30 am Services with Yizkor	14 6:30pm Services	15 9:30am Services Bat Mitzvah of Emily Walder
16 Happy Father's Day 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	17	18 BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	19	20 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm Board Meeting 7:15 pm	21 7:00pm Services	22 9:30am Services Bar Mitzvah of Ari Shawn Goretsky
23 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	24 BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	25	26	27 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	28 No Services Devotion by the Ocean-Ventnor 5:30 pm	29 9:30am Services
30 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	1 JULY	2	3	4 Independence Day No Minyan	5 No Services	6 9:30am Services Zoom Only
7 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	8 BTBJ Men's Softball Game 6:15 pm	9	10	11 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	12 No Services	13 9:30am Services
14 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	15	16	17	18 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	19 No Services PreShabbat Schmooze Home of Aaron & Allison Greenfield 5:30 pm	20 9:30am Services Havdallah 7:00 pm Home of Rachel & Steve Fox
21 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only ECC Popsicles in the playground 10:15 am	22	23	24	25 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	26 No Services	27 9:30am Services Havdallah 7:00 pm Home of Rachel & Lee Handis
28 9:30am Minyan Zoom Only	29	30	31	1 AUGUST 7:30am Minyan Zoom Only	2 No Services	3 9:30am Services



Roni
Handler,
Rabbi

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." This hope-filled verse from Psalm 30 has always been one of my favorites. Even in our most difficult times, when despair seems to permeate, and even when it is likely that weeping may soon return, we are encouraged to seek out, to recognize, and to experience joy. In fact, while it may sometimes be the case that joy and sorrow enter our lives in distinct moments, more often the two coexist together. This could mean that they are simultaneously present, or that they are moving fluidly like a pendulum of emotion, back and forth, from one day or hour to the next.

Since October 7th it has often felt like a black cloud has been hanging over the global Jewish community and over Israel. The news each day is bleak. Following the war in Gaza, the protests taking place on college campuses, and the information being shared on social media can very well leave us weeping or feeling helpless and afraid. Members of our community have also suffered personal loss, making this weeping that much more personal and palpable. And yet, at the same time, we have also experienced moments of celebration. We have rejoiced at weddings, welcomed new babies, and celebrated as our teens have become B'nai Mitzvah. And at this time of year, we honor the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of our graduating seniors from college, high school, and even our ECC; all of which brings us joy and opportunities to *schepp nachas*.

Allowing ourselves to experience all this joy does not negate personal hardship, loss, or world events. On the contrary, joy strengthens us, and gives us hope as we navigate all that causes us to weep and as we approach each day with purpose and a desire

to pursue a vision of a brighter tomorrow. As we move into the summer, may we continue to support one another through our personal and collective weeping, and may we relish each opportunity to create, participate in, and seek out joy.

BTBJ SHAVUOT 5784

Tuesday, June 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.

A Taste of Torah

On Shavuot we experience revelation. We remember the moment when Israelites gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai to receive Torah from God and we recognize that this process of revelation is one that continues each and every day. Join us on June 11th at 6PM for a "Taste of Torah," as we close out our theme for the year. We will cook together and share an Erev Shavuot meal. We will pray together and we will learn together. Come for some or stay for all! Families, kids and adults of all ages are welcome to join us!

6-8pm – Cooking and eating together! Meal will be dairy/vegetarian!

8pm – Welcome Shavuot with minyan and song

8:30-10pm –Torah tidbits shared by members of BTBJ and clergy. Stay tuned for more information! Have a story to share or something you would like to teach or discuss? Reach out to Rabbi Roni.

Please be our guest. There is no charge.

Register on ShulCloud

Schedule of Services for Shavuot

Wed., June 12, 2024-Services at 9:30 AM

Thurs., June 13, 2024-Services with Yizkor at 9:30 AM

President's Message



Alana F.
Dunoff,
BTBJ
President

Shalom to my BTBJ Community.

This will be my last newsletter article as President of BTBJ.

2 years in a blink.

Okay, maybe not in a blink, but it did go by fast!

I have been honored to serve our kehillah kadosha in this capacity and I am grateful to the Board of Directors and the entire community for the privilege to help ensure our shul meets our mission *of providing a community that promotes an active Jewish way of life from childhood through adulthood.*

When I took on the role of President, I knew that it would be a couple of years of transition and change. In my civilian life I am a strategic facility planner, and, in that capacity, I spend a lot of time working with organizations on change management – helping them craft and implement strategies to support organizational change. I understood that the challenges ahead of us including transitioning Rabbi Roni as our new Senior Rabbi, recovering from the Covid Pandemic, and supporting the retirement of Val Hurwitz would all be significant moments for our community.

I appreciate that change and “new” can be hard and messy and create uncertainty and worry of the unknown. But I also know that good, smart people working together can create glorious new beginnings and that WE did. Looking back on the many shifts and pivots we have experienced over the past 2 years I truly believe that BTBJ is emerging stronger and more cohesive than WE have been in years.

WE have strengthened our community foundation.

WE have shored up our financial health.

WE have steadied our membership and are pointed towards growth.

WE have regularly made minyans, supporting those in need.

WE have attended services, educational programs, and social events.

WE have reconnected with old friend and made new friends.

WE have filled the sanctuary with prayers and songs for simchas.

WE have filled the homes of our community in solidarity and sorrows.

WE have taken care of our shul with beautification projects and a new roof.

WE have advocated and protected our community in times of uncertainty.

WE have chanted Torah and discussed Torah.

WE have witnessed our youth becoming Jewish Adults.

WE are a beautiful, warm, and Hamish community.

WE are capable of anything and everything WE believe is important to our success.

I am so very proud of being part of BTBJ.

It is where I - where WE belong.

Thank you for allowing me to play a part in our very special WE.

Shalom,

Alana



Rabbi Kami Knapp Schechter, Educational Director

What an amazing year of religious school! We ended the year May 15th (Kesher Teens), 19th (K-6th), and 22nd (Hey/7th) with lots of celebration. Both teachers and students helped make this a fantastic year full of rich learning, fun, and building memories. On the 19th we welcomed the Bible Players as a special treat and celebrated completing another year of religious school with ice cream! On May 22nd the 7th graders were recognized for completing their pre-b'nai mitzvah education with certificates and gifts. We also had a wonderful discussion about what is next in their journey while making challah together.

I would like to thank the many people who helped make this year such a success: Emily Rosenfeld and Mindy Davidoff (RS Parent Support Group Chairs), Rachel Handis and Robyn Walcoff (Religious School Committee Chairs), all of our fabulous teachers and madrichim: Farryl Leshner, Ariel Gornizky, Susan Fine, Deanna Form, Irisa Gold, Marsha Gayl, LilyFish Gomberg, Jon Panofsky, Dennis Cohen, Suzanne Castor, Cantor Benjamin, and Karoline Robb, Lily Goldstein, Sacha Lubeck, Talia Wine, Andrew Walters, Brenna Fox, Brody Smith, Juliana Ghosh, and Abby. Thank you to the staff: Robin Sandberg, Erica Rosenzweig, Val Hurwitz and all the office staff, the maintenance and custodial staff: Lester Harris, Howard Hanson, Rob Speak, and George Nesmith, and all of the wonderful security guards. Thank you to the room parents and the many, many volunteers who helped put together and staff special programming this year! A special thank you to Evan Wolf for his amazing music and Naomi Bright Lerman helping the students prepare musically for their class services and holidays. Thank you to Rabbi Roni for all your support of the religious school and bestowing your wisdom. And finally, thank you so much to all the students and their families who make our school such a warm and lovely place to be.

We are already working hard on plans and preparations for next year. Our goal is to have enrollment open by the end of May so that folks can enroll for school before heading off for the summer. The 2024-2025 school year is evolving into a really full, fun, and fantastic year! You don't want to miss it. We will be adding to our family education and bringing in wonderful speakers and activities for parent/caretaker education. We hope to plan some amazing trips for our 7th grade and teens. Shabbaton will return again next year and the more the merrier. And we will continue with all of this year's favorites: class services, holiday events and music.

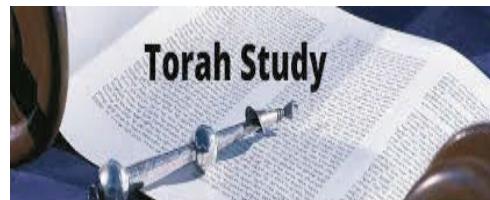
Thank you to the entire BTBJ community for supporting our BTBJ school and students. Don't forget to enroll your student(s) for the 2024-2025 school year and if you know of other families/students who are looking for a robust Jewish education and a strong, close knit community... send them my way for more information!

Torah Lab

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Join a growing number of our congregational family who are chanting Torah, Hafтарah 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





Rachel Fox, Sisterhood

Hello BTBJ - Happy June!! I can't believe it's been a year since I wrote my first article as BTBJ's Sisterhood President. It has been an incredible year, and I want to thank each and every one of our members who made this year such a great success.

The success of BTBJ's Sisterhood is also a testament of the incredible commitment and support of our board.

For this coming year 2024-2025, I am thrilled to announce our Sisterhood Board:

- Ariane Gittleman/Terri Rosen – Membership
- Randi Halbert/Rachel Baum – Programming
- Ellen Miller – Treasurer
- Mindy Davidoff – Secretary
- Sabrina Denmark – Parliamentarian
- Rebecca Harris – Director

The board is busy planning our calendar for next year. Here is a sneak peek at some of our plans for next year: A welcome back happy hour in the fall, S'mores & Schmoozing in the Sukkah with Rabbi Roni, Sushi and Wine tasting, Shabbat meditation, Chanukah dinner with a Pollyana gift exchange, exercise classes, and more ...

As President, my goal for this upcoming year is to plan engaging events with the hopes of building long lasting friendships, as well as helping build a stronger Jewish community for all. All that's missing is you!

Come join us this year by becoming a member of this dynamic group! All membership fees support BTBJ and help our programming team plan amazing events!

2024-25 Dues for Sisterhood Membership:

1. Full BTBJ Membership:

\$54 before 9/1/24
\$72 after 9/1/24

2. Associate BTBJ Membership

(member another synagogue):
\$72 before 9/1/24
\$118 after 9/1/24

3. Community Membership (no affiliation):

\$118 before 9/1/24
\$154 after 9/1/24

Your donations assist with the sustainability of our synagogue and sisterhood community.

Kindly send in your membership dues by check or PayPal:

1 - Check made payable to "BTBJ Sisterhood"

2 - PayPal: BTBJSisterhood1@gmail.com*

(*to offset PayPal's service charge to BTBJ, please add \$3 to your payment)





Warren Chiara, Men's Club

It's June, a celebratory time when high school seniors get set to throw their caps in the air and move onto their next adventure, while college seniors get set to enter the workforce or pursue advanced or professional degrees. For those in our community that fit the latter category, I hope that you and your family were able to truly enjoy the moment without protesters disrupting the proceedings. It has been a difficult few months, and whether we have a new grad or not, we need to rally around our community and support one another going forward.

In my family, we have two reasons to celebrate. Our son Teddy will soon walk to receive his master's degree in public policy from Carleton University in Ottawa, while I am getting ready to step down from my role as Men's Club president and pass the torch to Peter Ghosh. Peter has been on our board for several years and is an integral part of the club, serving as vice president during my term and helping to plan many of our events. I know that under Peter's guidance we will grow Men's Club to engage new members and continue to hold great events that will have something for everyone.

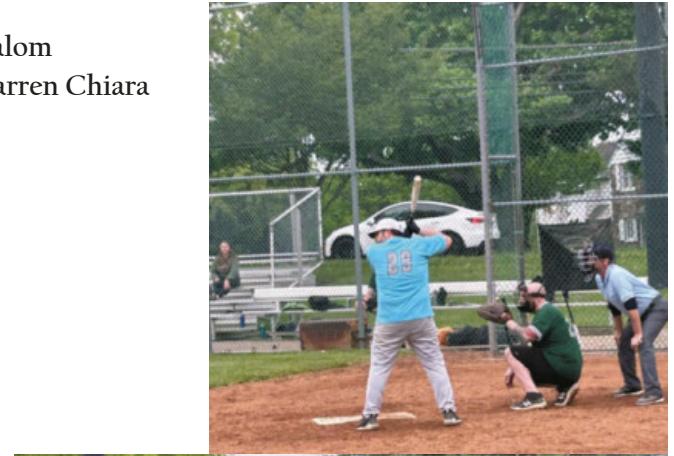
Steak dinner is our last event of the year, and by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox it will be in the rearview. This is where we announce our Man of the Year and mingle with the guys before taking a break for the summer. The evening usually includes having a cigar or two on the patio to cap off the night.

Over the summer, we will plan our events for the coming year. We are always opened to new suggestions, so if you have an idea that you would like to suggest, please drop me an email or text using my contact info on ShulCloud. And, if you are not a current member, I invite you to come out and meet us at our summer social in early August.

Before I sign off as your president, I want to point out that the BTBJ softball team is in action, so if you are around this summer, come and see a game and support the team. Check our website for game days and times, and if you are interested in playing or want to find out more information, contact team manager Michael Drossner.

That's a wrap. Please enjoy your summer and see you at our kickoff event.

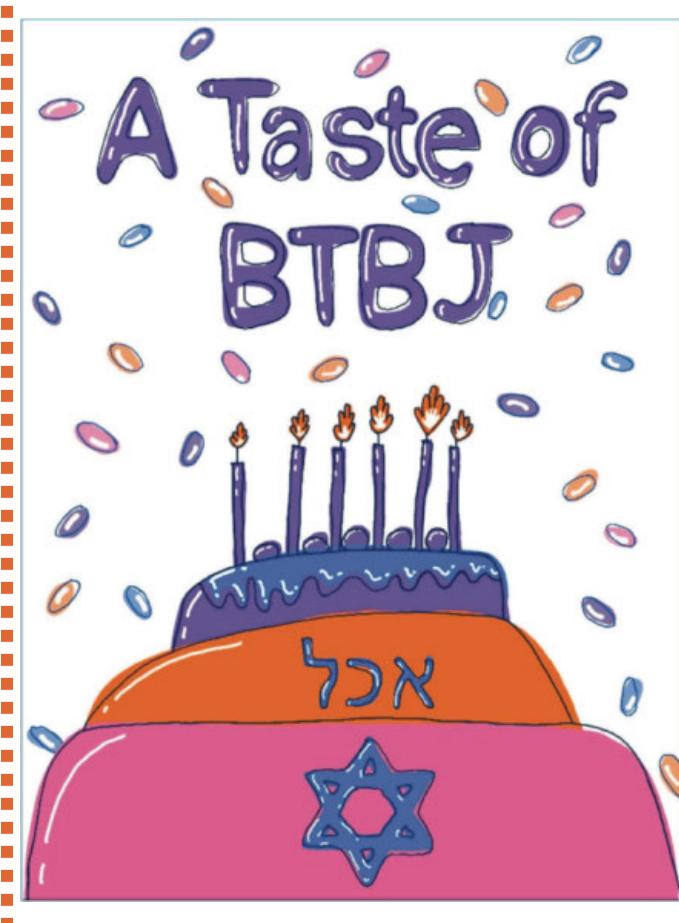
Shalom
Warren Chiara





Fundraising Ways & Means Annette Swartz

We still have lots of
wonderful cookbooks!
Pick up in the office
Only \$36



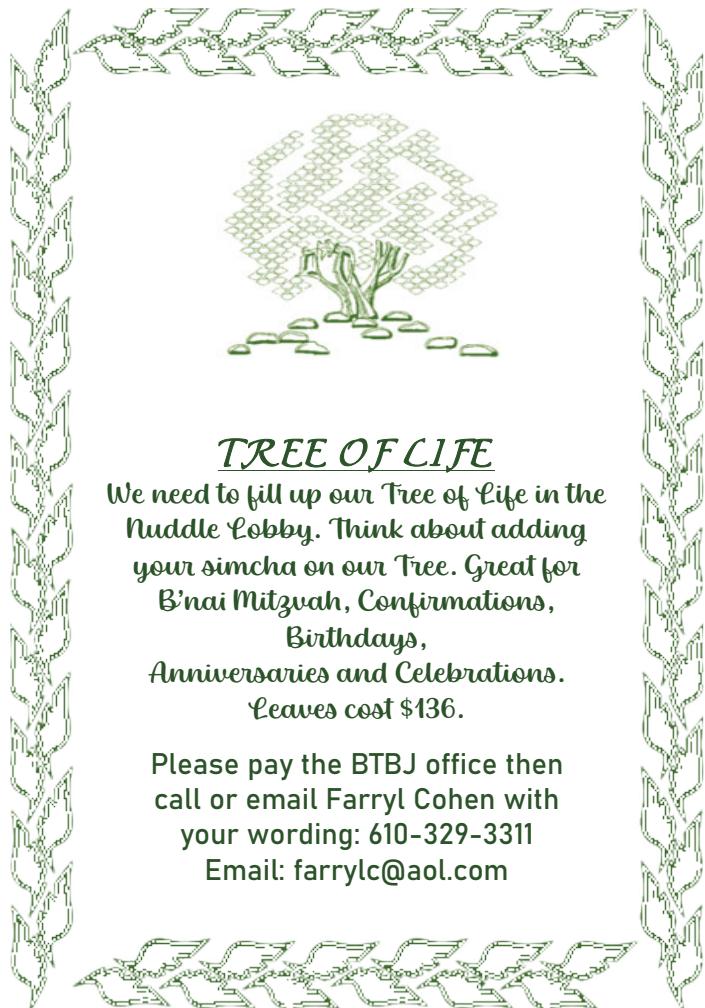
Mazel Tov to:

Andrew Goretsky who was awarded the Dean's outstanding alumni achievement award at **The George Washington University's** Graduate School of Education and Human Development commencement ceremony for his work with the **ADL** and work in **#studentaffairs**.

David Barrist who was inducted into the Philly Maccabi Hall of Fame.

Our deepest sympathy to:

Richard Cohen and family on the passing of their beloved wife and mother, Debra Cohen.



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 the BTBJ office then call or email Farryl Cohen with your wording: 610-329-3311
Email: farrylc@aol.com

High School Graduations



Ashlyn Dubin is graduating from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. During her time at PW, Ashlyn was President of the Student Coalition, involved in Cancer Awareness & Jewish Student Union. She played Varsity Tennis for 3 years, receiving 3 awards including the Most Improved, Most Competitive and the prestigious Coaches Award.

As a student, Ashlyn excelled while taking honors and AP coursework with an emphasis in the sciences. For as long as we can remember, Ashlyn has wanted to go to Penn State. WE ARE so proud that Ashlyn will be following in her parents' footsteps and has committed to Penn State University Park majoring in Immunology and Infectious Disease.



Haiden Haley is graduating with honors from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. He will be attending Hofstra University in the fall. He will be majoring in Sports Media at the Lawrence Herbert School of Communications. Hofstra awarded Haiden the Provost Scholarship and the Pride Grant.



Ethan Drossner

We are so proud of Ethan for graduating from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. He graduates as a member of the International Baccalaureate Program and with distinguished honors. He will be attending the Smeal College of Business at Pennsylvania State University.



Isaac Mishkin is graduating from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School and will attend Pennsylvania State University in the fall.



Riley Schlosser is graduating from Council Rock North High School. She will be going to Franklin and Marshall College and Majoring in neuroscience.



Cami Merrigan is a National Honor Society member graduating from Springfield Township High School. She is heading to Drexel University in the fall with academic and portfolio Scholarships. She will major in Design and Merchandising and will be

part of the Honors College. Cam is a trifecta Award Girl Scout (Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards) and received a scholarship from Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania as well. We are so proud of our graduate.



Andrew Walters is graduating from Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. He is in the National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Andrew will be attending Muhlenberg College in the fall.

Andrew has received the following scholarships: Presidential Merit Scholarship, Talent Grant (Music) & Muhlenberg College Community Scholarship

College Graduations



Hope Barrist graduated summa cum laude from the University of Florida with her Bachelor of Science in public relations. During her time there, she was active in her sorority, Delta Phi Epsilon, Hillel, and her strategic communications internship at UF Health. After graduation, Hope is traveling with her best friends from BTBJ

preschool to Southeast Asia for a month. Then, she will be moving to New York City to work for global PR firm Allison Worldwide in their healthcare practice.



Melissa Flaks graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Marketing and Supply Chain Management and a Certificate in Digital Media from the University of Pittsburgh.



Barrie Berger received her Masters of Public Health with a concentration in Healthcare Management from the Yale School of Public Health in conjunction with the Yale School of Management. Barrie will be starting an Administrative Fellowship at The Moses/Weitzman Health System in Middletown, Connecticut.



Carly Green, daughter of Dori and Jay Green graduated from Lehigh University on May 19, 2024, earning a Bachelor of Science in Marketing with Highest Honors. Carly will be working for ESPN in New York City.



Teddy Chiara earned a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Carelton University in Ottawa. His future plans are pursuing a career in government as an economist or in Indigenous relations. Teddy is pursuing a career in government as an economic policy writer and working in Indigenous relations.



Melanie Halbert graduated from Muhlenberg College on May 19, 2024, *magna cum laude*, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music.



Julia Flaks graduated with a Masters of Art in Special Education Leadership: Multi-Tiered System of Support from Michigan State University



Talia Kaganovsky graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Science and a certificate in Pathokinesiology and Rehabilitation from the University of Pittsburgh. She will be attending Drexel University this fall to pursue a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

College Graduations



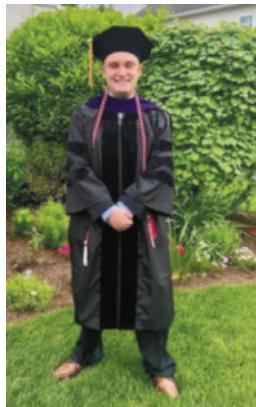
Shawn Kaplan received his doctorate in Educational Leadership from Cabrini University.



Samuel Levy received a BS in Economics (Policy Analysis) from Binghamton University.



Emma Schwenderman graduated Summa Cum Laude from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Psychology.



Andrew Slutsky graduated from Villanova University School of Law. Andrew will become a Patent Attorney

Hay Class Graduates



Ben Yuter graduated from Bentley University with a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a minor in Computer Information Systems. Following a return visit to Australia, where he studied abroad, he is joining ReliaQuest in Salt Lake City as a Business Development Representative. Ben also did a service trip to Israel in March and raised funds for Israel with his fraternity AEPi.

Hay Class Graduates

Zachary Davidoff

Alexis Feinman

Alyssa Fox

Hailey Gold

Sasha Heckman

Cassidy Kanze

Callie Krauss

Ella Levitt

Emma Meyer

Zachary Miller

Halie Rosenfeld

Zachary Segal

Emily Shapiro

Lily Spiegel

Jason Stutman

Ramona Treitel

Emily Walder

Simon Weiner

OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER GRADUATES



2023 Beth Tikvah B'Nai Jeshurun Early Childhood Center

Super Stars
Leanne & Lisa
Marcie Leshner



Henry Abellard
Ethan Batoff
Aiden Benton
Ruby Kleinman
Jordan Knox
Liana Lakhter
Isaac Madison
Zoey Mayer
Isla McDonnell

Riley McKinski
Eleanor Powell
Isla Schwartz
Jesse Strauss
Jordan Taylor
Theodore Vassallo

Teachers: Leanne Kaganovsky
Lisa Steinslofer
Farryl Leshner

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov



Cassidy Kanze
Daughter of
Kylie and David
Sister of Cooper
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
June 8, 2024

Cassidy has been part of the BTBJ family since moving to Plymouth Meeting in 2017. She was born in Colorado and also lived in Washington for a few years but it has been here that she has really been able to grow and develop. She is currently a 7th grader at Colonial Middle School. Despite some obstacles Cassidy has been able to thrive academically. She has cultured some great friendships in the last few years and enjoys all of her classes. Cassidy has participated in plenty of activities over the years including dance, track and swimming but one of her favorite activities is supporting her brother playing hockey. In fact, this year she was the team videographer for her brother's team capturing all of the moments including goals, hits and even some fights.

Her family has known that Cassidy is destined to be the one out in front on the stage. From her performances of the ‘alphabet’ and singing songs to all the Disney movies to now acting, singing and dancing on stage. Cassidy has gathered great love of theater and has grown friendships with every show she takes part in. There have been so many shows since she began theater over four years ago. She sees each show as an opportunity to form a family with everyone in the show and widens her heart with each fellow castmate she meets. We are truly at awe at how much she has grown over these few years. She has had the opportunity to collaborate with fellow classmates in two productions at the Colonial Middle School including Willy Wonka, Kids and Camp Rock. She is excited to continue singing, dancing and acting at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School.

Cassidy brought her love of musical theater to her mitzvah project. She decided to raise funds for the Colonial Middle School’s musical theater program. She designed and sold CMS magnets, sticker and t-shirts. She sold these items at all of the CMS musical theater shows, chorus, band and orchestra concerts throughout the year. We are proud to say that as her sales come to a close she has raised \$1700 for the program.

We would like to thank all that have helped Cassidy along the way including all of the religious school teachers for helping to educate her and help her define her Jewishness. Thank you to Rabbi Roni, Cantor Benjamin, and all the teachers here at BTBJ for helping Cassidy learn Hebrew, so that she could reach this outstanding occasion. Cassidy is so thankful to be able to share this joyous occasion with his Great Gram Cookie, Mom-Mom, Pop, Grandma, Grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins, sister, parents, and friends. Friends are the family you chose, and she has chosen wisely.



Emily Walder
Daughter of
Liz O’Flanagan and
Jonathan Walder
Sister of Bailey
Becomes a
Bat Mitzvah on
June 15, 2024

Emily is a 7th grader at SCH, and she has been a part of the BTBJ family since she can remember! When she isn’t toasting marshmallows at Shabbaton, Emily is playing as many sports as she can (mainly soccer and lacrosse). She can also be found “walking the ave” with her friends and doing makeup for anyone she can convince to sit still. Emily spends her summers at Camp Harlam and in Margate, and loves to swim, ski, and dance.

For Emily’s Bat Mitzvah project, she has been volunteering at the JRA (Jewish Relief Agency). Once a month, she and her family have been packing and “delivering boxes of nutritious kosher food and household items directly to the homes of individuals and families in the Philadelphia area who are struggling with food insecurity.” The packing mornings are energized, and she has enjoyed being able to connect with the people who are receiving the boxes. The great news is that you can join her by going to <https://jewishrelief.org/volunteer-calendar> to find the schedule and volunteer.

So many people helped Emily to get to the moment when she is ready to become a Bat Mitzvah! Thank you to Cantor Benjamin for your patience and humor, thank you to Rabbi Roni and Val Hurwitz for the many years you have provided a model of strong Jewish womanhood for Emily, and thank you to Rabbi Kami and all of the religious school teachers for helping Emily to learn and explore all aspects of Hebrew study and Jewish identity. Emily is so lucky to be a part of this hamish community.





**Ari Shawn Goretsky
Son of
Debra and Andrew
Becomes a
Bar Mitzvah on
June 22, 2024**

We are delighted to announce that Ari Shawn Goretsky will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on the morning of Saturday, June 22nd.

Shawn's Bar Mitzvah is a momentous occasion for our family. Andrew and Debra have proudly watched him grow into a confident, goal-driven, and compassionate individual. His strong character and wide array of interests make him a remarkable person. Shawn, a rising seventh grader at Colonial Middle School in Plymouth Meeting, is becoming an extraordinary young man with a bright future ahead. A Distinguished Honor Roll student, Shawn excels even in his least favorite subjects. He will readily tell you that his passion lies in math and science, yet he also thrives as a staff writer for the school newspaper.

Shawn's love for music is evident in his commitment to the school band, where he has been playing percussion for three years. He has progressed to playing a full drum set, and also enjoys playing the xylophone and keyboard. His musical talent extends beyond school; he has formed a band with friends and has composed several scores for different instrumental parts. Additionally, he sings in his school chorus, further showcasing his musical abilities.

In addition to his academic and musical pursuits, Shawn is a dedicated martial artist. The same week as his Bar Mitzvah, he will achieve another significant milestone by earning his black belt in mixed martial arts. Shawn's dedication to martial arts since the age of four has been unwavering. He has participated in multiple tournaments, always pushing himself to improve despite not always winning the top trophies. His commitment extends to teaching and being a role model for younger students, showing leadership and compassion.

Shawn's vibrant personality shines through in his ability to balance seriousness with playfulness. He enjoys being silly and goofy with his friends, telling cute jokes, and competing in online computer games. Recently, he has taken up chess, a hobby he pursues with the same dedication as his other interests. He now outplays his father and friends and is preparing to challenge his cousin, a chess grandmaster. In the winter, Shawn has become an adept skier. Whereas in warmer weather, Shawn enjoys

playing tennis, swimming, and golfing with his grandfather. This summer will be his fourth year attending Ramah day camp.

Despite complaining about Hebrew school like most kids, Shawn has become an adept reader of Hebrew and has mastered his haftorah and Torah portions with ease. As the first Bar Mitzvah among his Hebrew school and regular school classes, he has indeed been a trailblazer.

For his Mitzvah project, Shawn has chosen to twin with an Israeli boy named Oriah, whose father was tragically killed on October 8th while protecting Kibbutz Be'eri from the Hamas attack. Deeply touched by the events of that day, Shawn wanted to find a way to make life a little easier for a child his age. He decided to work with One-FamilyFundUS.org to raise enough money for Oriah to celebrate his own Bar Mitzvah with his loved ones. Shawn devised a plan to raise money through a raffle, where each \$18 donation earns one raffle ticket. By donating \$18 or more, people not only support a good cause but also symbolically give life and hope to Oriah. The raffle prizes include three \$100 gift cards to dine at Zahav, Laser Wolf, and Goldie restaurants. Donations can be made on his personal donation page:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/peer-to-peer/0f67df8c-034e-4e77-9e0f-7ea17bc2dec2>

Or by scanning this QR code:



This simcha would not have been possible without the encouragement and efforts of the amazing staff at BTBJ. We would like to express our deep appreciation to Rabbi Roni, Cantor Benjamin Greenfield, Valarie Hurwitz, and all of the Religious School teachers for their roles in helping Shawn to reach this exciting milestone! Also, thank you to our friends and congregation community for supporting and warmly embracing us as part of the BTBJ family! We are thrilled that you can share in being a part of this very special day! Mazel tov, Shawn!

Thank You for Your Contributions

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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

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

EREV SHAVUOT
Program & Service.....6:00 pm

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'Flanagan and Jonathan Walder will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Light Candles.....8:16 pm
Services.....7:00 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Light candles.....8:16 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Services.....9:30 am

FRIDAY, JULY 5

Light candles.....8:15 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Services.....9:30 am
Zoom Only

FRIDAY, JULY 12

Light candles.....8:12 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Services.....9:30 am

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Light candles.....8:08 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Services.....9:30 am

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Light Candles.....8:02 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Services.....9:30 am

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Light candles.....7:55 pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Services.....9:30 am

